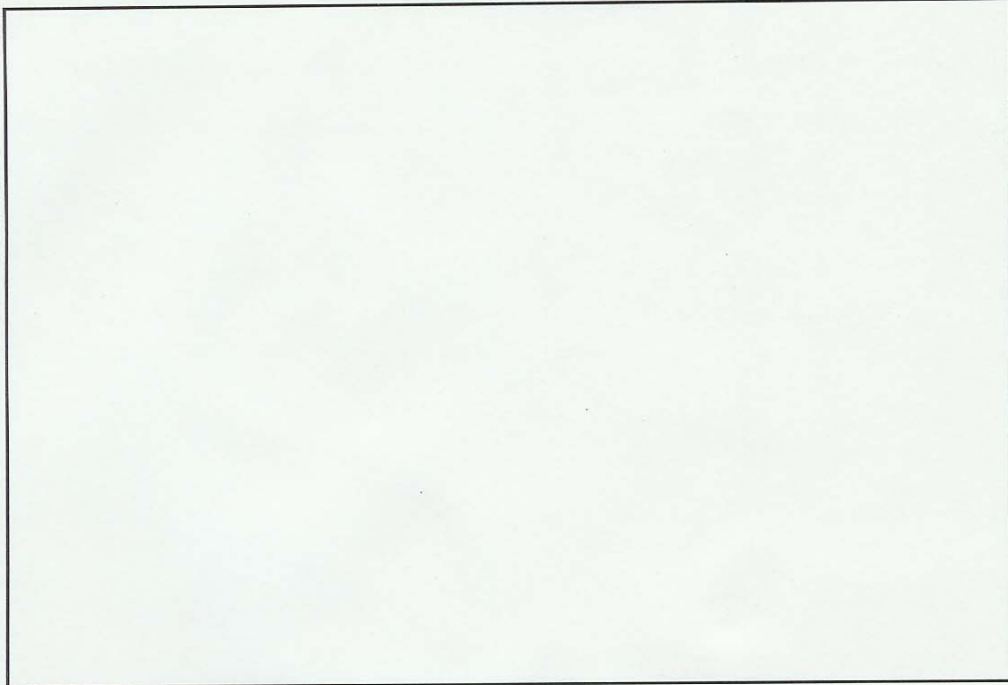


Monsonia leuderitziana

Family: Geraniaceae



Collection Number: 77

Description: A very distinctive, aromatic, prostrate, annual herb. Stems radiating outwards from a central base. Leaves are simple and cordate, with palmate venation prominent on upper and lower surfaces of the leaf. The inflorescence is an umbel of white flowers on long pedicels. Flowers have five bilobed petals. A distinctive characteristic of the geranium family is the fruit; the carpels form a long "beak" which dehisces spontaneously when ripe, breaking up into portions called mericarps. These consist of a long feathery appendage which spirals at the end attached to the seed, an aid to wind dispersal.

Habitat: Flat, open plains of coarse sand and gravel. It grows in full sun.

Monsonia umbellata also occurs on the reserve. The flowers and leaves are similar and it is also very aromatic. It is a taller, more upright plant, with a woody stem.



WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)

NAME: *Monsonia leuderitziana*

Collection No: 77

Date: 19/05/01

Collector: Louise Clapham

Grid ref.: 2416 Cc

Locality: Keerweder farm, on the edge of the pan, south side of the airstrip.

Habitat: Edge of a pan, open grassland, some shrubs. Open plain, sand and gravel.

Plant features: Prostrate annual herb. Leaves are cordate with dentate margins, fascicled. Inflorescence an umbel, white flowers on long pedicels. Very pungent aroma.

Other notes: Very common locally.

'strawberry plant'

INBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 77 Date 19.05.2001
Collector/s Louise Clapham GPS S
Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps) Keenwade farm, E
along the south side of the airstrip, Grid 2416 Cc
edge of the park Altitude ± 900 m
Aspect Slope level Exposure full sun Photo no's
Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species *Monsonia leuderderitziana* Perennial/Annual
Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Creeping herb
Height few cm Occurrence (eg: common) abundant in localised area
Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Inflorescence an umbel with 3
or more flowers on long pedicels. Flower with 5 white bilobed
petals.

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Simple, fasciated,
cordate, margins dentate. Prominent palmate venation
on upper and lower leaf surfaces.

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 radiating
from base. Plant has an extremely pungent, but
not unpleasant, smell.

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

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	sandy		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
canyon/cloof/ 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 street	desert	other	black turf	mist/fog	disturbed - other
ridge	shrubland ✓ open/closed		salt/brack.		other
rocky outcrop	woodland open/closed		gravel ✓ clay		
plain	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite		
valley	grassland		lime		
donga/ditch/gulley	karoo		mica schist		
depression/pan ✓			quartzite		
sam			other		
dry bed of river/stream					
floodplain					
estuary/lagoon					
marsh/swamp/ wetland					
river/stream					

FOR HERBARIUM USE ONLY

On

Det. By date Accession

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