

# *Hebenstretia integrifolia*

**Family:** Selaginaceae (formerly Scrophulariaceae)



**Collection Number:** 49

**Description:** An erect annual herb, branching out well above ground, to be bush-like. Leaves are alternately arranged, a simple, long, linear leaf has a small pair of leaflets growing either side. Leaves are bright green, slightly succulent with a rubbery texture. They hold a lot of clear sap, which has a sharp, herbal scent. The inflorescence is a long spike of white flowers. The corolla forms a tube, at the end it is slit underneath and flared on top.

**Habitat:** On NamibRand *Hebenstretia integrifolia* grows in the more stable, vegetated areas of the dune belt, on gentle slopes and in the dune streets. Elsewhere it is widespread, growing in sandy soils in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and the Northern Cape.

**Other notes:** Although this herb is annual, it is not seen every year. It grows after late summer rainfall, flowering in autumn. In 2001 it flowered following rains in April. It may grow abundantly within a very small area, but is not generally common in the Reserve.



**WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)**

**NAME:** *Hebenstretia integrifolia*

**Collection No:** 49

**Date:** 22/07/01

**Collector:** Louise Clapham

**Grid ref.:** 2515 Bb

**Locality:** Wolwedans dunes, heading south towards DDR. Few 100 m from the Cat Tree.

**Habitat:** In the dune belt, gentle, stable dune slopes and interdunal streets. Fine dune sand.

**Plant features:** An erect annual herb. Long linear leaves with a pair of small leaflets growing either side. Leaves bright green, slightly succulent. Inflorescence a spike. Flowers white, forming a tube.

**Other notes:** Common locally.

INBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 49 Date 22.07.2001  
 Collector/s Louise Clapham GPS S  
 Locality (please describe property, not just grid/gps) Wolwedars E  
dunes, heading S. towards DDE. Grid 2515 Bb  
few 100m from the Cat Tree Altitude   
 Aspect Slope gentle Exposure full sun Photo no's   
 Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species Hebenstrelia integrifolia Perennial/Annual

Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Small herbaceous shrub.

Height ± 30 cm Occurrence(eg: common) locally common

Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) White, inflorescence a spike  
flower, forming a long tube with 4 lobes at the end, all  
pointing upwards. Flows relatively small. Oldest flowers at  
the base of the spike, buds at the top.

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) leaves alternate. One  
long, linear leaf with pair of leaflets growing either side  
leaves very juicy, clear, herby smell. bright green  
Slightly succulent, rubbery texture

Stems and bark (colour, texture, habit - eg: erect stem with yellow peeling papery bark - presence or  
 absence and smell of sap or latex - eg: milky latex with unpleasant smell) Single, erect  
stem, branching well above ground. Stem reddish at  
base.

Fruits and seed (presence/absence, shape, colour, edibility and taste if edible, single or clustered,  
 maturity)

Roots/Underground organs (shape, texture, colour, size)

Other (eg: uses, ecology)

Indigenous names and languages

Habitat		Substrate	Soil type	Moisture	Biotic effect
cliff face	riverbank/ streambank	soil ✓	sand ✓		road/railside
mountain/hill peak	seepage area	stony/rocky soil	sandy loam	well-drained ✓	cultivated land
mountain/hill slope	waterfall/ rapids	gravel	loam	seasonally waterlogged	abandoned land
ravine/kloof/ gorge	littoral	termite mound	humus- rich	permanently waterlogged	heavily grazed
talus/scree	unknown	bare rock	loamy clay	moist/damp ✓	garden
dune slope ✓		water	clay	freestanding water	plantation
dune crest	Vegetation	roots	calcrete	running water	recently burnt
interdunal street ✓	desert ✓	other	black turf	mist/fog	disturbed - other
dune ridge	shrubland open/closed		salt/brack	Dune sand still moist from rain 3 weeks ago	other
rocky outcrop	woodland open/closed		gravel		
plain	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite		
valley	grassland ✓, sparse		lime		
donga/ditch/gulley	karoo		mica schist		
depression/pan			quartzite		
dam			other		
dry bed of river/stream					
floodplain					
estuary/lagoon					
marsh/swamp/ wetland					
river/stream					

FOR HERBARIUM USE ONLY

Collected By ..... Date ..... Accession .....

Flowering code		fruiting code	voucher		duplicates
	mature		genebank		
	immature		ethnobotanic		
	remains				
	absent				