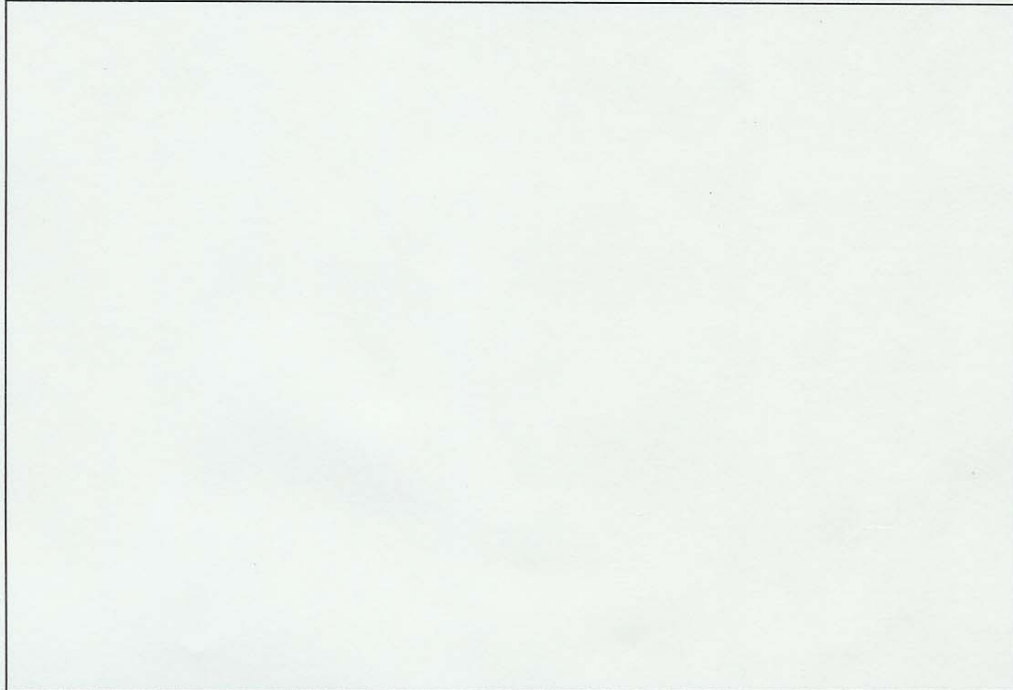


# *Orphanthera albida*

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**Family:** Asclepiadaceae



**Collection Number:**

**Description:** The botanical name is descriptive of the plant's nature and colour. *Orphanthera* is derived from the Greek word for straight, or erect, - *Ortho* ; and *Albidus*; Latin for whitish.

*Orphanthera albida* is a perennial shrub with pale, erect, wispy stems. It is usually leafless but when leaves do occur, they are small, and often only scale-like remains are to be seen. Flowers are plentiful, they are small and tubular, the inner part of the tube is bright apple-green, while the outer is practically grey.

The fruits, which are typical for Asclepiadaceae, are conspicuous capsules which can be up to 10 cm long and break open to release large numbers of brown seeds, each with a tuft of hairs to aid wind dispersion.

**Habitat:** *Orphanthera albida* occurs in extremely arid areas of the Namib, along dry washes or on stony ridges. On the reserve it can be found in dry riverbeds, particularly on the south east side of Jagkop.