

Lessertia frutescens

Cancer bush



Decoding
South Africa's
Biodiversity



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Phylum: Tracheophyta

Estimated genome size: 991 million DNA base pairs (0.99 Gigabases)

Organism size: 0.5 – 1 meter in height

Distribution:

Lessertia frutescens occurs naturally throughout the dry parts of southern Africa – in Western Cape and up the west coast as far north as Namibia and into Botswana, and in the western Karoo to Eastern Cape. It is also found in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. It shows remarkable variation within its distribution

Importance:

This plant is one of the most discussed in the ethnobotanical world because it has a strong reputation as a cure for cancer and increasingly as an immune booster in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. It has long been known, used and respected as a medicinal plant in southern Africa. There is preliminary clinical evidence that it has a direct anti-cancer effect in some cancers and that it acts as an immune stimulant. Research on its properties is ongoing.

PromethION Sequencing Report:

Output: 225.29 Gigabases

Approximate N50: 1.74 kilobases

Draft Genome Assembly Statistics:

Genome length: 0.45 Gigabases

BUSCO completeness score (single and duplicated genes): 94.3%

[Single: 90.8%, Duplicated: 3.5%]

Sample Contributor contact details

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