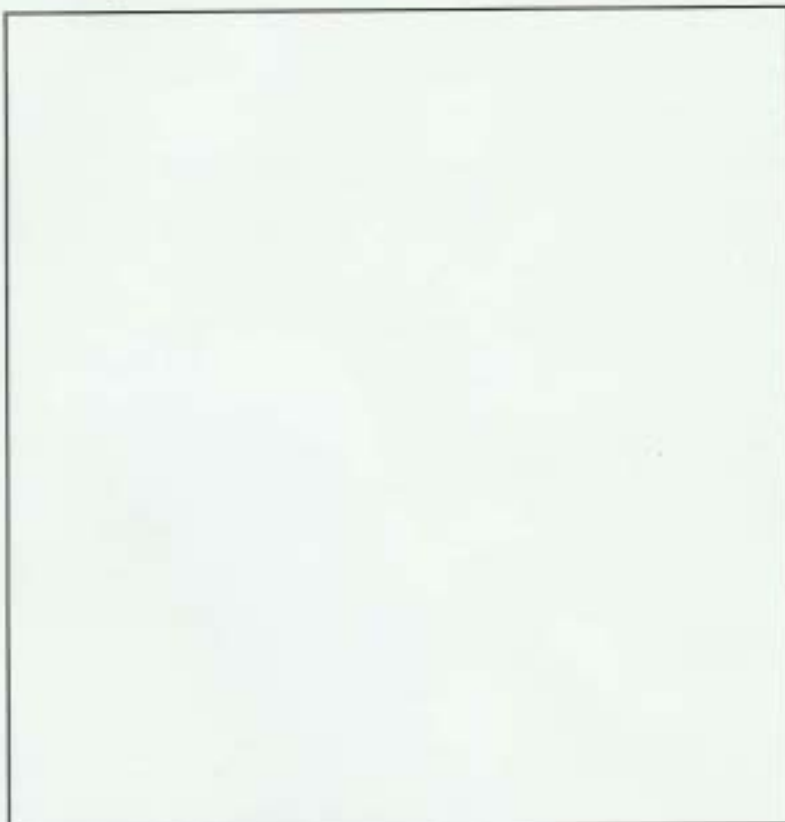


## *Hexacyrtis dickiana*

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**Family:** Colchicaceae (formerly part of Liliaceae)



**Collection Number:** 84

**Description:** *Hexacyrtis dickiana* is a tall, herbaceous, perennial geophyte which grows from a small corm. The corm is tunicated - in a fibrous dark brown cover. The plant can grow to a height of 600mm. Leaves are simple, lanceolate to linear with entire margins. Each forms a sheath up the stem; they are waxy, glossy and thick. The inflorescence is an umbel of six flowers growing on long pedicels. The flowers droop downwards and have 6 maroon coloured petals which curl back on themselves. The 6 prominent stamens have large, hinged anther-locules.

**Habitat:** The more stable, vegetated areas of sand dunes.

**General information:** The above-ground vegetative parts of the plant die off completely, leaving the corm up to 500 mm deep in the sand, awaiting rain before it will grow again. It may lie dormant for years. It flowers rarely, only blooming when conditions are exactly right, i.e. when there is sufficient late summer rain. It was abundant on the reserve in 2001, following very good rain in April and June. It grows relatively slowly, and requires moisture in the ground for quite an extensive period of time.

This plant is considered very rare in South Africa, where it possibly only grows in the Richtersveld, but it has been collected from a few localities in Namibia.



**WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)**

**NAME:** *Hexacyrtis dickiana*

**Collection No:** 84

**Date:** 09/06/01

**Collector:** Louise Clapham

**Grid ref.:** 2515 Bb

**Locality:** Wolwedans farm, road between the lodge and Jagkop.

**Habitat:** Dune belt, stable vegetated dune valley

**Plant features:** Perennial geophyte, growing from a corm. Leaves simple, arranged alternately, lanceolate to linear; thick, glossy and waxy. Inflorescence an umbel of 6 purple / brown flowers on long pedicels.





INBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 34 Date 07.06.2001  
 Collector/s Louise Clapham GPS  
 Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps) Walsley farm, S  
 road between lodge + lodge, 1.2 km from Grid 2515 Ab E  
 Camp/lodge junctions Altitude 1,130 m  
 Aspect Slope level Exposure full sun Photo no's  
 Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species ~~Ornithoglossum?~~ Hexacystis dickiana Perennial/Annual

Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Herbaceous - geophyte

Height ± 50-60cm Occurrence(eg: common) very common in karstified patches

Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Inflorescence umbel of 6  
 flowers on long pedicels. 6 petals red/brown withering over back and  
 thick + waxy, fused at base (?) Inflorescence long and strong

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Leaves simple, margin  
 entire, lanceolate to linear, alternately arranged up the stem,  
 each forming a sheath. Thick, glossy and waxy

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) Stem erect,  
 branching alternately. Smooth and waxy

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

Roots/Underground organs (shape, texture, colour, size) A relatively small bulb,  
 covered in a very fibrous dark brown covering. 30-40cm  
 beneath surface of the sand

Other (eg: uses, ecology)

Indigenous names and languages



Habitat		Substrate	Soil type	Moisture	Biotic effect
dill face	riverbank/ streambank	soil ✓	san ✓		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/hood/ 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 <del>street</del>	desert ✓	other	black turf	rest/fog	disturbed - other
ridge	shrubland open/closed		salt/brack		other
rocky outcrop	woodland open/closed		gravel		
plain	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite		
valley	grassland		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					

OR HERBARIUM USE ONLY

D. ....

Det. By ..... date ..... Accession .....

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