

Namib Desert Region Vegetation Database

Norbert Jürgens & Gerhard Mucbe

Abstract: Since 1980 many observations of the vegetation in the dry regions of Namibia and South Africa have been recorded in the database of Namib Desert Region Vegetation Database (GIVD ID AF-00-007). All relevés were recorded using a standard size of 1000 m² and include spatial reference data, habitat information and all observed species occurrences with cover and (partly) abundance data. Worth mentioning is that the database has been sampled over a period of several years thereby including different seasons as well as dry and wet years. Many relevés do not show the entire local species pool at the time of documentation. The interpretation of therophytic, geophytic and hemicryptophytic species must take this into consideration. Conditions of strongly grazed plant individuals in particular during dry seasons may have resulted in some inconsistencies in plant identifications, e.g. *Stipagrostis hirtigluma* subsp. *hirtigluma* versus *S. uniplumis* var. *intermedia*.

Keywords: desert; diversity; global change.

GIVD Database ID: AF-00-007		Last update: 2012-05-15	
Namib Desert Region Vegetation Database			
Scope: Vegetation and environmental data in Namibia, western South Africa and Angola			
Status: ongoing capture		Period: 1980-2010	
Database manager(s): Norbert Jürgens (norbert.juergens@t-online.de); Gerhard Mucbe (gerhard.mucbe@uni-hamburg.de)			
Owner: Norbert Jürgens			
Web address: http://www.biota-africa.org			
Availability: according to a specific agreement		Online upload: no	Online search: no
Database format(s): MS Access, BIOTABase		Export format(s): Excel, CSV file, Cornell condensates format, Canoco environment data	
Publication: [NA]			
Plot type(s): normal plots; time series		Plot-size range: 10,000-10,000 m ²	
Non-overlapping plots: 10,902		Estimate of existing plots: [NA]	Completeness: [NA]
Total plot observations: 10,952		Number of sources: 1	Valid taxa: 1,827
Countries: AO: 2.4%; BW: 0.1%; NA: 50.0%; ZA: 47.6%			
Forest: 0% — Non-forest: aquatic: 0%; semi-aquatic: 0%; arctic-alpine: 0%; natural: 64%; semi-natural: 36%; anthropogenic: 0%			
Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%			
Environmental data: altitude: 35%; slope aspect: 35%; slope inclination: 33%; soil depth: 30%; surface cover other than plants (open soil, litter, bare rock etc.): 25%; soil pH: 25%			
Performance measure(s): presence/absence only: 28%; cover: 72%			
Geographic localisation: GPS coordinates (precision 25 m or less): 42%; small grid (not coarser than 10 km): 43%; political units or only on a coarser scale (>10 km): 15%			
Sampling periods: 1980-1989: 14.0%; 1990-1999: 50.6%; 2000-2009: 24.3%; 2010-2019: 0.1%; unknown: 11.0%			
Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/AF-00-007			

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