

Euphorbia lignosa

Family: Euphorbiaceae



Collection Number:

Description: A medium to small perennial succulent. The stem is bulbous and probably acts as a storage organ. The shrub is densely branched, branches growing at all angles from the central stem. Branches divide repeatedly and often end in a dried up "spine". Stem and branches are pale green, smooth and slightly waxy in texture. If punctured they exude copious amounts of sticky, milky latex.

For most of the time leaves are absent and the green stem and branches take over the photosynthesising function. When leaves are present, they are very small and scale-like. They are linear/elliptical in shape with margins entire. Leaves and branches may, on some plants, be tinged with red.

The flower is a succulent cyathium, typical of the family Euphorbiaceae. It is generally a bright, light green, but may also on some plants be coloured with red. The fruit matures to a red dehiscent capsule.

The tap root is relatively long.

Habitat: *Euphorbia lignosa* is common in localised areas. It grows on the lower slopes of Jagkop, where it is particularly abundant, and amongst the lower dunes of Wolwedans, in both areas calcrete is present. It grows in full sun.

General information: *Euphorbia lignosa* is a protected species and is classified on Appendix II of CITES.





Habitat		Substrate	Soil type	Moisture	Biotic effect
cliff face	riverbank/ streambank	soil	sand X	tidal	road/railside
mountain/hill peak	seepage area	stony/rocky soil X	sandy loam	well-drained X	cultivated land
mountain/hill slope X	waterfall/ rapids	gravel	loam	seasonally waterlogged	abandoned land
ravine/cloof/ 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 X	running water	recently burnt
interdunal street	desert X	other	black turf	mist/fog	disturbed - other
ridge	shrubland open/closed		salt/brack		other
rocky outcrop X	woodland open/closed		gravel		
plain	thornbush savanna		dolomite		
plateau	forest		granite X		
valley	grassland		lime		
donga/ditch/gulley	karoo		mica schist		
depression/ pan			quartzite		
dam			other		
dry bed of river/stream X					
foodplain					
estuary/lagoon					
marsh/swamp/ land					
river/stream					

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ID

Det. By date Accession

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