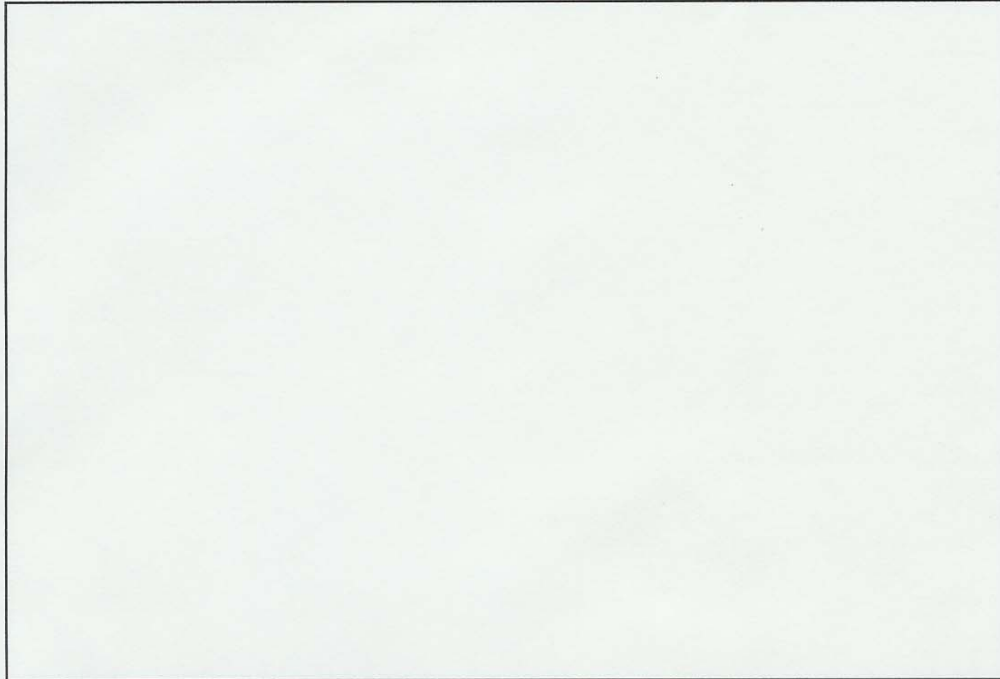


Pelargonium desertorum

Family: Geraniaceae



Collection Number: 133

Description: A densely branched, aromatic dwarf shrub. It is a deciduous plant growing to 30 cm, with woody, succulent stems, which are reddish. The leaves are lobed and dentate, giving it an overall crinkled appearance. Inflorescences are at the end of long pedicels, at the end of short branches. The elegant flowers are white, with pinkish centres and have 5 slender petals. *Pelargonium desertorum* is totally dormant in summer, on top of the Losberg it is known to flower in June/July, but flowering is said to be dependent on the availability of water.

Habitat: On NamibRand this plant is only seen by those prepared to climb the higher mountains. It was recorded on the top of the Losberg, at an altitude of around 1900m, growing amongst large granite boulders.

General information: *Pelargonium desertorum* was only recently described, being first collected in 1975. For a long time it was known only from the Rosyntjieberge in the Richtersveld, and thought to be endemic to this area. It has since been discovered in other parts of the Richtersveld, and recently collected from an inselberg south of Luderitz. Its appearance on top of the Losberg indicates that the higher mountains have a climate unlike the rest of the nature reserve, more in keeping with the succulent karoo/winter rainfall areas in the south.