

Common Names

Himba: Okamuti
German: Buschmannkerze
Afrikaans: Boesmanskers

Introduction

A small bush with long-lived fleshy stiff stems that can grow about one 1m high with a woody main root. The deciduous leaves can slowly be transformed into spines. Pink flowers occur. The stems are covered in a waxy translucent bark which allows plants to limit the loss of water during periods of intense aridity (National Botanical Research Institute, 2016).

Used Plant Parts

When the plant dies, the waxy shell lies on the desert sands and hardens and darkens in colour with exposure to the high temperatures and dry conditions. The dead material is collected and no living material is damaged. This wax contains interesting and unique fragrances that are won by solvent extraction and can be used in a variety of applications (Scents of Namibia, 2018).

**Status Namibia: near-endemic****Distribution**

(SANBI, 2019)

Habitat and sustainable use of resource

S. mossamedense grows in extremely arid and bare localities, usually among rocks. Populations are typically localised and occur in high densities in the Puros, Sanitatas, Okondjombo and Orupembe conservancies in the Kunene region, as well as in the Skeleton Coast National Park (National Botanical Research Institute, 2016).

The plant has no traditional use in its natural habitat and the development of a supply chain has initiated its collection by women living in the Kunene Region. Since only the dried parts of dead plants are collected there is no threat to the relatively abundant resource (Nott, 2014).

**Listings**

INCI SARCOCAULON MOSSAMEDENSE EXTRACT

INCI BUSHMAN CANDLE RESINOID

EC / List no.: 825-481-1

CAS no.: 1365254-19-8

REFERENCES

Photos: K. Nott and D. Cole

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