

*Protea gagedi*

## African White Protea

Muririra (Rum)

[no TAP records]

Small, gnarled tree. BARK corky, flaking. LEAVES oblong or elliptic, light-green or bluish-green; base tapering; petiole absent. FLOWERS densely hairy, white or pink-tinged; bracts pale green with dense, silvery hairs, sometimes with rusty-brown margins.



No TAP records, despite two atlassers specifically looking for this species. Earlier herbarium specimens were collected from a number of squares along the Okavango River, the last of which was in the year 1985. This species is widely distributed in Africa. The specific name is based on the common name in Ethiopia. Extracts from the root are used for the relief of abdominal pains and for fainting. The plant is also used by men as an aphrodisiac.

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS

This species could be extinct in Namibia due to habitat destruction and over-exploitation for traditional medicinal uses. One headman claims that the species still exists, but he was not prepared to say where. Assessed as 'data deficient' according to the latest IUCN criteria (Loots 2005).