

Kew

PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES



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SEPASAL is a database and enquiry service about useful "wild" and semi-domesticated plants of tropical and subtropical drylands, developed and maintained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. "Useful" includes plants which humans eat, use as medicine, feed to animals, make things from, use as fuel, and many other uses.

Since 2004, there has been a Namibian SEPASAL team, based at the National Botanical Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources. By August 2007, over 700 Namibian species had been updated.

Work on updating species information, and adding new species to the database, is ongoing. It may be worth visiting the web site and querying the database to obtain the latest information for this species.

Internet SEPASAL

New query

Edit query

View query results

 *Display help*In names list include: synonyms vernacular names and display: All names per page*Your query found 3 taxa***Hoodia gordonii (Masson) Sweet ex Decne. [5104]**

Family: ASCLEPIADACEAE

Synonyms

Hoodia husabensis Nel
 Hoodia langii Oberm. & Letty
 Hoodia longispina Plowes
 Hoodia pillansii N.E.Br.
 Hoodia rosea Oberm. & Letty
 Hoodia whitesloaneana Dinter ex A.C.White & B.Sloane
 Hoodia barklyi T.-Dyer
 Hoodia burkei N.E.Br.
 Hoodia albispina N.E.Br.
 Hoodia bainii T.-Dyer

Vernacular names

Afrikaans (Southern Africa) bitterghaap [5163], wilde ghaap [5163]

Partial distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	Southern Africa	Botswana [5700], Cape Province [5104], Namibia [5104] [5149], Orange Free State [5104]

ISO countries: South Africa [5104]

Descriptors

Category	Descriptors and states
DESCRIPTION	Shrub [5104]; Perennial [5104]; Succulent - stems [5104] [5700] [6531]; Thorny/Spiny - stems [6531]; Foetid/Unpleasant - inflorescences [5163]
CLIMATE	Marked Dry Season [5104]; Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5104]
SOILS	Boulders/Rocky [6531]; Sandy [6531]
HABITAT	Watercourses [6531]
PRODUCTION AND VALUE	Wild Plants Utilised [5163]
SOURCES OF	Other Seed Sources [5181]

PLANTING MATERIAL

FURTHER DATA Botanical Photograph [6198]; Databases [5123] [5341]; Habit Illustration/Photograph
SOURCES [2795] [5151] [5163] [6198]; Use Related Illustration/Photograph [2795]; Grid Map
[5123] [6531]

SEPASAL DATASHEET Taxon Recently Added from Literature [6040]
STATUS

Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
FOOD	Stems	raw [5163]
MEDICINES	Unspecified Medicinal Disorders	stems, humans [3047]
	Digestive System Disorders	stems, humans, abdomen, peptic ulcers [5163]
	Nutritional Disorders	stems, humans, appetite suppressant [5163]; stems, humans, appetite stimulant [2795]
	Pain	stems, humans, abdomen, anodyne [5163]

Picture

None recorded

Notes

DISTRIBUTION

Namibia:

Naukluft [6702] .

Namibia:

Outjo, Karibib, Windhoek, Rehoboth, Gibeon, Luederitz South, Bethanien, Keetmanshoop and Warmbad districts [5183] .

RARITY/CONSERVATION

Namibia, IUCN conservation status:

Lower Risk Least Concern (LRlc) [5400] .

Namibia, Nature Conservation Ordinance:

Protected [5149] [6182] .

DESCRIPTION

Flowers, odour:

The flowers smell strongly of decaying meat and therefore attract flies and blowflies [5163] .

Flowers:

Arising in groups of 1-4, opening successively on each peduncular patch, near apex of stem. Corolla 50-100 mm in diameter, approximately circular to quite clearly 5-lobed, outside pale flesh-coloured with darker veins, inside flesh-coloured to purple-red usually with darker veins, outside glabrous and smooth, inside glabrous and smooth to covered with fine conical papillae each tipped with a hair-like bristle up to 2 mm long. Corona purple-black, glabrous, 4-6 mm broad across top, 1.5-2 mm tall, usually just touching side of tube at mouth; outer lobes basally cupular, erect entire and truncate or emarginate to bifid up to halfway down into two spreading-erect obtuse teeth less than 1 mm long; inner lobes about 1 mm long, linear, usually with truncate slightly depressed touching apices, dorsally connected by broad ridge to outer lobes [6531] .

Height:

0.5-1 m [5104] .

Stems:

25-50 mm thick with prominent obtuse tubercles vertically arranged into 11-17 angles, each tubercle tipped with a sharp spine 6-12 mm long, grey-green to grey-brown [6531] .

FOOD - STEMS

Raw:

Eaten fresh as a food, has a bitter taste [5163] .

MEDICINES - DIGESTIVE SYSTEM DISORDERS

Stems, humans, abdomen, peptic ulcers:

Taken for abdominal pain suggestive of peptic ulceration [5163] .

MEDICINES - NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS

Stems, humans, appetite suppressant:

Is used as an appetite-suppressant by shepherds [5163] .

MEDICINES - PAIN

Stems, humans, abdomen, anodyne:

Taken for abdominal pain suggestive of peptic ulceration [5163] .

ALTITUDE

Southern Africa:

250-1200 m [5104] .

TOPOGRAPHY/SITES

Southern Africa:

Riverbeds [6531] .

FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET

Flowering, southern Africa:

In the Kalahari flowering time is in summer and autumn [5163] .

CYTOLOGY

For the genus, $x = 11$ [5150] .

ADDITIONAL DATA SOURCES

For additional information contact E. Swart; Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation; Private Bag X6102, Kimberley, 8300, South Africa [6703] .

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Unlike other family members, this Hoodia is inedible, and the early Khoisan people said it was useless even for medicine [5151] .

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