

# *Sesamum capense*

## Wild Sesame

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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.