



FLORA FACTS

Leonotis leonurus

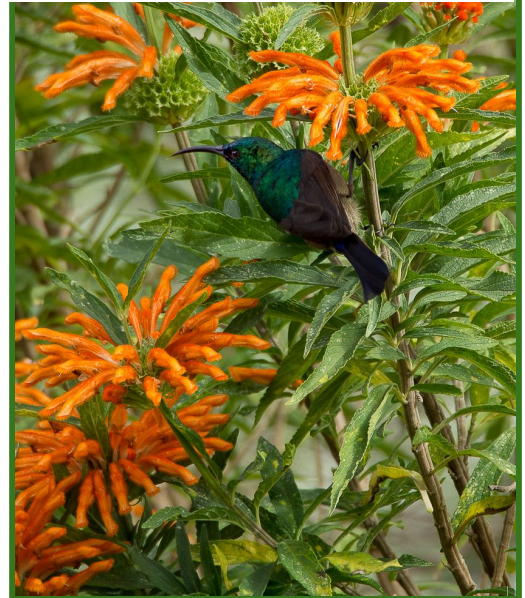
ENGLISH:- wild dagga, lion's ear

XHOSA:- umunyamunya

AFRIKAANS:- wildedagga

DESCRIPTION- The leaves are long, narrow, rough above, velvety below with serrated edges.

ECOLOGY- The flowers contain sweet nectar that attracts many nectarivorous birds such as sunbirds. The curved beaks of these birds which are used for feeding from these tubular flowers have been a contributing factor to the brilliant orange-red colour and tubular shape of these flowers due to co-evolution. However the nectar and pollen is also attractive to ants, honey bees and other insects who also visit the flower.



DISPERSION - Once matured, the small, stick shaped seeds are shaken loose by wind action from the dried seed heads and scattered on the ground around the parent plant. The seed or nutlets have an oblique surface at the top that is covered by special oil glands that attract ants, which carry off the seeds and in so doing, disperse them.

MEDICINAL - Traditional remedies prepared from leaves heal colds, flu and headaches. A remedy made from the leaf and root is also used

in treating snakebites as well as a natural remedy or charm to keep snakes away.