PLANT FACT SHEET

Babiana ringens (L.) Ker Gawl

GENUS *Babiana* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

COMMON NAMES Rat's tail

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Corms, Root

The corms are cooked in a variety of dishes.

DESCRIPTION

An erect herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 40 cm high. It has a corm that tends to be deep underground. The leaves are stiff and erect. They are strongly pleated or folded. The flowers are on a side branch that comes out parallel to the ground. The flowers have 2 lips and stamen that are longer than the flower tube. The flowers are bright red. The top part of the flower stalk does not have flowers and looks like a rat's tail.

HABITAT

It is usually in sandy soil.

REFERENCES

Ruiters-Welcome, A. K., 2019, Food plants of southern Africa. Ph.D. thesis. Univ. of Johannesburg p 67

van Wyk, Ba., 2000, A Photographic Guide to Wild Flowers of South Africa. Struik Nature. p 94 (As Antholyza ringens)

Welcome, A. K. & Van Wyk, B.-E., 2019, An inventory and analysis of the food plants of southern Africa. South African Journal of Botany 122 (2019) 136–179

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/93b787e9-f1d7-4737-b242-e31f9d8fcb81