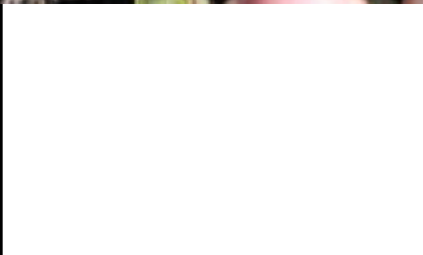




# Guide to selectd plant families compiled by Ute Schmiedel



# Asteraceae

Growth form: Annual, biennial, perennial herbs, shrubs, trees, lianas, succulents ...

Composed flowers: Head that combines many very small flowers; the central flowers in that head have no flower leaves (kroonblare), the flowers at the fringe often have one long flower leaf (makes the flower head look like one single flower).

The bottom of the flower head (involucrum) has characteristic shape for each of the genera

Fruit: 1 seed (such as sun-flower seeds), the seeds often have wings (*Osteospermum*, *Tripteris*) or hair (*Senecio*) or wool (roosmarijn) to make them fly.



# Crassulaceae

Growth forms: Herbs, shrubs, small trees, typically succulents

Leaves: simple, roundish or egg shaped

Flowers: 4 or 5 flower leaves, flowers sit in groups or are sometimes solitary (single).

Fruits: small seeds surrounded by four calyx leaves (kelk blare)



# Fabaceae

Growth forms: Trees, shrubs, climbers, lianes or herbs

Leaves: typically afwisselnd, pinnate or finger-like

Flowers: typically ship-like (boat with sail)

Inflorescence: in groups (longish or cluster)

Fruit: 2 parts form a pod („bean fruit“)

Seeds: various, often pea-like (roundish or kidney-shaped)



# Zygophyllaceae

Growth forms: Herbs or shrubs

Leaves: mostly opposite, simple, forming two subleaves (leaflets).

Flowers: 1 or 2 together, (4-) 5 flower leaves (petals)

Fruits: a capsule, often forming 5 parts, sometimes with wings!!



# Mesembryanthemaceae (vygies)

Growth form: Annual or perennial succulents, dwarf shrubs, shrubs

Leaves: Opposite, free at base or closely combined with each other

Flowers: single or in groups, flower simple, sometimes having a little pyramide in the centre

Fruits: capsule, mostly woody, open 4 to many „kammers“ when wet

Seeds: kidney-shaped, very small



# Euphorbiaceae (Melkbos)

Growth form: herbs, shrubs, trees, sometimes succulent

Leaves: alternate (alternatief), often reduced (very small)

Flowers: male and female in separate flowers, look differently, bracts (special leaves) often sticky

Fruits: typically capsules, roundish

White milk (but also in other plant families!)



# Geraniaceae

- Growth form: herbs or shrubs
- Flowers: regular or symmetrical, five petals (free) and five sepals (connate)
- Leaves: roundish, alternative or opposite, lobed or divided and usually with stipules
- Fruits: five (or three) parts (beak-like)
- normally pollinated by insects





# Poaceae (gras family)

- culms, plugged at intervals called nodes
- Leaves: arise from nodes partly covering the culm
- Flowers: arranged in spikelets
- Fruits: “grains”
- usually called grasses



# Solanaceae

- Growth form: bushes, small trees
- Flowers: funnel-shaped with five petals usually fused
- Leaves: alternate, often with a hairy or sticky surface
- Fruits: berries (e.g. tomato) or dehiscent fruit
- Seeds: usually round and flat, being 2-4 millimetres in diameter
- e.g. potato, tomato, eggfruit, tabac



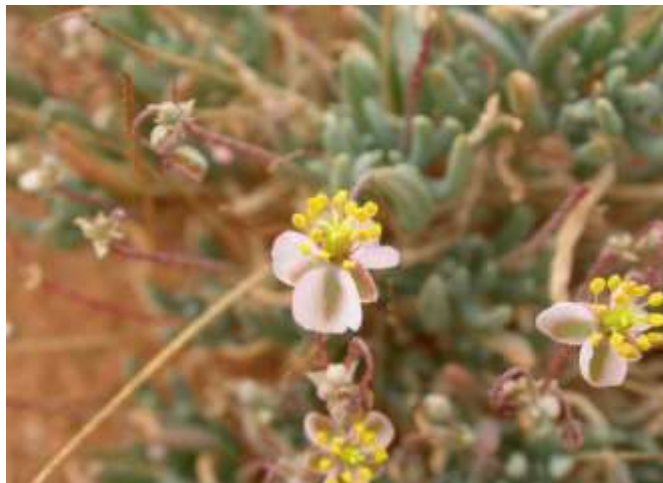
# Scrophulariaceae

- Growth form: annual or perennial herbs, sometimes small shrubs
- Flowers: sitting on the stem (racemose), mostly 4-5 lobed petals and sepals, pistil sticking out, mono-symmetric (mirrored), 4-5 stamens
- Fruits: capsules with many seeds



# Chenopodiaceae

- Growth form: Herbs, shrubs, a few species are lianas or trees, sometimes succulent
- Leaves: often opposite, with toothed leaf edges, no stipules
- Flowers: tiny or small
- Fruits: some species bear showy masses of fruits
- Seeds: nuts with only one seed
- e.g. spinach, beets



# Portulacaceae

- Growth form: ranging from herbaceous plants to shrubs
- Leaves: often fleshy and sometimes form rosettes at the base of the plant,
- Flowers: two connate sepals and 2-6 connate petals, mostly radially symmetric
- Fruits: capsular

