

Oxalis sp 12026

Thomas Weaver

Hort 5051



Photos by Thomas Weaver

Taxonomy and Habit

TAXONOMY

- Family: Oxalidaceae
- Genus: Oxalis
- Species: Unknown
- Common names: None known
- Synonyms: None known



HABIT

- Leaves
 - Palmately compound, 4-7 leaflets
 - Smooth edges
 - Slightly glaucous
 - Born on long petioles
- Flowers
 - Single, White flowers
 - 1" diameter
 - Last 1 day
 - Born on long petioles
 - Unknown bloom time, typically plants bloom November-February in it's native habitat

Habit continued

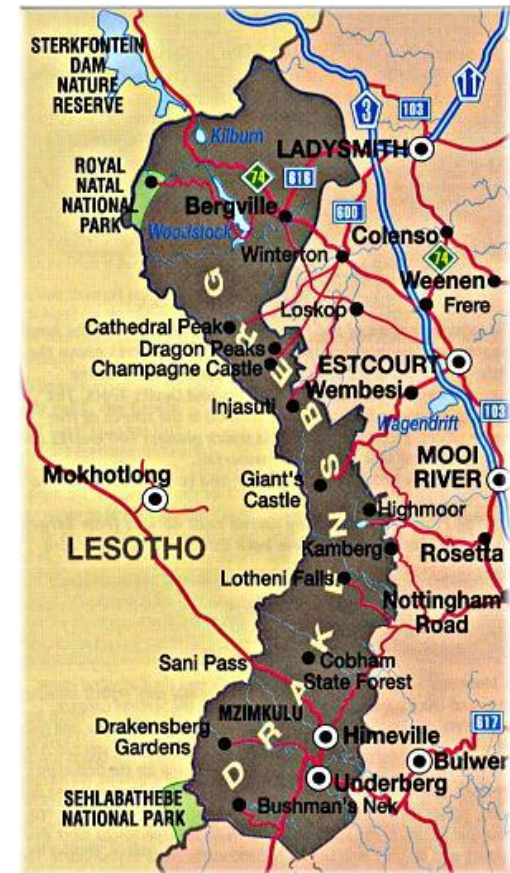
- Underground storage organ: Corms
- Roots: Fibrous
- Propagation: Cormels, division
- Life Cycle: Perennial
 - Requires vernalization
 - Invasiveness unknown current
- No known native uses



Habitat

Native to KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

- Collected in the Drakensburg mountains
 - Dry, rocky area near Lesotho
 - Temperature range – -4°C - 30°C
 - Snowfalls common
 - Average 1300mm precip
 - 30 degrees south of equator



<http://www.drakensberg.kzn.org.za/drakensberg/about/index.html>

Plant Community

NORTHERN DRAKENSBURG

- Warmer, dryer, rocky grassland
- Typical plants include *Protea welwitschii*, *Anagalis hutonii*, *Erica drakensbergensis*, *Crassula pellucida*, *Geum capense*, *Streptocarpus polyanthus* and other grassland plants



<http://www.aluka.org/action/showCompilationPage?doi=10.5555/AL.AP.COMPI.LATION.PLANT-NAME-SPECIES.ANAGALIS.HUTTONII>

SOUTHERN DRAKENSBURG

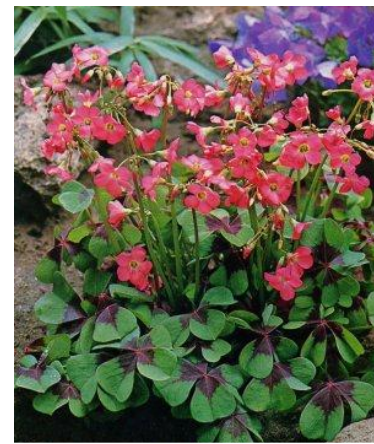
- Cooler, more moist
- Typical plants include *Gladiolus longicollis*, *Polygala hispidata*, *Asclepias stellifera*, *Streptocarpus gardenii*, *Habeneria laevigata*



http://www.rareplants.de/shop/product.asp?P_ID=5792

Market Niche

- Market Niche: Unusual plant collectors
 - Plant Story: From the wilds of South Africa to your patio
 - Likely USDA zones 7-9 (needs some dormancy)
 - Light: Bright to strong
 - Drought tolerance: Good
 - Soils: Rocky, well drained, dry
 - Containers: 4" pots
 - Competition: *Oxalis deppi*, *Oxalis regnelli*
- Will this be a major crop?
 - Unlikely. There is too much competition from relatives with better form and showier flowers
 - Unknown to consumers
 - Could be available in 10+ years



Anticipated Cultural Requirements

- Likely USDA zones 7-9 (needs some dormancy)
- Light: Bright to strong
- Drought tolerance: Good
- Soils: Rocky, well drained, dry
- Containers: 4" pots
- Temperatures: Needs cool period in winter, can survive up to 30C
- Diseases: Unknown
- Fungicides/Insecticides: Unknown
- PGRs: Unknown

Production Schedule

- Bulbs require vernalization
 - Plants received 1000 hours at 3C
- Sprout within 2 weeks
- FBI occurs 4 weeks after planting
- From planting to sale could be done in as little as 4 weeks with prevernalized corms
 - Short days with –DIF appear to enhance bud initiation
 - Initiate bud with 1 leaf
 - Not the most attractive for consumers
 - Unknown if more time will produce a more attractive plant
- Target sales date: Spring sales
- Potential Holidays: St. Patrick's Day - Shamrocks



Needs Assessment for Genetic Improvement

- Invasiveness must be researched
 - Unknown seed viability, spreading tendencies
- Crop needs more breeding
 - Selection for shorter petioles and flower stalks
 - Selection for more flower colors
 - Selection for more flowers per plant
 - Longer blooming time

Works Cited

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- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drakensberg> accessed 5/3
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