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Botanical name: ***Hoodia gordonii*** (Masson) Sweet ex Decne

Main synonyms: *Hoodia bainii* Thistleton-Dyer; *Stapelia gordonii* Masson

Family: Apocynaceae (subfamily Asclepiadoideae)

Vernacular names: **Hoodia** (English); *ghaap*, *bitterghaap* (Afrikaans, Khoi); *hoodia* (French); *Hoodia* (German); *hoodia* (Italian)

Hoodia gordonii is an erect, branched-stem succulent with greyish-green stems covered in short, single, bulbous-based spines. The flowers are large and flesh-coloured. *Hoodia gordonii* may be confused (in Namibia and Botswana) with *H. currorii*. It occurs mainly in the dry western parts of South Africa and Namibia, but not in Botswana. Listed on CITES Appendix II.

The active compound is a triglycoside of 12 β -trigloyloxy-14 β -hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (commonly known as P57). *Hoodia* is traditionally used as a functional food to suppress hunger and thirst.