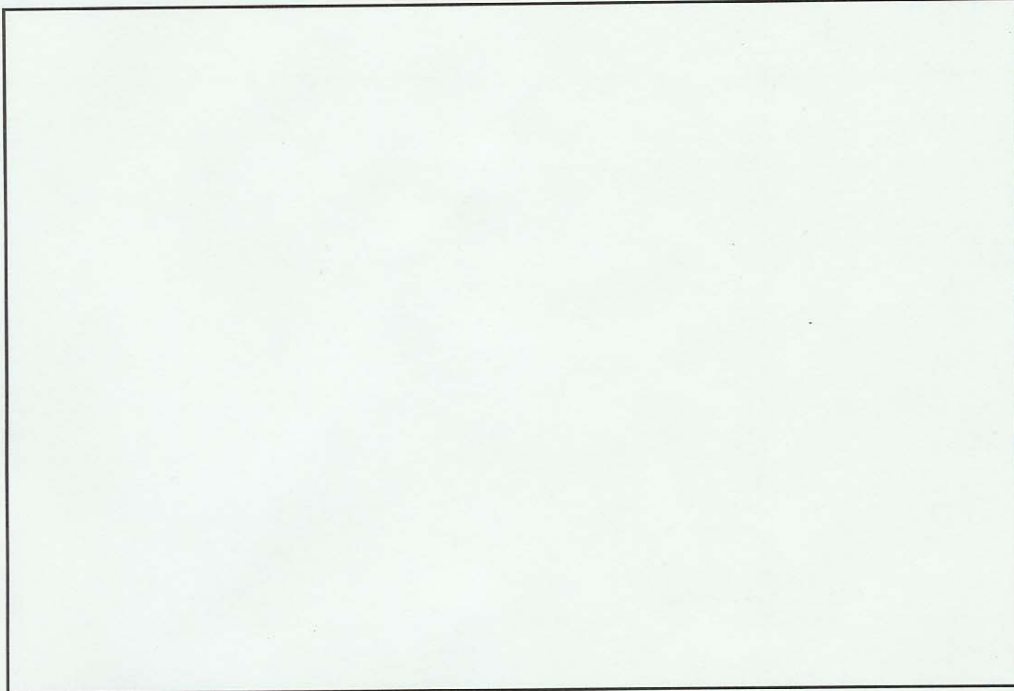


# *Heliophila minima*

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**Family:** Brassicaceae



**Collection Number:** 111

**Description:** An erect annual herb. It branches close to the base, stem and branches are very slender and delicate, turning reddish when mature. Leaves are simple, linear, with entire margins, and clustered in tufts. They are slightly cylindrical and rubbery in texture, often turning dark pink in colour.

The flower is small with 4 petals, purple / pink. Sepals are very visible when the flower is open. The fruit is a long, thin capsule which dehisces in two halves to release the seeds. As is characteristic of the family Brassicaceae, the rim of the capsule usually stays behind.

**Habitat:** Gravel and stony plains on the reserve, amongst grasses. The plant is particularly abundant after good rainfall on the plains below the Nubib mountains.



**WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)**

**NAME:** *Heliophila minima*

**Collection No:** 111

**Date:** 24/07/01

**Collector:** Louise Clapham

**Grid ref.:** 2416 Cc

**Locality:** Draaihoek farm road between Toskaan junction and Draaihoek farmhouse

**Habitat:** Sandy gravel plains, grassland with trees.

**Plant features:** A small, erect herb. Stem and branches are very slender. Leaves simple, linear, slightly rubbery. Flower small, 4 petals, Purple / pink.

**Other notes:** Locally common.



INDRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. III *Heliophila minima* Date 24.08.01 + 28.10.01  
 Collectors Louise Clapham GPS S  
 Locality (please describe property, not just grid/gps) Draaihoek E  
 farm road between Torkaan junction and Draaihoek farm house Grid 2416 Cc  
 Altitude 8143000  
 Aspect Slope level Exposure full sun Photo no's  
 Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species *Heliophila minima* Perennial/Annual  
 Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Dwarf shrub erect  
 Height ± 30 cm Occurrence (eg: common) Common all over the plain  
 Flower/inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Small flower, 4 petals, purple/pink. Sepals very visible when flower is open, sepal whorl offset to petal whorl so sepals show thro' gaps.  
 Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Simple, margin entire, linear (very long and thin) very sparsely scattered along stems. Slightly rubbery + with maroon tinge in older plants.  
 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) Erect shrub branching near the base. Stem + branches very slender, turning reddish after maturity.  
 Fruits and seed (presence/absence, shape, colour, edibility and taste if edible, single or clustered, maturity) Seeds in a pod. Very long and thin, splitting into two halves.  
 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
cavine/kloof/ gorge	littoral	termite mound	humus- rich	permanently waterlogged	heavily grazed
alluvial scree	unknown	bare rock	loamy clay	moist/damp	garden
cone slope		water	clay	freestanding water	plantation
cone crest	Vegetation	roots	calcrete	running water	recently burnt
interdunal street	desert	other	black turf	mist/fog	disturbed - other
ridge	shrubland ✓ open/closed		salt/brack		other
rocky outcrop	woodland open/closed		gravel ✓		
rain ✓	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite ✓		
valley	grassland ✓		lime		
longa/ditch/gulley	karoo		mica schist		
depression/ pan			quartzite		
dam			other		
dry bed of river/stream					
foodplain					
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				