

# *Euphorbia mauritanica*

**Family:** Euphorbiaceae



**Collection Number:** 47

**Description:** Succulent shrub. A very erect shrub, many stems branching from the base. The whole plant is pale yellow-green in colour and has a waxy surface. Secondary branches from the main stems. The plant has 5 flowers that grow out from the tops of the younger branches. In November there were still some cyathia visible, but mostly there were 3-segmented fruit on the stems. Fruit are pale green, the tops lightly coloured rusty pink. When a stem is damaged it seeps copious amounts of white latex. The plant does not appear to be browsed by game here, though it is known to be eaten by klipspringer and steenbok in other areas.

**Habitat:** Common in a very localised area, it appears to grow only in the Gorrasis mountains, amongst rocks in full sun. It is very common in the Karoo, especially in over-grazed areas.

*Euphorbia mauritanica*



Cyathia of *Euphorbia mauritanica*



Fruit of *Euphorbia mauritanica*

DATE: 28.11.2000

Collector: Louise Clapham

No. ~~20~~ ? 47

Provisional name<sup>1</sup> Euphorbia ? mauritanica / gregaria ?

LOCATION:

Region<sup>2</sup> MALTAHANE Grid ref.<sup>3</sup> 2515 Bd

Major<sup>4</sup> NamibRand Nature Reserve Alt. 1200 m/ft

Minor<sup>5</sup> Farms Aardster / Gorrassie Relevé

Precise<sup>6</sup> Base of Gorrassie mts, at border of 2 farms, near old Sycamore fig

HABITAT:

Vegetation type<sup>7</sup> Desert, Nama Karoo

Substrate<sup>8</sup> Stony, amongst bare rock Moisture regime<sup>9</sup> well drained

Soil type<sup>10</sup> gravel, coarse sand Lithology<sup>11</sup> predominantly granite

Exposure<sup>12</sup> full sun Aspect<sup>13</sup> South Slope<sup>14</sup> gentle, but at the

Biotic effect<sup>15</sup> Undisturbed base of steep rocky mountain slope

Other<sup>16</sup>

PLANT FEATURES<sup>17-24</sup>

Plant height 500cm - 1m

Shrub, succulent Erect, many stems branching from base. pale yellow/green. No leaves visible. Slightly waxy surface. Branching again from main stems. 5 flower stalks growing from top of smaller branches. Cyathia still visible. Fruit in 3 segments. Copious quantities of white latex

NOTES<sup>25-31</sup>

Local abundance<sup>25</sup> frequent/abundant

Shrub is locally common but in only small, isolated areas. Most shrubs had fruit - pale green, tops lightly coloured rusty pink. Does not appear to have been browsed.

HERBARIUM USE ONLY

Name of plant

Genspec /

Det. Date No. of labels

FLOWERS: Present  Absent  FRUIT: Present  Absent

SEEDS: Present  Absent  TYPE SPECIMEN: Yes  No

SPECIMEN STATUS: Essential  Keep  Return  Discard

DUPL. DIST.