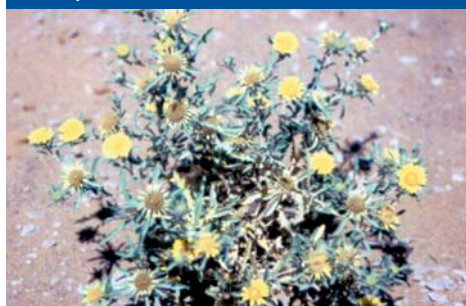


***Nauplius graveolens* (Forssk)
Wiklund
Compositae (Asteraceae)**



Compiled by Dr. Salima Benhouhou

■ **Morphological description**

A chamaephyte (semi-shrub) that can reach 50 cm. in good conditions; stems are whitish at the top, densely ramified and spread out. The bright green leaves are deeply cut and covered with dense hairs. The flowers form a large capitulum 1-2 cm. wide, with small orange ligules and an involucre formed by tough bracts that extend beyond the capitulum. The fruit are small achenes covered with dense hairs. It flowers in spring from March to May.

■ **Geographical distribution**

Local: Very common in the Algerian Sahara.

Regional: North Africa.

Global: A Saharo-sindian species spreading from North Africa to the desert regions of Asia.

■ **Ecology**

This plant is found in hot deserts with low rainfall (average 100 mm. per year). The typical habitats are sandy-gravelly soils of the wadis and the sand-clayey soils of small depressions (dayas).

■ **Status**

According to the IUCN criteria this Saharo-sindian species falls into the "C" category. The plant is not threatened and appears on the floristic list of several protected sites listed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

■ **Part used**

The leaves. Collected in the spring, they are

***Nauplius graveolens* (Forssk) Wiklund**

Bubonium graveolens (Forssk.) Maire

Asteriscus graveolens Forssk.

Bupthalmum graveolens Forssk.

Bupthalmum stenophyllum Link

Odontospermum stenophyllum Sch. Bip.

Asteriscus stenophyllus Ku

Nauplius: from the Greek, a kind of shellfish. In Greek mythology, Nauplius was the son of Poseidon and Amymone. He founded Nauplia (modern Nafplion) in Argolis; **graveolens:** strong smelling

Arabic: tafssa, robd

Targui: amayou, hasnem

English: fragrant oxeye

French: asterolide du désert

prepared as an infusion or decoction; the sap of the fresh leaves is used as drops for the nose and a poultice for headaches (for children, infusions are preferred). It is taken internally by mouth and externally.

■ **Constituents**

No data available in the literature on its constituents.

■ **harmacological action and toxicity**

Antimicrobial activity. The plant is not reported as toxic by nomads and Tuareg.

■ **Pharmacopeias**

Not relevant for this species.

■ **Pharmaceutical products**

Not relevant for this species.

■ **Traditional medicine and local knowledge**

It is used for blennorrhagia, diabetes (infusion), diarrhoea, facial neuralgia, head cold, gastralgia, headache (poultice for adults and infusion for children), pulmonary problems, and sinusitis.

It is sometimes added to tea. It is a much appreciated pasture.

In Tissint (Morocco) an infusion of the entire plant is used for toothache and as a gargle. The powdered leaves when sniffed are helpful for headache. A decoction of the plant is used by women to combat sterility (infertility).

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