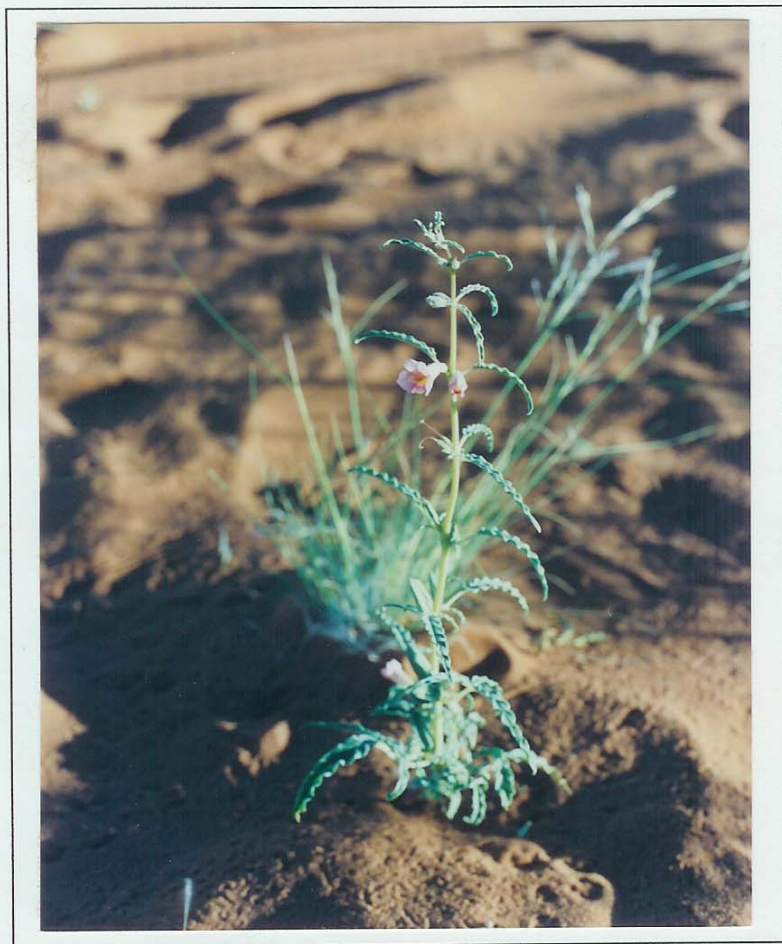


Sesamum triphyllum

Wild Sesame

Family: Pedaliaceae



Collection Number: 32

Description: An erect, sparsely branched annual, that may grow up to 1.5m tall. The leaves are composed of three leaflets, the margins of which are lightly serrated, giving the leaf a slightly crinkled appearance. The flowers are large, purplish-pink and trumpet-shaped. The flower stalks have small black glands, called extra-floral nectaries, which attract ants.

Habitat: *Sesamum triphyllum* grows in sandy soils and is commonly seen in the more stable, vegetated dunes. It also grows in areas of disturbed ground. Distribution is widespread, and the plant is common in the Kalahari.

General Information: This wild sesamef is used by indigenous peoples as an aphrodisiac, the leaves are mixed with milk. The roots are burnt and dried, mixed with vaseline, and applied to snakebites. The seeds are edible and rich in oils.