

# *Tribulus terrestris*

## Dubbeltjie / Devil's thorn

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Family: Zygothylaceae



### Collection Number:

**Description:** A prostrate creeper, which flowers annually. Compound leaves are composed of 5 – 10 leaflets (occasionally more). Flowers are bright yellow and small, approximately 1 cm in diameter. Radiating branches may be up to a metre long. The spiny fruit has given it its common name.

**Habitat:** *T. terrestris* occurs in all kinds of habitat, being a pioneer it is often found in disturbed ground, particularly places that have been overgrazed or trampled, or roadsides.

**General information:** *Tribulus terrestris* can cause a complex disease in sheep, called 'geeldikkop'. There are 6 *Tribulus* species in Namibia. *Tribulus zeyheri* also grows on NamibRand, the most obvious difference being the size of the flowers, which are much larger in the latter species.