**Hottentot fig**  
*(Carpobrotus sp.)*

Originated in South Africa and was imported to Europe during the 1900s for ornamental purposes and to stabilise soil against erosion.

**Description**
- Perennial, succulent plant, either creeper or overhanging on cliffs, that forms large beds
- V-shaped, pulpy leaves, opposing, green to red in colour, 8 to 11 cm long and 8 to 13 mm thick, with the cross section forming an equilateral triangle (*C. edulis*) or an isosceles triangle (*C. acinaciformis*).
- Single flowers at end of stalk, linear petals that are yellow (*C. edulis*) or purplish pink (*C. acinaciformis*), 5 to 12 cm in diameter.
- Pulpy fruit, fig shaped, edible, with many seeds in a very sticky mucilage.

**Ecology and reproduction**
- Littoral, rocky or sandy areas, e.g. dunes, back sides of dunes, cliffs, rocky slopes.
- Flowering in the beginning of spring (March to May), self-pollinating or cross-pollinating due to pollinating insects.
- Dispersal of fruit via endozoochory (vertebrates) or myrmecochory (ants).
- Vegetative multiplication via layering or cuttings.
- Hybrids between the two species are possible.

**Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Caryophyllales</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Aizoaceae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td>Carpobrotus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>C. edulis</em> (L.) N.E.Br, 1926</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>C. acinaciformis</em> (L.) L. Bolus 1927</td>
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**Documentation**

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