

Carrisa bispinosa

Karoo num-num



Decoding
South Africa's
Biodiversity



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Phylum: Angiosperms

Estimated genome size: 700 million DNA base pairs (0.7 Gigabases)

Organism size: 2.2 – 4 meters in height

Distribution:

The Karoo num-num occurs in wooded areas, extending from the southwestern Western Cape along the coast through the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, into the Free State, Gauteng, and the northern provinces. Its range also includes Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, and Namibia, with sporadic occurrences as far north as Kenya. Its leaves and thorns exhibit marked variation across its distribution.

Importance:

Karoo num-nums are evergreen and provide food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife. They are wind-resistant and moderately drought-tolerant, but susceptible to frost. They are cultivated for ornamental use as shrubs and hedges with starry white flowers and bright red edible fruit. The roots have been used medicinally to treat toothache. The num-num is also used in traditional Swazi ceremonies.

PromethION Sequencing Report:

Output: 57.27 Gigabases

Approximate N50: 8.05 kilobases

Draft Genome Assembly Statistics:

Genome length: 0.43 Gigabases

BUSCO completeness score: 98.4% [Single: 90.4%, Duplicated: 8.0%]

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