

RUBIACEAE | GARDENIA FAMILY

This is one of the largest families of flowering plants worldwide. It is widespread, particularly in the tropics and subtropics, and includes many trees and shrubs. The family is easy to recognise due to its distinctly opposite or whorled leaves, the characteristic interpetiolar stipules (which leave a distinct scar or line between the leaves after they have fallen) and an inferior ovary (which results in the fruit being crowned by persistent calyx remains or a circular scar). Economically, its most important products are coffee (from *Coffea*) and quinine (from *Cinchona*), but it includes many cultivated ornamental plants, such as *Gardenia*.

*Carphalea
pubescens*

Cups-and-saucers Bush

[no TAP records]

A shrub with erect stems. BARK thick and corky. LEAVES lanceolate to narrowly elliptic. FLOWERS small, greenish-white. FRUIT obconical, hard, ribbed; enlarged, persistent calyx.

Previously recorded from Impalila Island only.

*Hymenodictyon
floribundum*

Firebush

[1 record]

A deciduous tree. BARK purplish-grey, flaking in small squares. LEAVES obovate, leathery; crowded near the ends of branches. FLOWERS small, greenish-white in spikes. FRUIT reddish-brown capsules, crowded along the spike.

A new record for Namibia and a large range extension. The record was collected from the track leading to the Kunene River between the Baynes and Otjihipa Mountains (1712BB) where it was an uncommon shrub and tree in the 1–3- and 3–8-m height classes. Found on a rocky, west-facing hill slope. LEAVES, FLOWERS and FRUIT were recorded in March (specimen LH944, HOF1).