

Ceratolimon feei (Girard)
M.B.Crespo & M.D.Lledó
Plumbaginaceae



Compiled by Dr. Salima Benhouhou

■ Morphological description

A perennial shrub with densely ramified stems at the base, rather small, not exceeding 40 cm. The leaves form a basal rosette; they are lanceolate, approximately 5 cm. long, slightly fleshy and covered with small calcareous concretions. Solitary flowers develop at the tips of the long thin stems. They have a thick reddish calyx and 5 pink petals. The fruits are small capsules. Flowering starts in early spring (end of February) and continues until late spring in May.

■ Geographical distribution

Local: The north-western areas of the Algerian Sahara.

Regional: Morocco and Algeria.

Global: Endemic of the Moroccan (south-east) and Algerian (north-west) Sahara.

■ Ecology

This hardy shrub thrives particularly on the stony grounds of the djebels. Its occurrence on gravelly-sandy wadi beds is less frequent. The rainfall range lies between 50 and 100 mm. per year and it can survive years of severe drought when the rainfall is less than 50 mm.

Ceratolimon feei

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Limoniastrum feei Batt.

Bubania Feei Girard

Limoniastrum: similar to the stative of the *Limonium* section.

Arabic: milahfet el khadem, rass el khadem, hadjaz el khadem

■ Status

According to the IUCN criteria this endemic species falls into the "EN" category.

The threat to this plant from human collection is mainly felt near settlement. Although no data has been reported on its conservation, measures should be taken for its propagation in nurseries.

■ Part used

The leaves are collected in the spring and prepared as an infusion and a decoction, taken by mouth.

■ Constituents

No data available in the literature regarding its constituents.

■ Pharmacological action and toxicity

No data available in the literature on the plant's pharmacological action and toxicity.

■ Pharmacopeias

Not relevant for this species.

■ Pharmaceutical products

Not relevant for this species.

■ Traditional medicine and local knowledge

It is used for diarrhoea and stomach pain.

When young, the plant provides good grazing.

In Morocco, the same use (for diarrhoea) is reported as for other species of the same genus (*Limoniastrum gyuonianum* and *L. ifnensis*).

■ References

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