

Leucosphaera bainsii

Wolbos / silwerbossie

Family: Amaranthaceae



Collection Number: 60

Description: A small to medium sized, perennial, woody shrub. This many-stemmed shrub grows up to 40 cm in height. Leaves are opposite or alternate, small and elliptical with a rounded apex. They are grey-green, the margin is entire, they are sometimes slightly waxy. Leaves are covered in fine white hairs. The inflorescence is round, soft and woolly, off-white to grey, and is produced in late summer and autumn. It is composed of a ball of tube-like flowers. The bark is light grey, and stems are often covered in fine white wool.

Habitat: *Leucosphaera bainsii* is widespread in the arid savanna areas of southern Africa. It occurs in the Karoo, and is common in Etosha. On NamibRand it occurs throughout much of the reserve, particularly in stony areas. It is particularly abundant on the stony plains of Toskaan. It does not grow in the dune belt.

General information: The shrub provides valuable nutrition and is browsed on by various species of game, including gemsbok and springbok.



WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)

NAME: *Leucosphaera bainseii*

Collection No: 60

Date: 06/04/01

Collector : Louise Clapham

Grid ref.: 2515 Bb

Locality: Stellarine farm, south facing slope of the Schaafsberg, part way up the slope.

Habitat: Rocky mountain slope, close to a stream.

Plant features: Medium sized woody shrub. Inflorescence a ball of tube-like white flowers. Leaves small, simple, elliptical, grey-green and covered in fine white hairs. Stems woody and covered in wool.



NBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. GEATZ 60 Date 06 Oct 2001
 Collector/s LOUISE CLAPHAM GPS.....
 Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps) Farm
Stellarine South facing slope of Schafs Grid ZS15 Bb
berg partially up slope. Altitude ± 1200m
 Aspect S Slope steep Exposure full sun Photo no's.....
 voucher for.....

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species Leucospermum? Perennial/Annual

Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Medium sized woody shrub

Height ± 50 cm Occurrence (eg: common) Very common

Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Inflorescence composed of many long tube-like white flowers petals white and very feathery
 Overall impression of the inflorescence is that it is like a ball of fluff.

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Leaves fairly small, simple elliptical with rounded apex grey/green, covered in very fine white hairs. Margin entire. Some leaves opposite some leaves fascicled.

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 all very woody ~~of~~ brownish grey, covered in very fine white wool. Main stem dividing into many branches.

Fruits and seed (presence/absence, shape, colour, edibility and taste if edible, single or clustered, maturity) None present

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

Other (eg: uses, ecology).....

Indigenous names and languages.....