

Euphorbia mauritanica

Family: Euphorbiaceae



Collection Number: 47

Description: Succulent shrub. A very erect shrub, many stems branching from the base. The whole plant is pale yellow-green in colour and has a waxy surface. Secondary branches from the main stems. The plant has 5 flowers that grow out from the tops of the younger branches. In November there were still some cyathia visible, but mostly there were 3-segmented fruit on the stems. Fruit are pale green, the tops lightly coloured rusty pink. When a stem is damaged it seeps copious amounts of white latex. The plant does not appear to be browsed by game here, though it is known to be eaten by klipspringer and steenbok in other areas.

Habitat: Common in a very localised area, it appears to grow only in the Gorrasis mountains, amongst rocks in full sun. It is very common in the Karoo, especially in over-grazed areas.

Euphorbia mauritanica



Cyathia of *Euphorbia mauritanica*



Fruit of *Euphorbia mauritanica*

DATE: 28.11.2000

Collector: Louise Clapham

No: ~~20~~ ? 47

Provisional name¹ Euphorbia ? mauritanica / gregaria ?

LOCATION:

Region² MALTAHANE Grid ref.³ 2515 Bd

Major⁴ NamibRand Nature Reserve Alt. 1200 m/ft

Minor⁵ Farms Aardster / Gorrassie Relevé

Precise⁶ Base of Gorrassie mts, at border of 2 farms, near old Sycamore fig

HABITAT:

Vegetation type⁷ Desert, Nama Karoo

Substrate⁸ Stony, amongst bare rock Moisture regime⁹ well drained

Soil type¹⁰ gravel, coarse sand Lithology¹¹ predominantly granite

Exposure¹² full sun Aspect¹³ South Slope¹⁴ gentle, but at the

Biotic effect¹⁵ Undisturbed base of steep rocky mountain slope

Other¹⁶

PLANT FEATURES¹⁷⁻²⁴

Plant height 500cm - 1m

Shrub, succulent Erect, many stems branching from base. pale yellow/green. No leaves visible. Slightly waxy surface. Branching again from main stems. 5 flower stalks growing from top of smaller branches. Cyathia still visible. Fruit in 3 segments. Copious quantities of white latex

NOTES²⁵⁻³¹

Local abundance²⁵ frequent/abundant

Shrub is locally common but in only small, isolated areas. Most shrubs had fruit - pale green, tops lightly coloured rusty pink. Does not appear to have been browsed.

HERBARIUM USE ONLY

Name of plant

Genspec /

Det. Date No. of labels

FLOWERS: Present Absent FRUIT: Present Absent

SEEDS: Present Absent TYPE SPECIMEN: Yes No

SPECIMEN STATUS: Essential Keep Return Discard

DUPL. DIST.