

***Farsetia aegyptiaca* Turra**  
Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)



Compiled by Dr. Salima Benhouhou

■ **Morphological description**

A low shrub, not exceeding 40 cm. and densely ramified from the base. The stems at the top are very thin and the whole plant is covered with tiny whitish hairs. The leaves are linear, alternate, 4-5 cm. long and also covered with white hairs. The numerous flowers each have 4 white free petals. The fruit is a small siliqua 1 cm. wide. The flowering period is usually between February and April.

■ **Geographical distribution**

**Local:** Common throughout the Algerian Sahara.

**Regional:** North Africa.

**Global:** A Saharo-sindian species common in desert areas of North Africa and Asia.

■ **Ecology**

This long-lived perennial grows on the gravelly soils of wadis, on the stony ground of djebels and in dayas. It grows in severe climatic conditions with under 100 mm. rainfall per year.

■ **Status**

According to the IUCN criteria this Saharo-sindian species falls into the "C" category. The plant is not threatened and appears on the floristic list of several protected sites listed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and Man and Biosphere reserves (MAB).

■ **Part used**

The stems and leaves are collected in the spring

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*Farsetia*: from Farseti, a Venetian botanist;

*aegyptiaca*: Egyptian

**Arabic:** el aoud el abiyad

**Targui:** timzar

and prepared as a decoction, to be taken by mouth.

■ **Constituents**

No data found on the constituents of this plant.

■ **Pharmacological action and toxicity**

No data available in the literature on the pharmacological action and toxicity of this plant.

■ **Pharmacopeias**

Not relevant for this species.

■ **Pharmaceutical products**

Not relevant for this species.

■ **Traditional medicine and local knowledge**

It is used for toothache and gingivitis, and for sore eyes.

In the Tissint region (Morocco), a decoction of the plant mixed with alum is used as a mouth rinse and for disinfecting.

■ **References**

**Relevant to the plant and its uses**

Internet source:

<http://www.sahara-nature.com/plantes.php?plante=farsetia%20aegyptiaca>

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