

# *Aptosimum spinescens*

## Doringviooltjie

**Family:** Scrophulariaceae



**Collection Number:** 58

**Description:** A woody dwarf shrub with robust spiny branches and spines at the base of the plant. Leaves are simple, smooth-margined, very long and thin, and form tufts on short shoots. At midday they fold in half lengthways. Flowers are purple trumpets, the 'throat' of the trumpet is white and there are deep purple patches towards the centre. The fruit is a thick, woody brown to black capsule which may persist on the plant for many years.

**Habitat:** *Aptosimum spinescens* grows on open plains, in coarse sand and gravel. It is common in such areas. The species also occurs throughout the Karoo and south-western Kalahari.

**Other notes:** This spinous plant is unpalatable, but the leaves may be used as a remedy for cancer.



**WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)**

**NAME:** *Aptosimum spinescens*

**Collection No:** 58

**Date:** 04/04/01

**Collector:** Louise Clapham

**Grid ref.:** 2416 Cc

**Locality:** Keerweder farm, edge of the pan, close to the airstrip.

**Habitat:** Open shrubland./grassland, edge of a pan. Course sand and gravel.

**Plant features:** Small perennial shrub, spiny and woody. Leaves simple, linear, fascicled. Flowers form a deep purple trumpet with white inside the tube. Fruit a round woody capsule.

NBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. ~~CDA2~~ (58) Date 04. 04. 2001  
 Collector/s Louise Clapham GPS  
 Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps) Keewader  
 m., edge of Keewader pan close to the Grid 2416 CC  
 Air Strip Altitude ± 960 m  
 Aspect Slope level Exposure full sun Photo no's  
 Other for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species *Aptosimum spinescens* Perennial/Annual

(eg: dwarf shrub) Small shrub

Height 30-50 cm Occurrence (eg: common) Common in a very localised area

Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Slightly trumpet shaped,  
 ax with deep purple patches towards the centre white inside  
 'trumpet'

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules)

Upper leaves, linear, folding up in midday sun. Marginal  
 veins, leaves fasciated

Stem 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) Stem very

dry, branching several times below the surface. Spines  
 the base of the plant, and some up the stems

Seed and seed (presence/absence, shape, colour, edibility and taste if edible, single or clustered,  
 etc) Seeds enclosed in a round, woody capsule

Underground organs (shape, texture, colour, size)

eg: uses, ecology

Other names and languages