

Hoodia currorii

Namib Hoodia / Ghaap

Family: Asclepiadaceae



Collection Number:

Description: A small, shrub-like succulent, with thick, ribbed stems, wart-like protuberances, and long spines. The large, showy, papery flowers are spectacular, and range from flesh coloured, to salmon-pink, to mauve. *Hoodia currorii* only flowers after rain. The flowers smell like carrion and attract flies and other pollinators. The seed capsule is about 12 cm long, splitting open in 2 halves to release a profusion of seeds.

Habitat: Plains and rocky areas. On NamibRand it mainly grows close to the Nubib mountains, but there is one specimen close to Jagkop.

General information: There are 10 *Hoodia* species recognised in Namibia, most can only be distinguished by their flowers. The Namib hoodia is very bitter, but edible (the name 'ghaap' is hottentot and means veld food). *Hoodia currorii* has appetite suppressing properties, and is used to relieve high blood pressure.

