

Geigeria ornativa

Dune vermeerbossie

Family: Asteracea



Collection Number: 41

Description: Perennial with a woody rootstock. The bright yellow flowers are grouped in small compact heads, outer flowers are unisexual (only female), while the others are bisexual.

Habitat: This specimen was found growing at the picnic koppie on Gorrasis. The plant grows on sandy, gravel plains.

General information: When livestock, sheep in particular, eat a lot of this plant, paralysis of the oesophagus occurs, which may cause pneumonia. After a period of emaciation, vomiting takes place - hence the colloquial name (*vermeer* - "to vomit"). *Geigeria* poisoning has been known for over 120 years and has caused severe stock losses. In Griqualand West in 1954, 50 000 sheep died from poisoning. Due to improved veld management, large stock losses are uncommon, and game losses have not been recorded. River vermeerbossie (*Geigeria*) is similar, but to date has not been recorded on Namibrand. The dune vermeerbossie is the more poisonous of the two and can be distinguished as having considerably longer, narrow ribbon-shaped leaves.

DATE: 27.07.2000

Collector: Louise Clapham No: 41

Provisional name: *Grigera* (Vermeerbossie)

LOCATION:

Region² Matieland Grid ref.³ 2515 Bd

Major⁴ NamibRand Nature Reserve Alt. 1120 m

Minor⁵ Gorrasis farm Relevé

Precise⁶ Picnic koppie on Gorrasis farm - Centre of Gorrasis plain

HABITAT:

Vegetation type⁷ HEI DESERT

Substrate⁸ ROCKY STONEY Moisture regime⁹ WET DRAINAGE

Soil type¹⁰ GRAVEL WITH SOME SAND Lithology¹¹ GRANITE

Exposure¹² FULL SUN Aspect¹³ Slope¹⁴ LEVEL

Biotic effect¹⁵ UNDISTURBED

Other¹⁶

PLANT FEATURES¹⁷⁻²⁴

Plant height few centimetres m

Bouquet looking plant, thin long leaves, growing from one root, yellow flowers with many petals, in a compact cluster in the centre of the plant.

NOTES²⁵⁻³¹

Local abundance²⁵ locally common

Rules of the nature reserve forbid pulling out the whole plant, extremely difficult to take only a piece without destroying the plant. I hope a photo will suffice.

HERBARIUM USE ONLY

Name of plant

Genspec /

Det. Date No. of labels

FLOWERS: Present ♂ Absent ♀ Absent FRUIT: Present Absent

SEEDS: Present Absent TYPE SPECIMEN: Yes No

SPECIMEN STATUS: Essential Keep Return Discard

DUP. DIST.