

Helichrysum argyrosphaerum

Wild everlasting

Family: Asteraceae



Collection Number: 112

Description: An annual, creeping herb, prostrate to decumbent. It often forms a large mat. Usually a single inflorescence at the end of slender stem. The flower heads are persistent with smooth, shining outer bracts and deep pink inner ones. The fertile florets form a small, bright yellow centre. The flower heads are typical of *Helichrysum* species and may easily be confused with other members of the genus growing on the reserve. *H. argyrosphaerum*, *H. candolleianum*, and *H. roseo-niveum* may all occur in the same place. The leaves are simple, linear and a darker green than the leaves of similar species. They have a thin covering of very fine white hairs. The herb is very aromatic.

Habitat: *H. argyrosphaerum* grows in sandy soils, dunes and disturbed ground. It is widespread throughout southern Africa. Following good rainfall on NamibRand it is abundant in many areas.

General information: Of the 23 species of *Helichrysum* in Namibia, ⁶ 7 have so far been recorded on NamibRand. They are:

Helichrysum argyrosphaerum
Helichrysum candolleianum
Helichrysum lemiraoides
Helichrysum roseo-niveum

" *ginspinum*

" *pumila*



WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)

NAME: *Helichrysum argyrosphaerum*

Collection No: 112

Date: 06/09/01

Collector: Louise Clapham

Grid ref.: 2515 Bb

Locality: Wolwedans farm approx. 1 km north of campsite, main road.

Habitat: Open, flat plains, and sometimes on more stable dunes.

Plant features: An annual, creeping herb, prostrate/decumbent. Small inflorescence at the end of slim stem. Outer flowers opaque white, inner flowers pink, becoming bright yellow. Leaves simple, linear, dark green, velvety. Strong herbal scent.

INDRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 112 Date 06.09.2001
 Collectors Louise Clapham GPS
 Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps) Wetland
 farm, ± 1 km north of the campsite, main road. Grid 2515Bb
 Altitude ± 930 m
 Aspect Slope level Exposure full sun Photo no's
 Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species *Helichrysum argyrosphaerum* ? Perennial/Annual

Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Annual creeping herb, prostrate/decumbent

Height few cm Occurrence (eg: common) Very common

Flower/inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Inflorescence small, usually single at the end of ~~prostrate~~ small branch. Outer flowers white slightly translucent. Inner flowers pink initially, becoming bright yellow

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Simple, linear, margin entire. Darkish green, velvety, covered in very fine white hairs though not as densely covered as other *Helichrysum* species. Aromatic. A strong herbal smell.

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) Stems slim, pale green, slightly woody only at base. Mostly prostrate, radiating out from central point of tap root.

Fruits and seed (presence/absence, shape, colour, edibility and taste if edible, single or clustered naturally) Fruit/seeds appear to have dispersed leaving only dried outer flowers.

Roots/Underground organs (shape, texture, colour, size) Single central tap root with few small, very fine lateral roots. Light below slightly woody at the top.

Other (eg: uses, ecology)

Indigenous names and languages

Habitat		Substrate	Soil type	Moisture	Biotic effect
cliff face	riverbank/ streambank	soil ✓	sand ✓ COARSE		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
vine/wood/ cave	littoral	termite mound	humus- rich	permanently waterlogged	heavily grazed
scree	unknown	bare rock	loamy clay	moist/damp	garden
line slope		water	clay	freestanding water	plantation
line crest	Vegetation	roots	calcrete ✓	running water	recently burnt
terrestrial street	desert ✓	other	black turf	mist/fog	disturbed - other
ridge	shrubland open/closed		salt/brack		other
rocky outcrop	woodland open/closed		gravel		
mountain ✓	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
steep	forest		granite		
valley	grassland ✓		lime		
road/ditch/gully	karoo		metaschist		
depression/pan			quartzite		
mountain			other		
bed of river/stream					
valley plain					
lagoon					
marsh/swamp/ land					
river/stream					

HERBARIUM USE ONLY

By date Accession

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