

August's Tea is:

Rooibos Tea

Aspalathus linearis, is a broom-like member of the plant family *Fabaceae* that grows in South Africa. The leaves are used to make a caffeine-free tea that has been popular in Southern Africa for generations. Since the 2000s, rooibos has gained popularity internationally, with an earthy flavor and aroma that is similar to those of yerba mate or tobacco.

Outside of Southern Africa, it is called bush tea, red tea, or red-bush tea (predominantly in Great Britain). The name rooibos is Afrikaans deriving from *rooi bos*, meaning 'red bush'. The name is protected in South Africa and has protected designation of origin status in the EU.

Rooibos grades are largely related to the percentage needle or leaf to stem content in the mix. A higher leaf content results in a darker liquor, richer flavour and less "dusty" aftertaste. The high-grade rooibos is exported and does not reach local markets, with major consumers being the EU, particularly Germany, where it is used in creating flavored blends for loose-leaf tea markets.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rooibos>