

**PASSIFLORACEAE**

***Adenia pechuelii* (Engl.) Harms** , Nat. Pflanzenfam. III, 6a: 81 (1894); Nachtr. 1: 255 (1897)

TYPE: NAMIBIA: Damaraland, haeufig an Marmorfelsen bei Husab, Heigamchab (Pechuel-Loesche s.n.), Davieib (Pechuel-Loesche s.n.), [ferner bei Aubinhoniz am Eisib] (Guerich 18)

Synonyms: *Echinothamnus pechuelii* Engl.;

Legal Status: F

IUCN: LC

Common Names: desert kohlrabi, elephant's foot, elephants-foot (English), Wuestenkohlrabi, Wüstenkohlrabi (German)

Ecology: Growing in semi-desert on sand, marble or quartz, very dry area, W facing rocky slope in schist-granite gravel, open shrubland, mountain/hill slope, usually perches and anchors themselves in crevices in granite rocks and conserves moisture in their pachypodous trunks. ; full sun/ partial shade

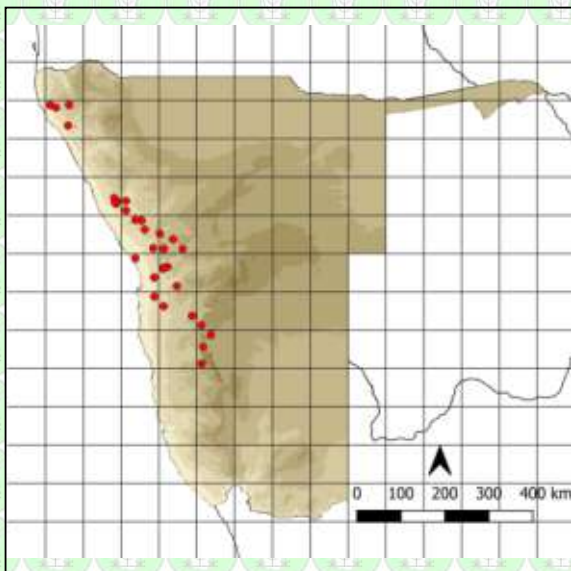


Photo: P. Craven



Compiled by **Herta Kolberg** and **Sofia Amakali**, Dec 2023



Photo: P. Craven



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Description: perennial shrub; 0.3 - 2 m high; stem round, 0.4 to 1.5 m in diameter, thickened, bulbous, fibrous; branches arising from the top, long, finger-like, rigid, slender, pale grey-green to brown, up to 40 cm long. Young twigs with leaves up to 2 cm long; leaves simple, sessile, green, lanceolate, short petiole, margin entire, elliptical, fleshy; smells sickly sweet; flowers yellowish-green; male and female flowers on separate plants; fruit spherical, bright red, outer shell breaking into 3 segments when touched; seed dark grey, pitted; covered by thin layer of red flesh that separates from seed easily

Distribution: Endemic to Namibia (NW) and Angola (SW)

References:

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- De Wilde, WJJO. A monograph of the genus *Adenia* Forsk. (Passifloraceae). Meded. Landbouwhoogeschool Wageningen 1971;71:71-81.
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- Kolberg, H. Relocation of *Adenia pechuelii* (Passifloraceae) – a viable rescue option?. Dinteria 2013;33:12-26.
- Liebenberg, LCC. A revision of the South African species of *Adenia*. Bothalia 1939;3:513-570.

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