

Myrothamnus fabellifolius

Resurrection Bush

Family: Myrothamnaceae



Collection Number:

Description: An aromatic dwarf shrub that may grow to a metre in height, but on NamibRand it is usually smaller. The botanical name is very descriptive – *Myrothamnus* means 'perfumed bush' and *fabellifolius* means 'leaves like a small fan'. It has rigid, erect grey branches and for most of the year looks like it is dead. Grey leaves are folded up against the stems. Within hours after rain, the folded leaves open up and turn a rich shade of dark green. The flowers are bright red and clustered together forming a small spike surrounded by leaves. The ability to withstand desiccation is a unique property of the resurrection bush.

Habitat: The resurrection bush grows in rocky habitats, on the slopes of koppies and mountains. It grows on all the mountains on the reserve, often in abundance.

General information: It can be used as an aromatic tea and has many medicinal properties, being particularly useful for colds and respiratory problems. Numerous traditional uses have been reported.

