

# *Trichodesma africanum*

**Family:** Boraginaceae



**Collection Number:** 101

**Description:** An erect annual herb. Stems are slightly woody at the base of older plants, dark green, covered in spines. Leaves are simple, alternate, older growth is dark green, younger growth is much lighter. Leaves have many glands and are also covered in fine spines.

The flower is small, pale pink / lilac and on a long, thin peduncle. Peduncle and calyx are dark pink to maroon, and covered in fine white hairs.

**Habitat:** Disturbed ground, roadsides and dry riverbed. If conditions are right, this plant grows in abundance throughout the reserve, it could possibly be classified as a weed. It does not occur in the dune belt.

**Other notes:** *Trichodesma* is from Greek and alludes to 'having hairy bands'



**WOLWEDANS HERBARIUM (NRNR)**

**NAME:** *Trichodesma africanum*

**Collection No:** 101

**Date:** 22/07/01

**Collector:** Louise Clapham

**Grid ref.:** 2515 Bd

**Locality:** Gorrasis, Aandster road, close to picnic spot.

**Habitat:** Dry riverbed, very stony, sandy substrate. Full sun.

**Plant features:** Erect annual herb. Leaves relatively large, simple, covered in very fine spines, leaves with many glands. Spines on stems. Small flowers on a long, slim peduncle, petals pale pink, peduncle and sepals dark pink with fine white hairs.



INBRI - Collection Data Form

Collectors No. 101 Date 22.07.01  
 Collector's Louise Clapham GPS  
 Locality (please describe properly, not just grid/gps). Carracasis farm, ± 1 km from picnic koppie, near Randster road, first outcrop at base of mts. 2515 Bd  
 Aspect Slope gentle Exposure full sun and shade Photo no's  
 Voucher for shade

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT *Trichodesma africanum*  
 Please give as much information as possible

Species Erect herbaceous (annual) Perennial/Annual

Habit (eg. dwarf shrub)

Height ± cm Occurrence (eg. common) Very common

Flower/inflorescence (colour, shape, size, smell, texture) Small, on a slim peduncle. Peduncle + calyx dark pink to maroon. Flower very pale pink, 5 petals. Peduncle + calyx covered in fine white hairs

Leaves (simple/compound, margin, shape, colour, texture, stipules) Simple, alternate margin entire. Older growth dark green, younger growth much lighter. Leaves with many glands. Covered in very fine 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) Erect, slightly woody at base of older stems. Dark green. Covered in spines.

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

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 ✓		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					

FOR HERBARIUM USE ONLY

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

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