PLANT FACT SHEET

Sclerochiton ilicifolius A, Meeuse

GENUS *Sclerochiton* **FAMILY** Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Spiny white lips

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots - sweetener

The roots are very sweet containing monatin.

DESCRIPTION

A small compact shrub. It grows 1-2 m tall. It has several short strong stems. The leaves are in clusters at the ends of the branches. They are small and broadly oval. They are 1-2 cm long by 1 cm wide. There are deep teeth around the edge with a sharp spine on the end of each. The leaves are dark green above and more pale underneath. The leaves are stiffly leathery. The flowers are 3 cm long and white to cream. The petals have lines of dense silvery hairs. There are 2-4 flowers in a group. The fruit are oblong pointed capsules.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows among rocks on hot, dry mountain slopes. They grow in the Waterburg mountains in South Africa.

REFERENCES

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/745cbe7f-9ed8-4e42-9a7e-c30d78658b2b