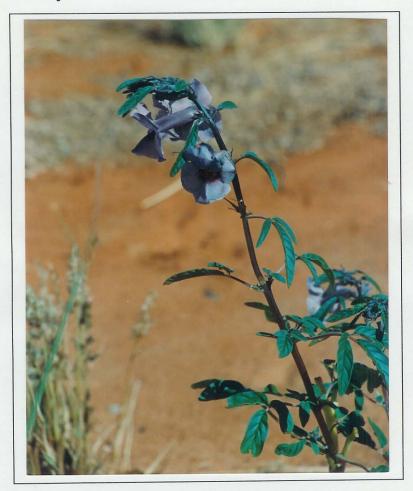
Sesamum capense Wild Sesame

Family:

Pedaliaceae



Collection Number:

Description: A tall, very conspicuous herb, which can grow up to 1.5m high. It is sparsely branched and has large, trumpet-shaped pink to blue flowers.

Habitat: S. capense grows in rocky habitats, on stony ground and in disturbed areas. It is very common on NamibRand, often seen along roadsides, and is widely distributed throughout southern Africa.

General information: This species may be confused with *S. triphyllum*, which has a more restricted distribution on the reserve, growing mainly on the dunes. Approximately 13 species and subspecies of *Sesamum* are thought to grow in Namibia.

Sesamum species are related to the cultivated Sesame plant, Sesamum orientale, which provides an extremely important commercial seed crop. The seeds of S. capense are edible, and the plant is used in traditional medicine.