

*Terminalia sericea*

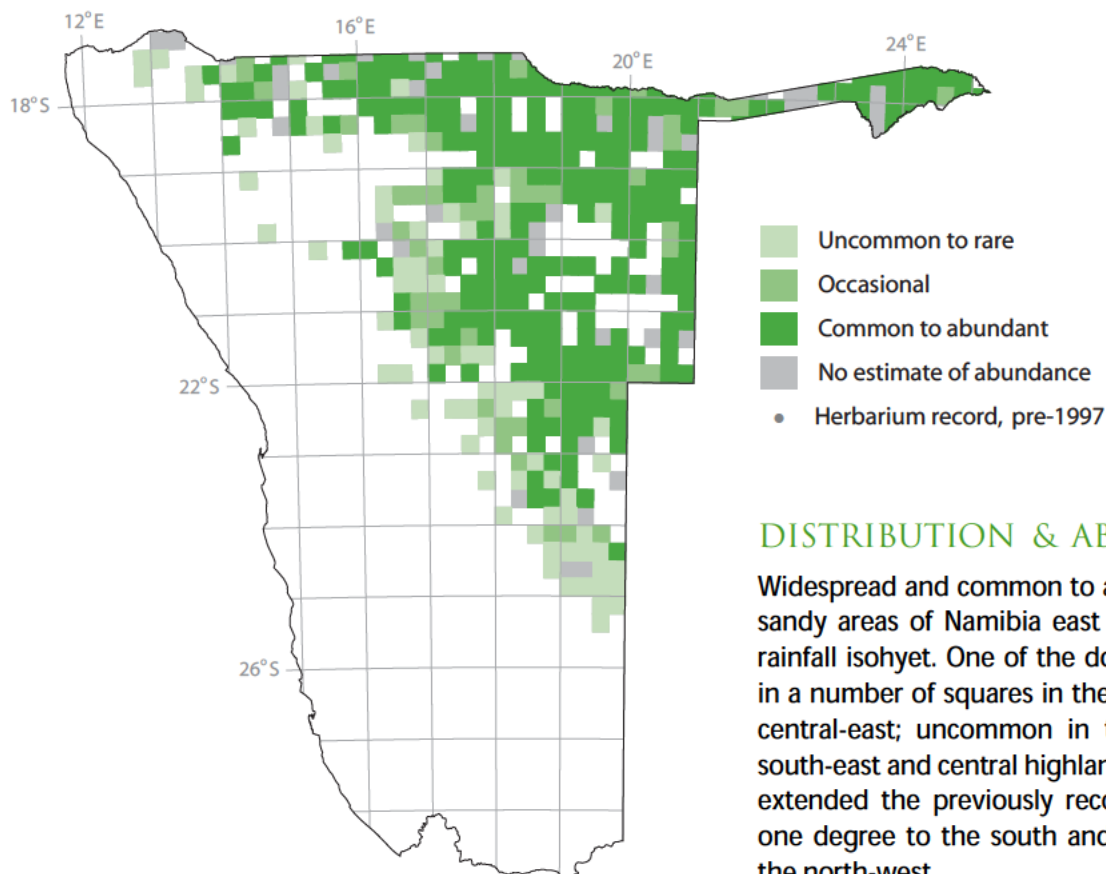
## Silver Cluster-leaf

Geelhout, vaalboom (A); Gelbholtz (G); omuseasetu (H); |gaab (K); muhorono (L); mugoro (Rk, Rum); ghushosho (T)

[1,359 records from 429 (40%) squares]



A medium-sized tree with **branches growing horizontally, giving the crown a layered appearance**. **BARK** dark grey and deeply fissured; branchlets purplish, **peeling and flaking in rings to expose tan underbark**. **LEAVES clustered towards ends of branchlets**; obovate-elliptic, **3–4 times longer than wide**; **pale silvery-green, with silky hairs**. **FLOWERS** cream to pale yellow, in axillary spikes. **FRUIT** up to 35 mm long; **pink to rose-red, drying to brown**.

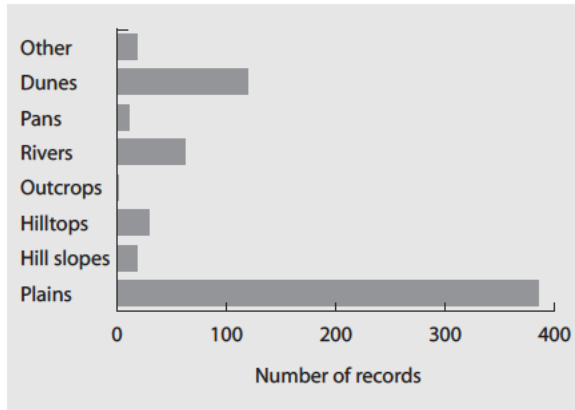


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common to abundant in the sandy areas of Namibia east of the 150-mm rainfall isohyet. One of the dominant species in a number of squares in the north-east and central-east; uncommon in the north-west, south-east and central highlands. The TAP has extended the previously recorded range by one degree to the south and one degree in the north-west.

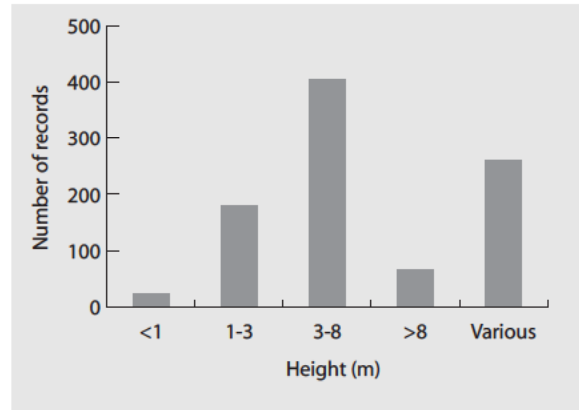
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mostly on plains and dunes; often along dry watercourses in the north-east. Always on sand.



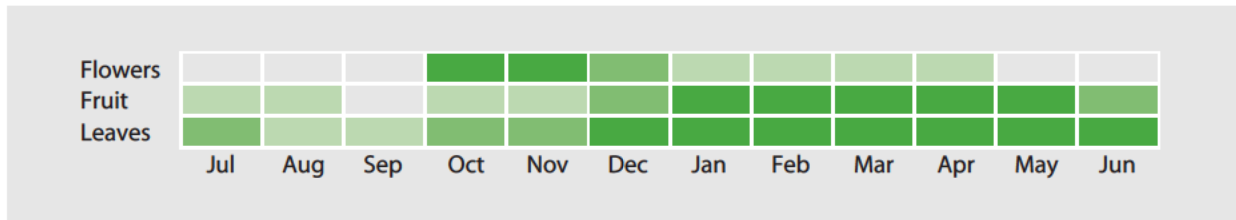
## GROWTH FORM

Usually a tree up to 8 m (60% of records), sometimes higher (10%); sometimes a shrub or tree up to 3 m (30%). Roughly 67% of the stands recorded had trees covering a range of heights from small to large.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly October and November, continuing until April in some years. FRUIT mostly from December to June, but found throughout the year. LEAVES mainly October to July, but present on some trees all year; young leaves from September to December.



## GENERAL

The wood has a lovely yellow colour, hence the Afrikaans and German common names. The wood, roots and bark are used for a variety of purposes. The leaves, bark, roots, resin and ash are used medicinally. The gum is edible, and also used to glue arrows. The San use the leaves for tea, and sometimes as a tobacco substitute.

It is heavily browsed by cattle and game, and sometimes parasitised. It may be invasive in places. This rain-dependent species is of horticultural potential for frost-free areas as an attractive shade tree with silvery leaves and wine-red pods.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.