

# *Ornithogalum stapfii*

**Family:** Hyacinthaceae



**Collection Number:** 78

**Description:** A perennial geophyte that looks much like a lily, but is in fact a member of the hyacinth family. The bulb may remain inactive underground for many years until there is sufficient rain for the plant to grow. It has a single stem, which is erect, with white flowers branching from it. Leaves are long and thin, dark green and fleshy, growing from the base. The inflorescence is a raceme, composed of many flowers. The flowers are white with 6 petals, in two whorls (3 in each). The fruit is a dehiscent capsule which spills many round, flat, shiny seeds onto the ground.

**Habitat:** *Ornithogalum stapfii* grows on gravels and stony ground with a thin covering of soil. It is locally very common following good rainfall, growing on the edge of the pan at Keerweder, and on the gravel plains of Vreemdeligspoor. Following unusually good rainfall (over 100mm) in 2001, hundreds of these members of the hyacinth family appeared on Keerweder plain at the side of the airstrip.



**WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)**

**NAME:** *Ornithogalum stapfii*

**Collection No:** 78

**Date:** 21/04/01

**Collector:** Louise Clapham

**Grid ref.:** 2415 Dd

**Locality:** Keerweder pan, close to the airstrip.

**Habitat:** Open grassland, few shrubs. Sandy/gravel plain. Amongst stones and rocks. Full sun.

**Notes:** Erect bulbous herb. Pale green single stem. Leaves simple, dark green, margin entire, fleshy. Inflorescence a raceme. Flowers white, 6 petals in 2 whorls. Abundant in this location, but not common in other areas of the reserve.



Ornithogalum stapfii 30.05.01. Colleen.  
DATE: 21.01.2001

Collector: Louise Clapham No.: 78  
Provisional name<sup>1</sup> Lily ♀ (White)

LOCATION:

Region<sup>2</sup> Maltahöhe Grid ref.<sup>3</sup> 2415 Dd  
Major<sup>4</sup> NamibRand Nature Alt. m/ft  
Minor<sup>5</sup> Reserve Relevé  
Precise<sup>6</sup> Vreemdelingspunt farm Between Camp  
Musho + Mountain Lodge, ± 2 km from S.M.L.

HABITAT:

Vegetation type<sup>7</sup> Desert - open shrubland  
Substrate<sup>8</sup> Stony/rocky soil Moisture regime<sup>9</sup> Well-drained  
Soil type<sup>10</sup> Sandy gravel Lithology<sup>11</sup> Granite, calcrete,  
Exposure<sup>12</sup> partial shade Aspect<sup>13</sup> Slope<sup>14</sup> level  
Biotic effect<sup>15</sup> Roadside  
Other<sup>16</sup>

PLANT FEATURES<sup>17-24</sup>

Plant height ... few cm.

Bulbous herb, annual. Stem erect, containing a lot of  
sap, pale green. ~~Leaves~~ single stem. Leaves single simple,  
very long + thin, dark green, fleshy. Many flowers on the  
inflorescence, <sup>a raceme</sup> white, opening to a star shape with 6 petals.  
(3 in each whorl)

NOTES<sup>25-31</sup>

Local abundance<sup>25</sup> Common along road-  
side. -

later become very common on gravelly plain, close to  
Keerweder airstrip.

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.