Ornithogalum stapfii

Family: Hyacinthaceae

Collection Number: 78

Description: A perennial geophyte that looks much like a lily, but is in fact a member of the hyacinth family. The bulb may remain inactive underground for many years until there is sufficient rain for the plant to grow. It has a single stem, which is erect, with white flowers branching from it. Leaves are long and thin, dark green and fleshy, growing from the base. The inflorescence is a raceme, composed of many flowers. The flowers are white with 6 petals, in two whorls (3 in each). The fruit is a dehiscing capsule which spills many round, flat, shiny seeds onto the ground.

Habitat: Ornithogalum stapfii grows on gravels and stony ground with a thin covering of soil. It is locally very common following good rainfall, growing on the edge of the pan at Keerweder, and on the gravel plains of Vreendeligspoort. Following unusually good rainfall (over 100mm) in 2001, hundreds of these members of the hyacinth family appeared on Keerweder plain at the side of the airstrip.
WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)

NAME: Ornithogalum stapfii

Collection No: 78  Date: 21/04/01
Collector: Louise Clapham  Grid ref.: 2415 Dd

Locality: Keerweder pan, close to the airstrip.

Habitat: Open grassland, few shrubs. Sandy/gravel plain. Amongst stones and rocks. Full sun.

Notes: Erect bulbous herb. Pale green single stem. Leaves simple, dark green, margin entire, fleshy. Inflorescence a raceme. Flowers white, 6 petals in 2 whorls. Abundant in this location, but not common in other areas of the reserve.
Ornithogalum stapfii 30.05.01. Colleen

DATE: 21.06.2001

Collector: Louise Clapham
Provisional name: Lily 8 (White)

LOCATION:
Region: Hlatshohe
Major: NamibRand Nature Reserve
Minor: Relevé
Precise: Vreemdelingspoort farm between Camp Muusho + Mountain Lodge, ± 2 km from S.M.L.

HABITAT:
Vegetation type: Desert - open shrubland
Substrate: Stony/lolockey sand
Soil type: Sandy gravel
Exposure: South Shade
Aspect: Roadside
Biotic effect:
Other:

PLANT FEATURES:
Bulbous herb, annual. Stem erect, containing a lot of sap, pale green. Leaves single stem. Leaves simple, very long & thin, dark green, fleshy. Many flowers on the inflorescence. White, opening to a star shape with 6 petals.

NOTES:
Later become very common on gravely plain, close to Keerweer air-strip.

HERBARIUM USE ONLY

Name of plant

Det.

Date

No. of labels

FLOWERS: Present ☐ Absent ☐

SEEDS: Present ☐ Absent ☐

SPECIMEN STATUS: Essential ☐ Keep ☐ Return ☐ Discard ☐

DUPL. DIST.