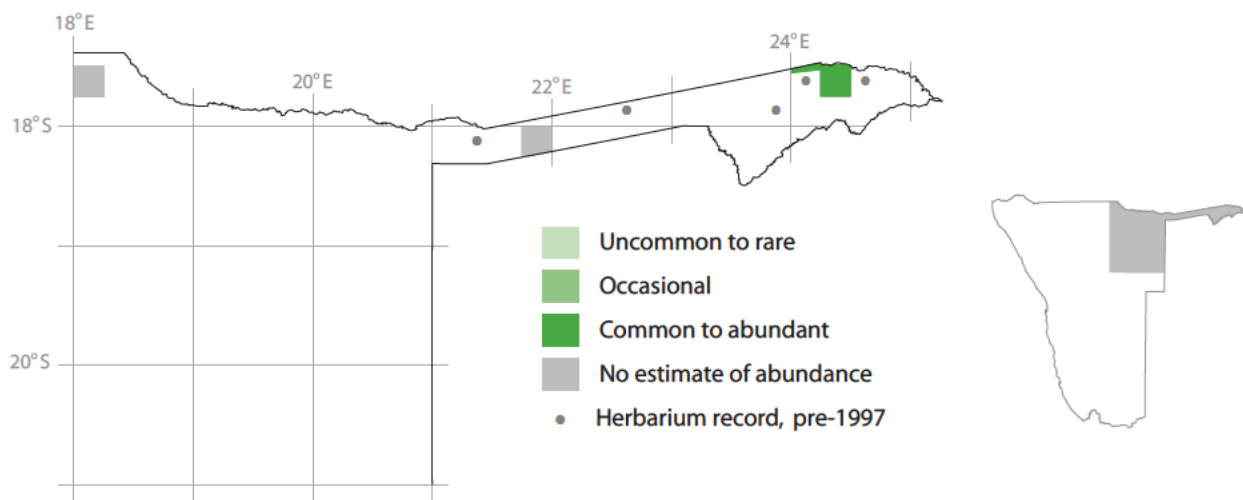


Vitex mombassae= *Vitex flavescens*= *Vitex payos*

Smelly-berry Fingerleaf

[4 records from 4 (<0.5%) squares]

A semi-deciduous shrub or small tree. LEAVES aromatic, palmately compound, petiole up to 90 mm long; leaflets obovate to elliptic to oblong, central one up to 75 mm long; **sparsely downy above, velvety below with very conspicuous net-veining**; margin sometimes slightly toothed. FLOWERS small; one lip pale blue or mauve and the other white or cream. FRUIT a berry, almost round, black when mature; calyx enlarging to almost cover the fruit, but later opening out and bending backwards.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

No abundance given for the single records in 1717DB or western Caprivi; common in two squares near Katima Mulilo. Earlier herbarium records from a few more squares in both western and eastern Caprivi, but 1717DB is a range extension.

HABITAT

None given.

GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1–3-m height class.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS recorded in October, January and March. FRUIT recorded in December, February, March and June. LEAVES no data.

GENERAL

Fruit are edible and high in vitamin C; they also contain a black dye.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.