

Trachyandra laxa var. *laxa*

Tumbleweed / duinekool

Family: Asphodelaceae



Collection Number: 48

Description: An erect, slender, perennial succulent. It has numerous thick, fleshy roots. Stems are green to slightly reddish-brown and waxy. Leaves grow from the base, they are long, dark green and cylindrical.

Flowers are borne in an open, much-branched inflorescence. Typical of Asphodelaceae, the perianth is fused into a tube, which is pale brown to yellowish. Flowers on NamibRand have been observed to open after midday. Then flowers are delicate looking, white with a green median line.

Habitat: The dune belt, on stabilised dune slopes and interdunal streets. *Trachyandra laxa* is locally common following good rainfall, particularly if rainfall comes late in the summer. It also occurs in the Kalahari.

Other notes: The stems of this plant have been observed to be favoured food source for a yellow and black striped caterpillar.

Another similar species has been identified, growing in the dunes of the horseshoe area. *Trachyandra falcata* is more 'shrubby' but the flowers are very similar.



WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)

NAME: *Trachyandra laxa* var. *laxa*

Collection No: 48

Date: 22/07/01

Collector: Louise Clapham

Grid ref.: 2515 Bb

Locality: Wolwedans dunes, going south, few km from the Cat Tree.

Habitat: Dune belt, sparsely vegetated, slopes and interdunal street.

Plant features: Erect perennial herb, long cylindrical leaves growing from the base. White flowers open after midday, white petals with a green central line. Stem slightly waxy.

Other notes: Common in a localised area



IBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 48 Date 22.07.2001
 Collector/s Louise Clapham GPS S
 Locality (please describe property, not just grid/gps) Wolwedans E
dunes, heading south towards BDR Grid 2515 Bb
Few 100m from Cast Tree. Altitude
 Aspect Slope gentle Exposure full sun Photo no's
 Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT *Please give as much information as possible*

Species Root? Trachyandra laxa var. laxa Perennial/Annual
 Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Erect, herbaceous
 Height ± cm Occurrence (eg: common) Common in small area.
 Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Flower forms a pale brown/
yellow tube, petals do not open before fruit forms petals are
white when open, with a green central line and curl
back on themselves. 5 petals.
 Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Simple, linear,
basal, dark green, spherical and hollow

Stems and bark (colour, texture, habit - eg: erect stem with yellow peeling papery bark - presence or absence and smell of sap or latex - eg: milky latex with unpleasant smell) Green, slightly reddish
brown. Waxy cover, erect

Fruits and seed (presence/absence, shape, colour, edibility and taste if edible, single or clustered, maturity)

Roots/Underground organs (shape, texture, colour, size) Numerous roots, thick
and fleshy

Other (eg: uses, ecology) Eaten by caterpillars - longitudinal
yellow + black stripes on caterpillars.

Indigenous names and languages

Habitat		Substrate	Soil type	Moisture	Biotic effect
cliff face	riverbank/ streambank	soil ✓	sand ✓		road/railside
mountain/hill peak	seepage area	stony/rocky soil	sandy loam	well-drained ✓	cultivated land
mountain/hill slope	waterfall/ rapids	gravel	loam	seasonally waterlogged	abandoned land
ravine/kloof/ gorge	littoral	termite mound	humus-rich	permanently waterlogged	heavily grazed
talus/scree	unknown	bare rock	loamy clay	moist/damp ✓	garden
dune slope ✓		water	clay	freestanding water	plantation
dune crest	Vegetation	roots	calcrete	running water	recently burnt
interdunal street	desert ✓	other	black turf	mist/fog	disturbed - other
ridge	shrubland open/closed		salt/brack	Dune sand still moist from rain 3 weeks ago	other
rocky outcrop	woodland open/closed		gravel		
drain	thombush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite		
valley	grassland V. sparse		lime		
longa/ditch/gulley	karoo		mica schist		
depression/pan			quartzite		
dam			other		
dry bed of river/stream					
foodplain					
estuary/lagoon					
marsh/swamp/ wetland					
river/stream					

FOR HERBARIUM USE ONLY

Collected By date Accession

numbering code	fruiting code	voucher	duplicates
mature		genebank	
immature		ethnobotanic	
remains			
absent			