

Fact Sheet:

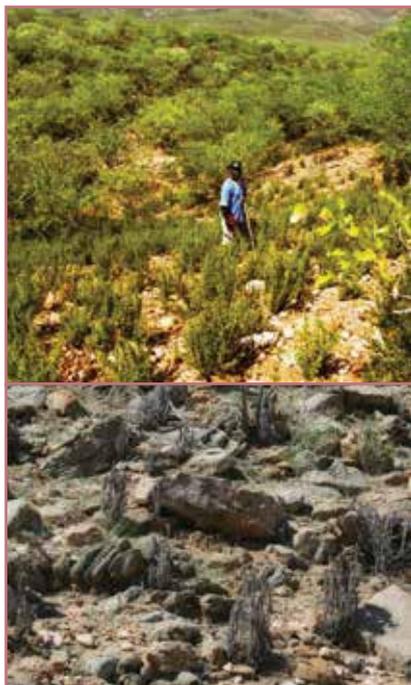
MYROTHAMNUS

Myrothamnus flabellifolius

Common Names

Otjiherero: Ohandukaze
Afrikaans: Opstandingsplant

Introduction



The resurrection plant is a woody shrub of 0.5 to 1.5 m found on the western escarpments of Namibia, solitary or in colonies. The leaves have a balsamic-like odour. The plant is a geophyte and can dehydrate its vegetative tissue, particularly the leaves, to an air-dry state with leaves turning from green to dull brown. The root system which extends into the crevices of the rocky slopes can take up rainwater very effectively and rehydrate the plant's desiccated tissue so that it returns to its original colour and shape (Moore, et al., 2007).

Harvesting and Processing

The potential annual wild harvest is large and sustainable as monitored by the Kunene Conservancies Indigenous Natural Products Trust and is therefore unlikely to be a limiting factor. In a joint venture based on an access and benefit sharing agreement with the indigenous knowledge holders, a regional cosmetics company produces the *M. flabellifolius* leaf extract MYRO PE with applicable EU dossiers available for cosmetic use (Intiki, 2018).



Distribution

(SANBI)

Composition and use

Of the twelve phytochemicals that *M. flabellifolius* contains, flavonoids, anthocyanins, alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, triterpenes, cardiac glycosides, saponins, phlobatannins, tannins, polyphenols and reducing sugars, the key polyphenol 3,4,5 tri-O-galloylquinic acid is responsible for oxidative protection during dormancy (Brandt, et al., 2006). The Namibian population has a substantially higher content of this polyphenol than populations elsewhere which makes it suitable for application as a potent natural source of antioxidants (Cheikhoussef, et al., 2015). The leaf extract can be added to cosmetics to increase skin hydration, ease irritation and protect against blue light (Scents of Namibia, 2018).



INCI: MYROTHAMNUS FLABELLIFOLIA EXTRACT

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