

Blepharis mitrata

Family: Acanthaceae



Collection Number: 65

Description: A very dense, small, spiny shrub. It is a woody perennial that does not grow very large. It has elliptical shaped leaves, edged with spines. The inflorescence is a deep, vivid blue-purple. Petals are lobed and flowers are arranged in opposite pairs. Inflorescences are protected by extremely spiny flower bracts.

Habitat: *Blepharis mitrata* is commonly seen on the reserve. It grows on the open plains, usually in coarse sand such as the area close to Keerweder airstrip, sometimes in dry riverbeds, and amongst rocks at the base of mountains. It does not grow in the dunes.

General information: The *Blepharis* genus is well represented in the arid parts of Namibia. Other species which may be found on the reserve are *B. grossa* and *B. pruinosa*.



Photo only. 1 specimen
sent to ~~HRP~~
NBRI

NBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 65 Date 16.04.2001
Collector/s Louise Clapham GPS S
Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps) Keer-wader E
pan, along rd. adjacent to airstrip Grid 2416 Cc
Altitude
Aspect Slope level Exposure full sun Photo no's
Voucher for

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT Please give as much information as possible

Species Blepharis mitraba. Perennial/Annual

Habit (eg: dwarf shrub) Dwarf shrub, low growing; very dense.

Height ± 30 cm Occurrence (eg: common) Common

Flower/Inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Flowers deep vivid purple
Petals are fused into 3 lobes. Arranged in opposite pairs.
Flower bracts extremely spiny.

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

Simple (I think), elliptical. margins edged with spines.

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) Very dense and woody.

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

Seeds still protected in spiny dried out, woody flower.

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	sand: ✓ Coarse		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		
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					

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Date.....

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

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