

# *Optera burchellii*

**Family:** Fabaceae



**Collection Number: 88**

**Description:** A sprawling, untidy woody shrub. Stems and branches are pale green and smooth. Leaves are compound; trifoliate and arranged in clusters. The leaflets are lanceolate shaped.

The flower is relatively large and showy, vivid deep purple. Typical of sub-family Papilionidae, it is sweet-pea shaped, the 5 petals are differentiated into a banner, two wings and a keel. The banner has a yellow centre. The fruit is a long, thin seed pod.

**Habitat:** Rocky areas, close to the base of mountain slopes and often near dry stream beds. Vegetation typically consists of shrubs and some grasses. Distribution is fairly widespread over South Africa as well as Namibia.



## WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)

**NAME:** *Ooptera burchellii*

**Collection No:** 88

**Date:** 20/06/01

**Collector:** Louise Clapham

**Grid ref.:** 2515 Bd

**Locality:** Aandster riverbed, behind Gorrasis mountains

**Habitat:** Dry riverbed, coarse sand and gravel. Grassland with shrubs.

**Plant features:** Erect woody shrub. Leaves are compound, tri-foliolate and clustered, with entire margin. Leaflets are lanceolate. Flowers large and deep purple, petals differentiated.

INDRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 33 Date 20.06.2001  
 Collector/s Louise Clapham GPS  S  
 Locality (please describe property, not just grid/gps) Handate mixed behind Carrasco mts Grid 2515 Bd E  
 Aspect Slope level Exposure full sun Altitude   
 Voucher for  Photo no's

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species Otophora burchellii Perennial/Annual Perennial  
 Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Shrub  
 Height  $\pm$  50 cm Occurrence (eg: common) Uncommon  
 Flower/inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Purple, pea-like flower, 5 petals, relatively large. ~~leaves lanceolate~~ Banner, 2 wings + earina. Banner petal has yellow centre.  
 Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Compound, trifoliate Clustered, margin entire, leaflets lanceolate.

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) Pale green, smooth Woody at base + older stems.

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

Roots/Underground organs (shape, texture, colour, size)

Other (eg: uses, ecology)

Indigenous names and languages

Habitat		Substrate	Soil type	Moisture	Biotic effect
cliff face	riverbank/ streambank	soil ✓	sandy ✓		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		other
rocky outcrop	woodland open/closed		gravel ✓		It also grows on Mt. Slacks.
plain	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite		
valley	grassland ✓		lime		
donga/ditch/gulley	karoo		mica schist		
depression/ pan			quartzite		
dam			other		
dry bed of ✓ river/stream					
floodplain					
estuary/lagoon					
marsh/swamp/ wetland					
river/stream					

FOR HERBARIUM USE ONLY

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Det. By..... date..... Accession.....

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