# **Drakensberg**

Golden Gate and The Sani Pass

A Greentours Trip Report

21st January to 3rd February 2019

Led by Paul Cardy and Seth Musker

Daily Accounts and Systematic Lists by Paul Cardy

Days 0 and 1 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January Arrival, to Port Edward (N.B. departure day treated as Day 0 to maintain the day numbers used for the checklists)

Having stayed near Durban for a few days, at the airport I met Seth, we organised the vehicles, and in due course met the arriving group. Red-winged Starlings nested in the car park. Our journey bypassed the urban sprawl of the city as we headed west along the Pondo Coast.

In the coastal community of Munster we settled into our lovely guesthouse, amid lush gardens, Vervet Monkeys much in evidence. There was free time to relax or catch up with sleep before we met for dinner. There was a selection of birds in the gardens and those who walked down to the Indian Ocean shore found *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Our first dinner together was an enjoyable affair, Ursula and Arthur's cooking excellent.

# Day 2 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January Umtanvuna Nature Reserve, Port Edward

A fine morning was warm early and we enjoyed an excellent breakfast. Knysna Turacos and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird called in the garden, Speckled Mousebirds were much in evidence, and Citrus Swallowtail was on the wing.

With local botanist Graham accompanying us we drove a short way inland to Umtanvuna Nature Reserve where the first of much *Agapanthus campanulatus* was in flower. On rocky outcrops the *Bulbine* was an as yet undescribed species and the grey moss-like *Selaginella dregei* grew in distinctive mats. Here too were the orchid *Schizochilus zeyheri*, *Centella glabrata* var. *natalensis*, *Dioscorea dregeana*, lithophytic *Cyrtorchis arcuata* and *Polystachya pubescens*, and the attractive fern *Pellaea calomelanos*.

Common Reedbuck moved gracefully across the grassland. Plants continued with the endemic *Canthium vanwykii*, *Ekebergia pterophylla*, and the mesem *Delosperma caespitosum*. The cycads *Stangeria eriopus* and Drakensberg Cycad represented this fascinating group of plants. Croaking Cisticola called and Mocking Cliff Chat sang from rocky outcrops.

Burchellia bubalina, the wild Pomegranate, was distinctive. Plants continued with a very small specimen of *Clutia floribunda*, the composite *Inulanthera leucoclada*, and Red Rock Fig. Southern Rock Agama was active in the sunshine.

Crassula pellucida var.brachypetala flowered on rocks, we saw Psychotria capensis, the white flowered endemic Delosperma subpetiolatum, and the shrub Polygala virgata. The nymphalid Gaudy Commodore was attractive, this the form natalensis. Xysmalobium involucratum and Pachycarpus asperifolius were impressive asclepiads.

As we walked across the extensive grassland the great floral variety continued with Cassinopsis tinifolia, Syncolostemon parviflorus, Lobelia anceps, Erianthemum dregei, Alectra sessiliflora, Buchnera simplex, Selago trinervia, Secamone alpina, Athrixia phylicoides, Senecio rhyncholaemus, Tarchonanthus trilobus, Tenrhynea phylicifolia, Vernonia dregeanum, Indigofera shiluwanensis, Tephrosia polystachya, Watsonia densiflora, Dierama igneum, Aristea abyssinica, Tritonia disticha, Hypoxis filiformis, Scilla kraussii, Cyanotis speciosa, Alepidea peduncularis, Crotalaria globifera, and Tinnea galpinii. A beautiful green chafer was admired.

An interesting selection of butterflies included the acraea Polka Dot, Thorn-tree Blue, Rayed Blue, another Harlequin Skipper, Rainforest Brown, and *Pseudonympha magoides*. The very local endemic lycaenid *Lepidochrysops ketsi leucomacula*, Ketsi Blue, was a pleasing find as was the very local endemic subspecies of Wichgraf's Brown, *Stygionympha wichgrafi grisea*.

Lazy Cisticola sang and Black Saw Wings were in the air. Having reached another rock outcrop we found many new plants such as *Cyphia elata*, *Stachys nigricans*, *Albuca setosa*, *Aspidoglossum gracile*, *Thesium natalensis*, *Erica cubica*, *Rangaeris muscicola*, *Tephrosia gnidioides*, and *Lichtensteinia interrupta*. Rare *Chironia albiflora* was in flower, *Tulbaghia acutiloba* was new for the tour, and the orchid *Stenoglottis woodii* was in bloom.

In a pond were the bladderwort *Genlisea hispidula*, the water lilies *Nymphoides thunbergiana* and *Nymphaea nouchali*, and *Eriocaulon dregei*. The hemiparasitic *Striga bilabiata* grew in the grassland. I was delighted to spot the beautiful Painted Reed Frog. Asclepiads continued with wonderful *Brachystelma australe*. *Euryops leiocarpus*, *Dyschoriste depressa*, the local endemic *Leucadendron spissifolium oribinum*, and *Syncolostemon rotundifolius* continued the great variety, and the parasitic *Cycnium racemosum* was in impressive flower.

Black-bellied Starlings were in the trees, a species of *Lestes* at the streamside, and Common Quails called.

Helichrysum featured in the area and species not already mentioned were Helichrysum adenocarpum, Helichrysum aureum monocephalum, Helichrysum cymosum, Helichrysum ecklonis, and Helichrysum populifolium.

Brunsvigia grandiflora was in fine flower. Legumes featured with Erythrina humeana, Crotalaria lanceolata, Dolichos falciformis, Eriosema parviflorum, Eriosema umtanvunense, Indigofera natalensis, Lotononis viminea, and Psoralea glabra among them. New plants just kept coming, with Sebaea grandis, Gnidia anthylloides, Gnidia baurii, Gnidia kraussiana, Hybanthus enneaspermus, Xyris capensis, Asystasia gangetica, Centella asiatica, Searsia acocksii, Searsia carnosula, Delosperma lineare, Thunbergia atriplicifolia, Isoglossa ovata, and Isoglossa woodii all here. A productive day for orchids continued with Orthochilus ensatus and Satyrium trinerve and the final highlight of the morning was impressive very robust Eulophia horsfallii new for the tour. Lunch was eaten in a shady shelter, it now being hot in the middle of the day.

Near Port Edward a marshy meadow had the impressive tall *Eulophia angolensis* and, belonging to the Melastomataceae, *Dissotis canescens* had striking purple flowers. There were both *Helichrysum* 

odoratissimum and Helichrysum panduratum and Wild Frangipani, Voacanga thouarsii, was in flower. Here we were joined by Graham's wife Kate.

Plants continued with *Mikania natalensis*, *Xyris natalensis*, *Ludwigia octovalvis*, *Phyllanthus meyerianus*, *Nidorella auriculata*, *Morella serrata*, *Cyperus prolifer*, and *Typha capensis*. *Strelitzia nicolai* featured in the area. Fan-tailed Widowbird was admired and Burchell's Coucal called.

A short drive took us to grassland that swept down to the ocean below us. This site again boasted many plants. Legumes were again a feature, and included *Eriosema dregei*, *Eriosema salignum*, *Tephrosia macropoda*, *Tephrosia grandiflora*, *Ophrestia oblongifolia*, *Vigna vexillata*, *Aspalathus chortophylla*, *Indigofera abbotti*, *Indigofera dregeana*, and the undescribed *Indigofera herrstreyi*.

Thunburgia atriplicifolia, the Natal Primrose, was showy. Also here were *Pentanisia angustifolia*, *Buchnera dura*, *Hybanthus enneasperma*, *Gnidia nodiflora*, *Euphorbia natalensis*, and hemiparasitic *Thesium pallidum*.

The cactus *Rhipsalis baccifera* grew as a lithophyte and the endemic *Apodytes abbotti*, Pondo Whitepear was in fruit on rocky outcrops. *Cyperus rupestris* was a beautiful sedge, and *Crassula obovata* was seen. *Aeollanthus parviflorus*, the pink spur bush, was in flower. Among the many petaloid monocots were *Schizocarpus nervosus*, *Aristea torulosa*, *Bulbine asphodeloides*, *Commelina africana*, *Trachyandra asperata*, and *Tritonia disticha*. The asclepiad *Ceropegia carnosa* was a pleasing find.

A large colony of *Eugenia albanensis* was interesting, a geoxylic suffrutex. Plants continued with *Roella glomerata*, *Lobelia tomentosa*, *Selago tarchodes*, and *Grewia occidentalis*. *Disa polygonoides* had striking orange flowers. The endemic *Cassytha pondoensis*, *Wahlenbergia madagascariensis*, *Euphorbia woodii*, and the orchid *Eulophia schnelliae* continued the variety.

White flowered *Utricularia livida* was followed by *Sopubia simplex*, *Monopsis unidentata*, and *Senecio erubescens*. Long-tailed Blue and Natal Spotted Blue were on the wing, but the butterfly highlight was surely *Kedestes mohozutza*., Harlequin Skipper, a beautiful species.

We enjoyed another excellent dinner back at the lodge, and made a first run through the already extensive plant list.

# Day 3 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January Red Desert, Weza, to Underberg

We said farewell to Arthur and Ursula and their fine guesthouse, headed west to Port Edward and then turned north. Our first destination was the protected site of Red Desert. Not immediately apparent why it's so called when we arrived, once on foot, amid the grassland were indeed open red sandstone formations. Again legumes were immediately much in evidence, among them *Indigofera grata*, *Chamaecrista plumosa*, *Chamaecrista comosa*, *Rafnia elliptica*, and *Zornia linearis*. Composites began with *Helichrysum mixtum*, *Helichrysum ruderale*, *Relhania pungens*, *Stoebe vulgaris*, and *Osteospermum imbricata*.

Here were our first proteas, with scattered *Protea roupelliae* and *Protea caffra* on the grassy slopes which were dominated by the grass *Loudetia simplex*. *Hypoxis acuminata* was in flower and here too were *Lasiosiphon* (*Gnidia*) triplinervis, *Osyris compressa*, *Anthospermum galpinii*, *Phylica natalensis*, *Agathosma ovata* still in flower, *Ipomoea crassipes*, *Striga asiatica*, *Callilepis laureola* in flower, *Vernonia corymbosa*, *Commelina erecta*, *Tephrosia kraussii*, and *Cryptocarya wyliei*.

The blue Azanus natalensis was on the wing. Schizoglossum atropurpureum virens was an impressive asclepiad. Overlooking the Umtanvuna river, a forest patch had Schefflera umbellata, Tarchonanthus trilobus, Shirakiopsis elliptica, Gerrardina foliosa, and Protorhus longifolia. Black Mangroves grew along the riverside below, the boundary with the Eastern Cape, and we saw distant Hibiscus tiliaceus.

Dalechampia capensis was in flower, and we saw Lobelia pteropoda, Helichrysum herbaceum, Scabiosa columbaria, Ipomoea mauritiana, and Dianthus mooiensis.

Leaving the Indian Ocean coastal belt we drove north, traversing sub-escarpment savanna, and reached the sub-escarpment grassland bioregion. We joined the Highway and made good progress. Heavy rain came, and we had to abandon the next planned stop as the track was just too muddy and the rain heavy. The owners of the lodge here kindly allowed us to use the facilities however.

Near the village of Weza we ate lunch, and in the grassland here found *Hewittia malabarica*, and the orchids *Disa chrysostachya*, *Eulophia parvilabris*, and *Satyrium sphaerocarpum*. En route we saw *Satyrium cristatum*. Red-footed Falcons on wires punctuated the journey.

Late afternoon saw us reaching our fine guesthouse, in Underberg, and we settled into the comfortable rooms. Hadada Ibis fed on the lawns. That evening we walked the short distance to a very good little restaurant in town. There was even a small selection of books for sale, including 'Mountain Flowers'.

## Day 4 Friday 25th January

#### Sani Pass, Lesotho

Superb weather greeted us for our visit to Sani Pass, where we would spend a night at the Sani Top hotel. Our guesthouse in Underberg was happy for us to leave most of our luggage until our return, taking with us only the essentials for an overnight stay. Stuart was our driver and guide for the Sani trip, and he told us much about the area over the next two days.

Amur Falcons were again on the wires but there were considerably fewer than in the recent past. Terrible culling of vast numbers in Naga has greatly reduced the numbers reaching southern Africa. *Crocosmia paniculata* flowered on the roadsides.

At the first stop the orchid *Disperis lindleyana* flowered in leaf litter under planted pines. Black and Red-chested Cuckoos both called, and Golden-breasted Bunting was seen. Further along were *Dioscorea sylvatica*, *Hermannia woodii*, *Asparagus cooperi*, *Aristea abyssinica*, *Helichrysum herbaceum*, *Rubus ludwigii*, *Cyphia tysonii*, and *Disa stachyodes*.

One cliff had fine *Sandersonia aurantiaca*, the only place we would see it, and I climbed up to white flowered *Hypoxis parvula albiflora* on a rock ledge. *Scilla natalensis* had gone over and *Polygala hottentota* was in flower.

Proteas were a feature with at least some *Protea caffra*, *Protea subvestita*, *Protea roupelliae*, and *Protea dracomontana* all in flower, and the endemic Gurney's Sugarbird attending them. We also saw the dwarf *Protea simplex*. *Satyrium neglectum* and *Moraea inclinata* bloomed and *Helichrysum rugulosum* continued that speciose genus. This was quite a day for orchids, and at this same site were *Corycium dracomontanum*, *Disperis renibractea*, *Eulophia zeyheriana*, *Satyrium parviflorum*, and *Neobolusia tysonii*. *Phygelius capensis* flowered beside a stream. Here too were *Gunnera perpensa*, *Athrixia angustissima*, *Galium capense*, and *Jamesbrittenia breviflora*.

We reached the South African border post where departure formalities were straightforward. The showy *Anisodontea julii* was here, as well as *Lotononis galpinii*, *Geranium pulchrum*, *Diascia cordata*, *Diascia integerrima*, and *Felicia filifolia*.

At the next stop a roadside cutting had *Bupleurum mundii*, *Asparagus asparagoides*, *Euryops tysonii*, *Myosotis semiamplexicaulis*, and *Asparagus ramosissimus*. *Gladiolus flanaganii*, named the Suicide Lily because of the usual innacessibility of its chosen habitat, flowered on the cliffs above and was viewed in the telescope. Plants continued with *Helichrysum trilineatum*, and the pineapple lily *Eucomis schiffi*. Eastern Hillside Brown and Pennington's Copper were among the few butterflies seen today.

Glumicalyx nutans represented an endemic genus. A streamside stop had fine Helichrysum montanum, Cyrtanthus epiphyticus, Polygala ohlendorfiana, and Trifolium burchellianum. Lotononis sericophylla and Dierama dracomontanum were in flower, Cliffortia nitidula pilosa was locally dominant, Leucosidea sericea formed scrub, and Xerophyta viscosa was in flower. Chacma Baboons were much in evidence and Sentinel Rock Thrush was seen. Lammergeiers and Cape Vultures were in the air, and Rock Hyraxes scampered on the cliffs.

There were fine views from the lunch site, where a superb picnic was provided by Stuart. In flower here were *Lotononis galpinii*, *Cysticapnos pruinosa*, *Lessertia perennans*, and *Lithospermum papillosum*.

Euryops evansii became a feature, and Holothrix incurva was in fine flower. Grey Rhebok grazed on the slopes below. Glumicalyx goseloides was the second species of the genus, and there was Geranium multisectum. The very local endemic Macowania hamata was in flower. Endemic Drakensberg Siskins frequented these higher slopes.

The next grassy corner was very productive. *Moraea albicuspa* was in bloom and a highlight was the very special asclepiad *Schizoglossum hillardiae*. *Disa cephalotes* was found, *Cineraria dieterlenii* was in flower, and the variety continued with *Berkheya purpurea*, *Brownleea macroceras*, *Hebenstretia cooperi*, and *Hebenstretia dura*. We had great views of a male Drakensberg Rockjumper, a bird highlight of the tour. The endemic Bush Blackcap was another highlight.

Among many other plants here were Kniphofia ichopensis, Kniphofia ritualis, Gladiolus dalenii, Wahlenbergia krebsii, Crassula dependens, Crassula peploides, Erica thodei, Euphorbia epicyparissias, Sutherlandia montana, Geranium schlecteri, Geranium wakkerstroomianum, Zaluzianskya ovata, Schizoglossum bidens, Schizglossum atrorubens, Aster erucifolius, Euryops decumbens, Papaver aculeatum, Diascia anastrepta, Jamesbrittenia pristisepala, Nemesia rupicola, Sopubia cana, Sutera floribunda, Pentzia cooperi, and Ursinia montana.

Orchids not already mentioned were *Pterygodium cooperi*, *Pterygodium hastatum*, *Schizochilus angustifolius*. There was a great diversity of *Helichrysum*, and species not already mentioned were *Helichrysum acutatum*, *Helichrysum albo-brunneum*, *Helichrysum album*, *Helichrysum auriceps*, *Helichrysum drakensbergense*, *Helichrysum pagophyllum*, *Helichrysum pallidum*, and *Helichrysum umbraculigerum*. *Senecio* also featured with the robust *Senecio haygarthii*, weedy *Senecio inaequidens*, pink flowered *Senecio macrocephalus*, large yellow-flowered *Senecio macrospermus*, and *Senecio seminiveus*.

Reaching the Lesotho border post the road became instantly excellent and fully paved in Lesotho, the road we had been driving up all morning being famously a challenge and still very rough. As usual here were close views of Sloggett's Ice Rats, a fascinating mammal. *Limosella vesiculosa* and

*Limosella longiflora* flowered in wet flushes. We quickly checked in to the hotel, and left our luggage. What a great location.

We set out along the fine paved road and headed up to 3240m, the highest point on the continent south of Kilimanjaro. Walking across high altitude rock sheets we found much of interest. It was pretty cold though! Here were *Selago galpinii*, *Helichrysum flanaganii*, *Helichrysum milfordiae*, *Helichrysum bellum*, *Helichrysum trilineatum*, *Felicia uliginosa*, *Bulbine narcissifolia*, *Euphorbia clavarioides*, *Berkheya cirsiifolia*, and *Haplocarpha nervosa*. Mountain Wheatear and Sickle-winged Chat were seen and we had very close views of African Black Swifts as they sped past.

We enjoyed a good dinner and good wine in the 'highest pub in Africa'. Several moths were attracted to the lodge lights.

# Day 5 Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January Sani Pass, Himeville

We awoke to the beautiful scenery of Sani Top. There was much bird activity around the lodge, with Cape Canary, Red-winged Starlings, fine Malachite Sunbirds on *Kniphofia caulescens*, Speckled Pigeons, and Drakensberg Siskins. Slogett's Ice Rats were just outside our rooms.

After breakfast we explored the rock sheets near the hotel. There were vast numbers of *Rhodohypoxis baurii* in flower. Mats of *Lobelia galpinii* were in attractive bloom, and there was the related *Wahlenbergia polytrichifolia dracomontana*. Also here were *Erica frigida*, *Eumorphia sericea*, *Trifolium burchellianum*, *Ranunculus multifidus*, and *Helichrysum milfordiae*.

We checked out of our characterful rondavel rooms, and drove to a nearby site whilst still in Lesotho. Here were many *Massonia echinata*, all in fruit. Several Southern Bald Ibis fed on the expansive grassland. *Helichrysum lineatum* was in flower and we saw the 'pyjama flower' *Androcymbium striatum*.

Back in South Africa we saw fine examples of two species of *Glumicalyx* again, *Harveya pulchra*, and *Diascia cordata*. We enjoyed unsually good views of Barratt's Warbler in waterside vegetation. Cape Rock Thrush was here too and *Albuca pachychlamys* and *Cotyledon orbiculata* were in flower.

Various short stops yielded *Eucomis humilis*, *Watsonia lepida*, *Watsonia pillansii*, and *Hypericum aethiopicum*. Birds continued with Common Waxbill and Buff-streaked Chat. There were some rather poor examples of the tree fern *Cyathea dregei*, and *Erica woodii* was in flower. Red-necked Wryneck perched on a fallen tree, Common Reedbuck was in the grassland below, and we had fine views of Gurney's Sugarbird.

It was raining lightly so we ate lunch in the shelter of some buildings. I took a walk and saw Giant Kingfisher.

Near the village of Himeville we found the orchids *Habenaria clavata* and *Habenaria laevigata*. The distinctive sedge *Cyperus sphaerocephalus* had striking golden yellow flowers. Also here were *Psammotropha mucronata* and *Asclepias adscendens*. Southern Anteating Chat and African Quailfinch were seen.

A few kilometres away a marsh had striking *Satyrium hallacki* in flower, some one hundred impressive spikes. The attractive hemiparasite *Melasma scabrum* was a good find. Levaillant's Cisticola sang and *Pycnostachys reticulata* and *Eriosema salignum* were in flower. Another site had

another impressive orchid, *Orthochilus welwitschii*, as well as *Periglossum angustifolium* and *Senecio discodregeanus*. A number of Grey Crowned Cranes was an impressive site.

Next we visited a small nature reserve where the dragonfly Nomad was on the wing. Here was the fine skipper *Kedestes chaca*, Shaka's Skipper, one of the most notable butterflies of the tour. The orchid *Orthochilus foliosus* was still in good condition despite being towards the end of its flowering period. Plants continued with *Diascia barberae*, *Sutera patriotica*, *Vernonia natalensis*, and *Asclepias macropus*.

The last highlight of the day was at a site near the guesthouse where some one hundred *Nerine appendiculata* were in perfect bloom.

Back at the lodge it was farewell to Stuart after two great days in the field. Once again we walked to the same restaurant in town.

# Day 6 Sunday 27th January

### To Giant's Castle via Kamberg

We left Underberg after another excellent breakfast, and set off on an interesting scenic drive, initially to the north, and via a series of minor roads skirting the lower mountains. Sprawling settlements and expansive vistas were later replaced by farmland. As on most of our journeys, Yellow-crowned, Southern Red, and Yellow Bishops, and Fan-tailed, Red-collared, and Long-tailed Widowbirds, all in breeding plumage, punctuated the drive.

At the first stop were *Berkheya setifera* and *Artemisia afra*, and fine views. Next we stopped to admire *Watsonia densiflora*, followed by beautiful *Brunsvigia undulata*. Here too was fine impressive *Asclepias macropus* in flower. Bokmakierie sang and Zitting Cisticola performed display flights.

Beautiful *Hesperantha coccinea* grew at the water's edge. Next was impressive tall pink flowered *Dierama latifolium*. Here again were many White Storks, and Cape Vulture was in the air. Blackwinged Lapwing and Grey-crowned Cranes were seen. There followed much more fine *Hesperantha coccinea* at a streamside, and *Satyrium parviflorum*.

Now in the Kamberg reserve were many more fine *Brunsvigia undulata* and amazing numbers of *Dierama latifolium*. Marshy grassland had the gentian *Chironia krebsii*, *Zaluzianskya natalensis*, *Disa versicolor*, *Satyrium longicauda*, *Satyrium parviflorum*, *Wahlenbergia krebsii*, and *Kniphofia laxiflora*. Red-winged Francolins on the road allowed prolonged views and Black Wildebeest grazed on the grassland.

Blacksmith Plover and Southern Bald Ibis were seen very closely. Fine *Orthochilus welwitschii* in flower near a settlement prompted an unscheduled stop. Nearing our destination I spotted some striking *Brunsvigia radulosa* and stopping to look at these we found *Disa cooperi* in flower too.

We arrived mid-afternoon at Giant's Castle, in the central part of Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. Stands of *Widdringtonia nodiflora* grew on slopes across the river. New plants included *Acalypha punctata*, *Otholobium polystichum*, *Searsia dentata*, and *Xysmalobium undulatum*.

We settled into the spacious rooms and there was time for a stroll down to the Bushman's River. African Olive Pigeon was seen closely near the lodge, where the gardens supported a great variety including *Greyia sutherlandii*, *Dais cotinifolia*, *Melianthus villosus*, *Bowkeria verticillata*, *Halleria lucida*, *Diospyros whyteana* and Southern Shell-flower. *Dryopteris inaequalis* and *Adiantum poiretii* were added to the fern list. The bamboo *Thamnocalamus tessellatus* was a feature. In flower were

Plectranthus grallatus, Crassula vaginata, and Geranium wakkerstroemianum. Near the river Calpurnia sericea became dominant and the only Phygelius aequalis of the tour was here, suitably called River Bells. Eulophia ovalis was added to the orchid list and the unusual borage Afrotysonia glochidiata was in flower. A Psoralea species by the riverside is an as yet undescribed species.

Drakensberg Prinias sang, back near the rooms was a pair of Southern Boubou, and Rock Hyraxes were on boulders near the HQ. We enjoyed dinner in the restaurant.

## Day 7 Monday 28th January

#### Giant's Castle

After breakfast we set out on foot across the grasslands, towards afromontane forest where caves boast some impressive San rock art. The first of many *Acraea horta*, and Common Dotted Border were on the wing. We paid attention again to the varied woody plants around the camp, and added *Maytenus peduncularis* to the list. We had close views of Greater Double Collared Sunbird on *Melianthus* flowers. *Drosera natalensis* flowered at the trailside.

The walk took us through extensive open grassland, the river below us, and dramatic scenery all around. Selago densiflora and Buchnera simplex were in bloom. Disa patula was added to the orchid list, and Haplocarpha scaposa, a composite with basal rosettes, was a feature. Among ferns were Mohria vestita and Pleopeltis macrocarpa. In flower were Polygala gracilenta, Helichrysum acutatum, Oxalis depressa, and Stachys aethiopica. The parasitic Harveya speciosa was impressive. New plants came thick and fast and included Diclis reptans, Lobelia vanreenensis, Erica albospicata, Passerina montana, Valeriana capensis, Rhoicissus tridentata, Moraea brevistyla, Argyrolobium marginatum, Lotononis corymbosa, Rhynchosia cooperi, Gnidia polyantha, Aster bakerianus, Helichrysum krookii, and Helichrysum hypoleucum.

The habitat changed dramatically as we reached the afromontane forest further up the valley, where calls of Red-chested Cuckoo became a feature. Rapanea melanophloeas, Olinia emarginata, and Diospyros austro-africana were characteristic of the habitat. Moth larvae infested Podocarpus latifolius. The orchid Stenoglottis fimbriata flowered on shady boulders, with Peperomia retusa, and Albuca fastigiata in attractive flower. Along a forest path were many fine Streptocarpus gardenii. Pteris cretica was among the ferns, Stachys grandiflora was common, and Euclea crispa, Lithospermum afromontanum, Polygala confusa and Satureja reptans continued the variety. The endemic Bush Blackcap was seen well and Rainforest Brown was on the wing. Highlights were the orchid Disperis fanniniae, and attractive Xerophyta viscosa.

Verreaux's Eagle soared over the forest. We had timed our walk well, and once we had reached our destination did not have to wait long at the cave entrance for the guide to appear for the next tour. The group had an informative tour of the cave and its San rock art whilst I caught up on notes, seeing several things whilst I waited, including a pair of Paradise Flycatchers. In the shade of cliffs was Cynoglossum spelaeum, and plants continued with Thalictrum rhynchocarpum, Leonotis dubia, Stachys grandifolia, Impatiens hochstetteri, Cynoglossum austro-africanum and Chlorophytum krookianum. Parsley-tree, Heteromorpha arborescens had distinctive peeling bark.

A black and red foam grasshopper was very impressive. From the streamside path we saw Water Bronze and Marsh Blue, and *Gomphostigma virgatum* alongside the plants seen here yesterday.

Near the lodge the satyrid Bush Beauty or Forest Beauty, *Paralethe dendrophilus*, was admired. We enjoyed a welcome lunch, and had a break before heading out again.

Later in the afternoon we drove the entrance road making several short stops. We viewed *Widdringtonia nodiflora* from a distance, the river between us. At the riverside grew *Salix mucronata* and *Senecio hygrophilus*. Nearby *Xysmalobium undulatum* had very large fruits.

Among the great floral variety at Giant's Castle we saw also Dioscorea rupicola, Dioscorea sylvatica, Eulophia clavicornis(hians?), Delosperma lavisiae, Alepidea natalensis, Schizoglossum atropurpureum, and Berkheya setifera.

Common Hairtail was on the wing, Blesbok grazed in the grassland, and a Secretary Bird was a bonus.

# Day 8 Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January Spionkop, to Golden Gate

We left Giant's Castle in very fine weather. A pleasant varied drive as again we took minor roads. Low cliffs had fine *Galtonia candicans* in flower.

Spionkop Dam Nature Reserve was ideally situated for a stop in the middle of the day. Above the reservoir was Spion Kop, the site of a famous battle in 1890. As we entered the reserve, a giraffe carcass under the acacias attracted many White-backed and Cape Vultures.

A circuitous track took us through savannah grassland, the drive punctuated by mammal sightings, with Impala, Burchell's Zebra, Blesbok, Warthog, and Tsessebe all here. Shelley's Francolins were seen well.

It was already rather dry here but once out of the vehicles we added a few plants to the list, such as Striga elegans, Blepharis obtusisepala, Berkheya echinacea, Tephrosia purpurea, Leucas martinicensis, Sida rhombifolia, Polygala rehmanni, and Hypoxis hemerocallidea.

There were some fine butterflies today. Lycaenids featured, with Common Scarlet, Swanepoel's Copper, Black-striped Hairtail, Topaz-spotted Blue, Thorn-tree Blue, and a species of *Lachnocnema* all here. *Spialia spio*, Yellow Pansy, and *Biblia illythia* continued the variety. Rufous-naped Lark sang from atop trees and Bearded Woodpecker was seen closely.

Back on the road, by mid afternoon, now in Free State, we arrived in the spectacular scenery of Golden Gate National Park and its impressive sandstone formations. The park is named for the colours given to the rocks when sunlit. These fine sandstone cliffs are interspersed with open grassland where Blesbok, Burchell's Zebra, and Springbok grazed.

Having checked into our comfortable lodge, there was time for a late afternoon walk into the fine habitat all around us, where Eland grazed.

# Day 9 Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January Golden Gate National Park

A superb day was spent in Golden Gate National Park. The morning saw us driving a circuit road that took us to quiet parts of the park away from the main road that traverses it. At the first stop were *Lotononis laxa, Trachyandra saltii*, and *Bulbine favosa*. In marshy grassland was *Gladiolus papilio* and by a small dam was fine *Cycnium racemosum*. Little Grebe, Red-knobbed Coot, Yellow- billed Duck, Moorhen, and Reed Cormorant were on the water.

We saw several lone territorial adult bull Black Wildebeest today. These bulls hold their territories all year, in the breeding season herding females onto their territory. Two Grey Rhebuck were seen too.

Albuca shawii and Hibiscus trionum bloomed on rocks, and Ground Woodpeckers frequented boulders.

Walking up a hillside trail we found *Helichrysum tenax*, *Helichrysum chionosphaerum*, *Helichrysum herbaceum*, *Gladiolus crassifolius*, *Felicia muricata*, *Pellaea calomelanos*, *Haplocarpha scaposa*, *Cotyledon orbiculata*, and *Hypoxis argentea*. A highlight was a pair of Yellow-breasted Pipits, an uncommon eastern South African endemic. Impressive Mountain Pride was here, and the Drakensberg endemics Riley's Copper and Variable Blue were pleasing finds.

Plants continued with Crassula nudicaulis, Delosperma hirtum, Silene burchellii, and Cotyledon orbiculata. The Dierama was probably Dierama robustum. Another stop produced Senecio subrubriflorus, Polygala hispida, and a Muraltia species.

We returned to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon a different circuitous drive saw us again making several short stops.

Alepidea amatymbica was an attractive umbellifer, Disa cooperi was in impressive flower, and Pelargonium alchemilloides was seen. A beautiful little blue frilly milkwort was probably Polygala amatymbica, the Dwarf Milkwort. A mystery Wahlenbergia was later painted by Christina. This I can surely identify with the recently published flora of the Free State, when I can finally get back to my library. An unusual composite, gone over, but with distinctive leathery greyish clasping leaves, was Aster perfoliatus. The variety continued with Berkheya speciosa and Xerophyta viscosa. Another Secretary Bird was seen closely in the grassland.

# Day 10 Thursday 31st January Golden Gate, Clarens, to Witsieshoek

There was time before we left to walk the cave circuit, the weather fine. Red-eyed Bulbuls fed on berries near the hotel.

Impressive was a group of Red Hartebeest on the grassland and another lone adult male Black Wildebeest was seen. The butterfly Pirate landed on the path. The fern *Pleopeltis polypodioides ecklonii* was identified and *Galtonia regalis* was in fine flower. *Clematis brachiata* was in flower, and *Selaginella mittenii* grew on the rocks. Attractive *Jamesbrittenia aurantiaca* was new for us. Yellow Pansy and *Spialia diomus ferax* were on the wing. White flowered *Crabbea acaulis* bloomed in turf near the hotel.

Species seen at Golden Gate but not already mentioned included the attractive campanula *Monopsis decipiens*, fringed *Dianthus basuticus*, red *Crassula alba*, white *Crassula natalensis*, *Erica aestiva*, *Euphorbia striata*, *Calpurnia sericea*, *Indigofera hedyantha*, the attractive geranium *Monsonia attenuata*, *Pelargonium capituliforme*, *Pelargonium luridum*, *Gnidia caffra*, *Kniphofia evansii*, *Hypericum lalandii*, white *Ajuga ophrydis*, pink *Oxalis obliquifolia*, *Diclis rotundifolia*, *Glumicalyx flanaganii*, *Hebenstretia comosa*, violet *Nemesia caerulea*, white *Nemesia sylvatica*, and *Selago flanaganii*.

Butterflies seen at Golden Gate not already mentioned were Cape Black-eye, Rayed Blue, Aranda Copper, and notably Maluti Copper, another Drakensberg endemic.

We drove west to the town of Clarens where we enjoyed lunch outside at a good restaurant. The bookshop next door had several things of interest, and I was pleased to find a small book on the Odonata of the Drakensberg. We then headed back through the park, then the sprawling settlement of

Phuthaditjhaba. South of there we climbed slowly, and eventually reached fine habitat. We reached the beautifully situated lodge at Witsieshoek, where the rooms afforded fine views of the Sentinel.

In the afternoon we walked from the rooms, across fine grassland that was full of flowers. *Moraea inclinata* was numerous, and *Kniphofia triangularis*, *Ornithogalum graminifolium*, *Craterocapsa tarsodes*, *Helichrysum krookii*, *Rhodohypoxis baurii*, a spiked species of *Alepidea*, and *Heliophila rigidiuscula* were all here. Among orchids were *Habenaria dives*, *Corycium nigrescens*, and *Satyrium longicauda*. There were amazing numbers of *Eucomis bicolor* and *Eucomis autumnalis*. The variety continued with *Sopubia cana*, *Linum thunbergii*, *Afrotysonia glochidiata*, and *Bupleurum mundii*. An amazing floral show. I was pleased to find the very unusual *Diascia purpurea* with its nodding flowers, and *Manulea crassifolia* was in flower. Levaillant's Cisticola sang.

## Day 11 Friday 1st February

#### Witsieshoek

Our full day at Witsieshoek was one of the best of the tour, and we saw a wealth of things. There were fine views of The Sentinel (3165m) under blue skies, and a rough track took us several kilometres nearer in the car. First stop was for robust *Pterygodium magnum*, and we had fine views of Greywinged Francolin. Next was beautiful *Streptocarpus pusillus* on roadside rocks. Mountain Pride landed on the track, and several of this impressive butterfly were seen today.

Plants continued with Crassula sarcocaulis rupicola, Crassula setulosa, Indigofera dimidiata, and Berkheya rosulata. Beautiful Dimorphotheca jucunda was in flower. Drakensberg Crag Lizards were numerous and active in the sunshine.

Setting out on foot we enjoyed a superbly productive walk. Immediately we were seeing *Kniphofia thodei*, *Crocosmia pearsii*, *Schizochilus angustifolius*, *Lobelia preslii*, *Sebaea thomasii*, *Hirpicium armerioides*, *Geranium magniflorum*, *Glumicalyx montanus*, and *Xerophyta viscosa*. Among orchids were *Disperis stenoplectron*, *Disperis tysonii*, and *Satyrium parviflorum*.

The genus *Helichrysum* really featured here, with many species, among them *Helichrysum* marginatum, *Helichrysum* ecklonis, *Helichrysum* chionosphaerum, *Helichrysum* dasycephalum, *Helichrysum* lineatum, and *Helichrysum* spiralepis. Indeed we saw some forty species of the genus during the tour.

Albuca polyphylla was in flower, and a pleasing find was the fern Woodsia burgesiana. There was fine Romulea thodei, Moraea trifida, Nemesia caerulea, and Bulbine abyssinica. False Silver-bottom Brown was on the wing. Many Galtonia regalis flowered on a cliff, very robust Urginea macrocentra, poison snake head, was in fruit, and Diascia purpurea was seen again.

Drakensberg Rockjumper was seen superbly well. The skipper Grassland Sylph was rather common here, and other butterflies were Burnished Opal, Geranium Bronze, *Stygionympha scotina*, and a lone Painted Lady.

At the furthest point of our walk the reward was a superb show of many flowering *Nerine bowdenii*, a new species for the tour. The diminutive white flowered monocot *Litanthus pusillus* was another great find.

Rock Hyrax cavourted on boulders and Grey Rhebuck grazed. The amazing floral variety continued with Osteopsermum thodei, Senecio glaberrimus, Senecio rhomboideus, Cyphia elata, Lobelia flaccida, Kniphofia fibrosa, Aristea woodii, Gladiolus ecklonii, Hesperantha baurii, Erica woodii, Athrixia fontana, Berkheya multijuga, Bupleurum mundii, Plectranthus calycinus, Linum thunbergii,

Polygala rhinostigma, and Phylica thodei. The genus Lotononis was well represented with Lotononis eriantha, Lotononis laxa, Lotononis lotonoides, Lotononis pulchella, and Lotononis pulchra.

Lunch was at the hotel, Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk seen in flight as we arrived back. In the afternoon we explored further on foot. Notable things seen were *Habenaria dives*, *Kniphofia thodei*, *Alchemilla woodii*, *Glumicalyx goseloides*, *Xysmalobium stockenstromense*, robust *Peucedanum thodei*, and *Disperis cardiophora*. Wing-snapping Cisticola performed display flights.

Also seen at Witsieshoek were Crassula pellucida, Crassula vaginata, Cephalaria galpiniana simplicior, and Cephalaria oblongifolia.

At dinner were speeches as we reflected on a very productive and enjoyable tour.

# Day 12 Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January To Johannesburg, Departure

There was plenty of time for packing or a last walk from the lodge before we departed mid-morning. Striped Skinks were active around the lodge. It was a five hour drive to Johannesburg, the journey taking us back to Phuthaditjhaba, then Harrismith, where we joined the N3 which we motored along all the way north. We ate our packed lunch at a service station, at tables beside a petting zoo!

From the vehicle we saw Aloe greatheadii var.davyana in flower.

We arrived at Johannesburg airport in good time. The flight was punctual and we arrived at Heathrow the following morning, going our separate ways from there, me taking a flight to Mexico City the following day.

## **Drakensberg Systematic Lists 2019**

## **Compiled by Paul Cardy**

### The Itinerary

21st January. Depart London.

Day 1.  $22^{nd}$  January. Arrival Johannesburg. Flight to Durban. To Port Edward.

Day 2. 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Umtanvuna. Port Edward.

Day 3. 24th January. Red Desert. Weza. To Underberg.

Day 4. 25<sup>th</sup> January. Sani Pass. Lesotho.

Day 5. 26<sup>th</sup> January. Sani Pass. Himeville.

Day 6. 27th January. To Giant's Castle via Kamberg.

Day 7. 28th January. Giant's Castle.

Day 8. 29th January. To Golden Gate via Spionkop.

Day 9. 30th January. Golden Gate.

Day 10. 31st January. Golden Gate. Clarens. To Witsieshoek.

Day 11. 1st February. Witsieshoek.

Day 12. 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Witsieshoek to Johannesburg. Departure.

3rd February. Arrival London.

## **Systematic List Number 1**

**Plants** 

For families likely to be unfamiliar to European botanists I have given a few defining characteristics. As an aide memoire I have usually given a few species characters too, which with locality information may help to identify photographs. Of course comments under each species are of necessity brief, and a character given for one species does not mean it is not shown by others in the list! The list should be used in conjunction with the relevant books.

Many books were used in the field, and later in compiling the list. The three books useful above all others were 'Mountain Flowers' by Elsa Pooley, 2003; 'A Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Kwazulu-Natal' by Elsa Pooley, 2<sup>nd</sup> impression 2005; and 'Trees of Eastern South Africa. A Complete Guide' by Richard Boon, Second Edition 2012.

Where available many monographs were also used, such as 'Gladiolus in Southern Africa' by Goldblatt and Manning, and 'The Moraeas of Southern Africa' by Goldblatt.

Species recorded in previous years but not this year are annotated with the year in which they were last seen. A large number of species were added to the list this year and are annotated 2019. Species with no year annotation were of course also seen this year.

## **Pteridophytes**

'Ferns of Southern Africa, a Comprehensive Guide' by Crouch et al., Struick 2011, is the standard work.

Anemiaceae Mohria nudiuscula

Mohria rigida Sani, Giant's Castle, Witsieshoek.

Mohria vestita Giant's Castle

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium aethiopicum African Spleenwort. Giant's Castle, Sani.

Asplenium splendens drakensbergense Sani.

Asplenium stoloniferum Giant's Castle, forest floor. New in 2019.

Asplenium trichomanes Maidenhair Spleenwort. Witsieshoek, Giant's Castle.

Cyathaceae

Cyathea dregei Common Tree Fern. Sani and Giant's Castle.

Dennstaedtiaceae

Bracken. Widespread and common. Pteridium aquilinum

Dryopteridaceae

Dryopteris athamantica Giant's Castle.

Dryopteris inaequalis Lop-lobed Wood-fern. Giant's Castle.

Dryopteris pentheri Ntsikeni 2018. Polystichum monticola Golden Gate.

Elaphoglossaceae

Umtanvuna. Elaphoglossum acrostichoides

Gleicheniaceae

Gleichenia polypodioides Umtanvuna.

Lycopodiaceae

Lycopodiella cernua Umtanyuna. New in 2019.

Lycopodium clavatum Giant's Castle.

Nephrolepidaceae

Nephrolepis cordifolia Naturalised in Port Edward area.

Osmundaceae

Umtanvuna. Todea barbara

Polypodiaceae

Pleopeltis macrocarpa Scaly Lance-fern. Giant's Castle. Pleopeltis polypodioides ssp.ecklonii Golden Gate and Witsieshoek.

Pteridaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern. Golden Gate, new in 2019. Fine Maidenhair Fern. Giant's Castle.

Adiantum poiretii

Cheilanthes eckloniana Resurrection Fern. Sani, Golden Gate, Witsieshoek.

Cheilanthes hirta Giant's Castle forest.

Cheilanthes quadripinnata Four-pinnate Lip-fern. Sani, Lesotho, and Giant's Castle.

Cheilanthes viridis glauca Widespread, variable.

Pellaea calomelanos Blue Rock Fern. Umtanvuna, Spionkop, Giant's Castle, and Golden

Gate.

Pteris cretica Avery Fern. Giant's Castle, 2018.

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella dregei Grey, mat-forming and moss-like. Port Edward.

Selaginella mittenii Golden Gate 2018.

Selaginella nubigena Fish-scale Clubmoss. Giant's Castle.

Thelypteridaceae

Cyclosorus interruptus Marsh near Port Edward.

Woodsiaceae

Cystopteris fragilis Sani.

Woodsia burgessiana Witsieshoek.

**Gymnosperms** 

Cupressaceae

Widdringtonia nodiflora Mountain Cypress. Giant's Castle, locally dominant on one slope.

Pinaceae

Pinus elliottii Slash Pine.

Pinus patula

Podocarpaceae

Podocarpus latifolius Broad-leaved Yellowwood. Giant's Castle, Sani.

Stangeriaceae

Stangeria eriopus Stangeria. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Zamiaceae

Encephalartos ghellinckii Drakensberg Cycad. Umtanvuna.

## Angiosperms Palaeodicotyledons

Lauraceae

Cassytha pondoensis Port Edward.

Cryptocarya wyliei Red Wild-quince. Red Desert.

Piperaceae

Peperomia retusa Flowers in thread-like terminal spikes. On boulders at Giant's Castle.

#### Monocotyledons

Agapanthaceae

Agapanthus campanulatus Bell Agapanthus. Widespread.

Alliaceae

Tulbaghia acutiloba Wild Garlic. Green flowers, corona orange-brown. Umtanvuna. New in

2019.

Amaryllidaceae

'The Amaryllidaceae of Southern Africa' dy Duncan, Jeppe, and Voigt, Umdaus Press, is the standard work.

Boophone disticha Fan-leaved Boophone. Fans of leaves, Free State, 2019.

Brunsvigia grandiflora Giant Candelabra Flower. Strap shaped erect leaves. Port Edward, in

flower

Brunsvigia natalensis Natal Candelabra Flower. In leaf and fruit at Witsieshoek.

Brunsvigia radulosa Thick leaves flattened on the ground. Giant's Castle and Golden Gate.

Brunsvigia undulata Leaf margings wavy. In fine flower en route to Giant's Castle.

Clivia gardenii In leaf Port Edward.

Cyrtanthus epiphyticus Hanging Cyrtanthus. Sani.

Haemanthus humilis hirsutus In fruit at Sani.

Nerine appendiculata Leaves deeply channelled. 10-20 flowers. Stamens with conspicuous white

appendages at base. c.100 near Underberg.

Nerine bowdenii Large Pink Nerine. In fine flower on Witsieshoek cliffs. New in 2019.

Scadoxus puniceus In fruit at Giant's Castle.

Anthericaceae

Chlorophytum has linear leaves in a basal rosette. Pedicels jointed. Capsule prominently three angled.

Chlorophytum krookianum Giant Chlorophytum. Up to 2m tall. White flowers. Giant's Castle.

Aponogetonaceae

Aponogeton junceus Ntsikeni 2018.

Araceae

Zantedeschia aethiopica Calla Lily. Evergreen. Widespread.

Zantedeschia albomaculata Arrow-leaved Arum. Deciduous. Leaves arrow-shaped with or without

white spots. Widespread.

Asparagaceae

Asparagus asparagoides Cladodes ovate. Sani and Giant's Castle.

Asparagus cooperi Cladodes threadlike. Sani.

Asparagus microraphis Cloadodes small, cylindrical, in dense clusters. Sani, new in 2019.

Asparagus ramosissimus Cladodes in threes, flat above, keeled below. Sani and Giant's Castle.

Asparagus setaceus Cladodes in round clusters, soft and shiny. Umtanyuna.

Asparagus sprengeri Port Edward.
Asparagus spp. Others unidentified.

Asphodelaceae

Aloe arborescens Port Edward area.

Aloe boylei Broad leaves. Golden Gate and Witsieshoek, in fruit.

Aloe greatheadii var.davyana Robust. Probably this seen from the vehicle as we drove to

Johannesburg.

Aloe maculata Common Soap Aloe. Scattered in leaf, e.g. Port Edward.

Bulbine are usually yellow flowered, with densely bearded filaments. Fleshy basal leaves.

Bulbine abyssinica Witsieshoek.

Bulbine asphodeloides Spreading Bulbine. Port Edward.
Bulbine favosa Pale yellow flowers. Golden Gate 2019.

Bulbine narcissifolia Strap-leaved Bulbine. Leaves flat, hard, grey-green. Lesotho, new in

2019.

Bulbine sp.nov. Umtanvuna.

Caesia contorta Blue flowers. Umtanvuna 2018.

Kniphofia caulescens Lesotho Red-hot Poker. Robust. Leaves 25 to 50mm wide, glaucous, fleshy,

v-shaped, margings finely toothed. Stamens protruding. Numerous in

Lesotho.

Kniphofia evansii Evan's Poker. Grasslike leaves, orange to red flowers spreading to hanging.

Golden Gate, small examples. New in 2019.

Kniphofia fibrosa Yellow Berg Poker. Pale yellow flowers. Witsieshoek.

Kniphofia fluviatilis River Poker. Probably this at Witsieshoek.

Kniphofia ichopensis Ixopo Red-hot Poker. Robust. Flowers cream, yellow-green, to salmon-

pink. Sani, new in 2019.

Kniphofia laxiflora Slender Poker. Up to 1m. Leaves 6-10mm wide. Inflorescence elongate.

Very variable. Day 5 lunch, and Kamberg.

Kniphofia linearifolia Common Marsh Poker. Robust, leaves 12-28mm wide, yellow-green,

inflorescence large. Marshes at Sani and Giant's Castle, not in flower.

Kniphofia ritualis Solitary. Leaves soft and deeply keeled. Flowers greenish-yellow.

Sani.

Kniphofia thodei Thode's Poker. Solitary. Leaves narrow, blue-green. Witsieshoek.

Kniphofia triangularis Mandarin Poker. Leaves grasslike. Witsieshoek.

Trachyandra asperata Port Edward and Sani.
Trachyandra saltii Day 6 and Golden Gate.

Colchicaceae

Androcymbium have petal like floral bracts that enclose the small flowers. Sometimes included in Colchicum.

Androcymbium striatum Pyjama Flower. Bracts white striped green. Several on plateau on Lesotho

side of Sani.

Sandersonia aurantiaca Christmas Bells. Bright orange flowers with only tips of tepals free. Sani.

Wurmbea sp. Sani Top, new in 2019.

Commelinaceae

Commelina africana Yellow Commelina. Flowers yellow. Scattered records.

Commelina erecta Flowers blue. Red Desert.

Cyanotis speciosa Stamens conspicuously hairy. Port Edward and Sani.

Cyperaceae

Sadly there has been little time to devote to sedges!

Carex cognataNodding Sedge. Lower Sani.Carex spp.A few others unidentified.Cyperus denudatusWinged Sedge. Port Edward.

Cyperus obtusiflorus Port Edward.

Cyperus prolifer Dwarf Papyrus. Port Edward.

Cyperus rupestris Russet Rock Sedge. Widespread, e.g. Port Edward.

Cyperus semitrifidus Scattered records.

Cyperus sphaerocephalus Yellow Sedge. Himeville, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, etc.

Ischyrolepis schoenoides Sani, new in 2019.

Mariscus congestus Port Edward etc.

Dioscoreaceae

Dioscorea brownii In fruit, Weza, 2019.

Dioscorea cotinifolia This species Port Edward area?
Dioscorea dregeana Wild Yam. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Dioscorea rupicola Climber with lobed wavy margined leaves. Giant's Castle.

Dioscorea sylvatica Forest Elephant's Foot. Climber with heart-shaped leaves and a large corky

tuber. Sani, Golden Gate, and Giant's Castle.

Dioscorea sp. Another species at Umtanvuna.

Eriocaulaceae

Eriocaulon dregei Water Pom-pom. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Eriospermaceae

Eriospermum, Cottonseed, are geophytes, leaves and flowers produced at different seasons, leaves often distinctive.

Eriospermum mackenii Yellow Fluffy-seed. In leaf at Umtanvuna.

Eriospermum spp. A few others seen in leaf.

Hyacinthaceae

Albuca are Ornithogalum like and sometimes included in that genus. They differ in erect inner tepals, with at least the

inner filaments pinched below.

Albuca fastigiata Large Spreading White Albuca. Giant's Castle.

Albuca pachychlamys Tepals white with green median stripe. Sani.

Albuca polyphylla White flowers. Witsieshoek.

Albuca setosa Small White Albuca. In flower at Port Edward.

Albuca shawii Small Yellow Albuca. Flowers nodding. Golden Gate NP, several in fine

flower.

Eucomis autumnalis Common Pineapple Lily. Leaves with crisped margins. Very widespread,

numerous at Witsieshoek.

Eucomis bicolor Leaves purple spotted at base. Sani. Very common at Witsieshoek.

Eucomis humilis Dwarf Pineapple Lily. Small bracts edged purple, stem spotted purple.

Sani and Golden Gate.

Eucomis schijffii Miniature Eucomis. Leaves prostrate, flowers purple. Sani.

Galtonia candicans Common Berg Lily. Leaves erect, flowers pure white. Near Giant's Castle.

Galtonia regalis Royal Berg Lily. Leaves lax and spreading, teplas creamy white.

Golden Gate and Witsieshoek.

Ledebouria ovatifolia Purple spotted leaves flat on ground. Scattered in leaf. Ledebouria revoluta Leaves with dark spots. Many in leaf at Port Edward.

Litanthus pusillus Very small with white flowers. On boulders at Witsieshoek, new in 2019.

Massonia echinata Many in fruit in Lesotho.

Massonia sp.nov. In fruit in Lesotho.

Ornithogalum graminifolium Dense spikes of white flowers, tepals with a green stripe. Witsieshoek.

Scilla dracomontana Miniature Blue Scilla. In leaf and fruit at Sani and Giant's Castle.

Scilla kraussii Dwarf Scilla. Umtanvuna.

Scilla natalensis Large Blue Scilla. Widespread in leaf.

Scilla nervosa White Scilla. In flower at Port Edward, Sani, and Witsieshoek.

Poison Snake-head. Up to 1.5m. Stem robust. Leaf solitary and cylindrical. Urginea macrocentra

Sani and Witsieshoek.

Hypoxidaceae

Hypoxis acuminata Leaves in a spiral tuft, v-shaped, ribbed, with long hairs. Port Edward. Hypoxis argentea Small Yellow Star-flower. Leaves narrow, v-shaped, covered in silky

yellowish hairs. Flowers small, in pairs. Golden Gate NP.

Hypoxis colchicifolia Very robust. In fruit at Port Edward.

Hypoxis costata Broad ribbed hairy or hairless leaves. In fruit at Golden Gate. Hypoxis filiformis Grass Star-flower. Leaves threadlike, u-shaped with fine white hairs.

Hypoxis hemerocallidea Star-flower. Leaves in three ranks. In flower at Spionkop. New in 2019. Hypoxis iridifolia Leaves narrow, shiny, hairless, margins and keels with line of dense white

hairs. In fruit Sani.

Hypoxis parvula var.albiflora Delicate with solitary white flowers. Sani.

Silver-leaved Star-flower. Erect ribbed leaves covered in white hairs. Hypoxis rigidula

Ntsikeni 2018.

Rhodohypoxis baurii Red or White Star. Forms colourful carpets in grassland and on rocky

outcrops. Flowers red or white. Abundant on Lesotho side of Sani, and

also at Witsieshoek.

Iridaceae

Aristea have actinomorphic blue flowers.

Aristea abyssinica Blue-eyed Grass. Slender. Flowers in terminal cluster. Sani and Port

Edward. (Aristea cognata).

Robust. Gone over at Giant's Castle. Aristea grandis

Aristea torulosa Port Edward.

Aristea woodii Wood's Aristea. Leaves in basal fan, flowering stem not flattened.

Widespread, e.g. Witsieshoek and Sani.

Crocosmia aurea Falling Stars. Orange and red flowers with spreading tepals. Giant's Castle,

not in flower.

Evergreen, in large clumps, tubular curved yellow-orange flowers. Crocosmia paniculata

Underberg area.

Leaves pleated. Inflorescence held horizontally. Flowers hooded. Crocosmia pearsii

Witsieshoek.

'Dierama, The Harebells of Africa', by Hilliard, Burtt, and Batten, 1991, is the standard work.

Dierama argyreum Flowers white to ivory. Ntsikeni 2018. Dierama dracomontanum Drakensberg Hairbell. Witsieshoek and Sani. Dierama igneum Fairy Bell. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Dierama latifolium Broad-leaved Hairbell. Abundant at Kamberg.

Dierama robustum A few at Golden Gate.

Gladiolus has leaves usually with a definate midrib, inflorescence a spike of usually zygomorphic flowers.

Gladiolus crassifolius Thick-leaved Gladiolus. Erect leaves with margins and veins heavily

thickened. Small mauve to pink flowers turned to one side. A few at

Witsieshoek and Golden Gate.

Gladiolus dalenii African Gladiolus. Large hooded flowers, variously coloured. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Sheathed Gladiolus. Flowers 40 to 60mm greenish to silvery-white, densely Gladiolus ecklonii

speckled red-brown, grey, or mauve. Witsieshoek.

Suicide Gladiolus. In flower at Sani, but not as approachable as in 2018! Gladiolus flanaganii Butterfly Gladiolus. Nodding flowers, pale creamy yellow with large Gladiolus papilio purplish blotch on lower halves. A few at Golden Gate NP, 1 at Kamberg.

Hesperantha flowers usually actinomorphic, often opening late afternoon. Style divides at the mouth of the tube into long

filiform branches.

Hesperantha baurii 2 firm basal leaves, margins thickened, midrib and side veins raised.

Several at Witsieshoek.

Hesperantha coccinea Scarlet River Lily. Large scarlet flowers. Some fine examples en route to

Giant's Castle, and Kamberg.

Moraea have either iris-like flowers with unequal tepals, or with all tepals more or less equal.

Moraea albicuspa Large white to cream flowers with yellow nectar guides. Inner tepals

Short and sharp pointed. Sani.

Moraea alticola Robust. 1 still in flower Witsieshoek, 2018.

Moraea brevistyla Leaf solitary. Flowers small, outer tepals white to pale lilac-blue above,

grey to purple below, inner tepals, claws and nectar guides yellow.

Witsieshoek, Giant's Castle, and Sani.

Moraea elliotii Blue Tulp. Solitary leaf. Blue-violet flowers with yellow-orange nectar

guides. Umtanvuna 2018.

Moraea inclinata Nodding Wild Moraea. Solitary leaf much longer than flowering stem.

Large blue flower on inclining stem. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Moraea spathulata Leaf long, narrow and twisted. In leaf Port Edward.

Moraea trifida Leaf solitary, stiff, small creamy yellow flower spotted brown to green.

Witsieshoek.

Romulea thodei Flowers pink with yellow throat, outer tepals striped buff and purple

outside. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Romulea sp. A very small species found at Giant's Castle, 2019.

Tritonia disticha Red Tritonia. Port Edward.

Watsonia have spikes of two-ranked numerous pink, orange, or red flowers.

'The Genus Watsonia' by Peter Goldblatt, National Botanic gardens, 1989, is the standard work.

Watsonia lepida Sani.

Watsonia densiflora Port Edward and Kamberg.

Watsonia pillansii Gone over at Port Edward. Some still in flower at Sani. (W.socium).

Juncaceae

Juncus acutusSharp Rush.Juncus effususSoft Rush.

Juncus spp.

Liliaceae

Lilium formosanum Naturalised on Port Edward roadsides. Native to Taiwan.

Orchidaceae

'Orchids of South Africa, A Field Guide' by Johnson, Bytebier, and Starker, Struick 2015, is the standard work.

Brachycorythis inhambanensis Purple spotted green flowers. Red Desert 2018. Brachycorythis ovata Flowers purple and white. Himeville 2018.

Brownleea macroceras Sani.

Bulbophyllum scaberulum Lithophytic with spikes of purplish flowers. Umtanvuna, in leaf this

year.

Corycium dracomontanum Lip appendage bright green, side arms face sideways. Witsieshoek

and Sani.

Corycium nigrescens Sepals pale green, soon turn black, petals purple brown to black.

Widespread, e.g. Witsieshoek and Sani.

Cyrtorchis arcuata Lithophytic. Flowers white turning orange. Umtanvuna.

Disa has median sepal hooded and elongated into a spur, or pouch.

Disa cephalotes Dense inflorescence of white flowers. A few at Sani.

Disa chrysostachya Robust with orange flowers. Weza.

Disa cooperi Flowers white to pale pink, spurs point upwards. Himeville, near Giant's

Castle, and Golden Gate.

Disa fragrans Fragrant Disa. Dense inflorescence, small white to deep pink flowers, spur

slender, pointing down. Witsieshoek 2018.

Disa patula Flowers horizontal, pink, spur round, pointed, horizontal. A few at Giant's

Castle.

Disa polygonoides Orange flowers in dense spikes. Port Edward. Also one yellow individual.

Disa saxicola Flowers white marked pink. Streamside rocks Sani, 2018.

Disa scullyi Large pink flowers, spur to 4cm. Several at Ntsikeni, 2018.

Disa stachyodes Slender with purple flowers. Sani.

Disa versicolor

Dense inflorescence, flowers small, usually facing downwards, vanilla scented. Himeville, Kamberg, Witsieshoek, and Golden Gate NP.

Disperis has median sepal and petals joined to form a helmet-shaped hood, side sepals pouched or spurred. Disperis cardiophora Flowers small, white and green, magenta tipped. Witsieshoek.

Disperis fanniniae Giant's Castle.

Disperis lindleyana Flowers white, suffused pale green, with pink spots inside. Leaf

litter lower Sani Pass. One in flower, others over.

Disperis renibractea Flowers resemble an owl's face, pungent odour. c.4 at Sani.

Disperis stenoplectron White and pink flowers. Witsieshoek, new in 2019.

Disperis tysonii Witsieshoek.

Disperis wealii Flowers white, spotted green under hood margins. Witsieshoek, 2018.

Eulophia angolensis Robust with yellow flowers. Port Edward. Eulophia clavicornis Day 7, new in 2019. (Eulophia hians).

Eulophia horsfallii Very robust with pink and green flowers. This very impressive species

was seen at Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Eulophia ovalisGiant's Castle.Eulophia parvilabrisWeza, new in 2019.Eulophia schnelliaePort Edward, in flower.Eulophia tenellaPort Edward 2018.Eulophia zeyherianaLower Sani, common.

Habenaria anguiceps Kamberg 2018.

Habenaria clavata Robust with green flowers. 1 at Himeville.

Habenaria dives Small white flowers, midlobe of lip longer than side lobes. Scattered

records, e.g. Port Edward and Witsieshoek.

Habenaria dregeana Small Green Hood. Yellowish green flowers. Witsieshoek 2018.

Habenaria laevigata Himeville and Kamberg.

Habenaria pseudociliosa Basal leaf sheaths marked with black bars. Red Desert 2018.

Holothrix incurva A few at Sani.

Neobolusia tysonii Sani. An excellent addition to the list in 2019.

Orthochilus aculeatus Day 6 roadside, 2018.

Orthochilus ensatusFlowers yellow. Port Edward.Orthochilus foliosusHimeville Nature Reserve.Orthochilus leontoglossusSani and Himeville, 2018.

Orthochilus welwitschii Robust with purple centred pale yellow flowers. Day 5 afternoon, and

near Giant's Castle.

Polystachya pubescens Umtanvuna, in leaf.

Pterygodium has median sepal and petals joined to form very shallow hood. Lip with short or tall appendage. No spur.

Pterygodium cooperi Sani, new in 2019. Pterygodium hastatum Sani, new in 2019.

Pterygodium magnum Up to 1.5m. Petals fringed, yellowish with red dots and veins. Lip white to

pale green to mauve with darker veins, fringed. This fine species at

Witsieshoek.

Rangaeris muscicola In flower, just, at Port Edward.

Satyrium flowers have two conspicuous spurs or pouches.

Satyrium cristatum Flowers whitish blotched red. Weza to Underberg.
Satyrium hallackii ssp.ocellatum Marsh on afternoon of Day 5. Some 100 in fine flower.

Satyrium longicauda Leaves on separate shoot from flowering stem. Flowers white to red.

Widespread.

Satyrium macrophyllum Large leaves, white to deep pink flowers. Day 6 roadside, 2018.

Satyrium neglectum Sterile shoot present. Pink flowers. Sani.

Satyrium parviflorum Devil Orchid. Yellowish green to maroon flowers. Petals dry brown soon

after opening. Witsieshoek, Sani, Kamberg, etc.

Satyrium sphaerocarpum Day 3, new in 2019.

Satyrium trinerve White and yellow flowers. Umtanvuna. New in 2019.

Schizochilus angustifolius Inflorescence dense, flowers white with yellow lip. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Schizochilus zeyheri Yellow flowers. Port Edward.

Stenoglottis fimbriata Fringed Stenoglottis. Small lilac-pink flowers, lip 3-lobed. On rocks in

forest at Giant's Castle.

Stenoglottis woodii Umtanvuna.

Tridactyle bicaudata ssp.rupestris Lithophyte. Port Edward, in leaf.

Poaceae

'Identification Guide to Southern African Grasses' by Fish et al., Pretoria 2015, Strelitzia 36, is the standard work.

Aira cupaniana Alien.

Arundo donax Giant Reed. Alien.

Avena barbata Alien.

Avena fatua Wild Oat. Alien.

Avena sterilis Winter Wild Oat. Alien.

Brachypodium distachyon Alien.

Bromus diandrusGreat Brome. Alien.Bromus madritensisCompact Brome. Alien.Bromus rigidusStiff Brome. Alien.Bromus sterilisBarren Brome. Alien.Bromus tectorumDrooping Brome. Alien.

Cenchrus incertusAlien.Cortaderia selloanaAlien.

Cynodon dactylonBermuda Grass.Cymbopogon excavatusGiant's Castle.Cynosurus echinatusRough Dogstail. Alien.

Ehrharta calycina

Ehrharta longiflora Eragrostis capensis Fingerhuthia africana

Hordeum murinum Wall Barley. Alien. Hyparrhenia hirta Widespread.

Lolium multiflorumItalian Ryegrass. Alien.Lolium perennePerennial Ryegrass. Alien.Lolium rigidumStiff Darnel. Alien.Lolium temulentumDarnel. Alien.

Lophochloa cristata

Loudetia simplex Dominant at Red Desert

Melinus repensAlien.Merxmuellera drakensbergensisSani.Monocymbium ceresiiformePort Edward.Pennisetum setaceumAlien.

Pentaschistus airoides

Pentaschistus curvirostris

Phalaris aquaticaBulbous Canary-grass. Alien.Phalaris minorLesser Canary-grass. Alien.

Phragmites australis Common Reed.

Poa annuaAnnual Meadow-grass. Alien.Poa bulbosaBulbous Meadow-grass.Poa pratensisSmooth Meadow-grass. Alien.

Setaria spp.

Thamnocalamus tessellatus Drakensberg Bamboo. Giant's Castle and Sani.

Alien.

Themeda triandra Red Grass. e.g. Giant's Castle.

Thinopyrum distichum

Vulpia bromoides Squirreltail Fescue. Alien.

Restionaceae

Restio sp. Port Edward.

Smilacaceae

Smilax anceps Port Edward.

Strelitziaceae

Strelitzia nicolai Coast Strelitzia. Common in Port Edward area.

**Typhaceae** 

Typha capensis Bulrush. Port Edward, Himeville, etc.

Velloziaceae

Xerophyta viscosa Small Black Stick Lily. Flowers lilac to deep mauve. Sani, Giant's

Castle, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.

Xyridaceae

*Xyris* are herbaceous marsh plants.

Xyris capensis Common Xyris. Yellow flowers, bract margins entire. Port Edward.

*Xyris natalensis* Port Edward.

**Palaeodicotyledons** 

Nymphaea nouchali Blue Waterlily. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

**Eudicotyledons** 

Acanthaceae

Asystasia gangetica Flowers white with purplish markings. Port Edward.

Blepharis obtusisepala Mauve flowers. Spionkop, new in 2019. Crabbea acaulis White flowers. Golden Gate, new in 2019.

Dyschoriste depressa Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Isoglossa ovata Port Edward.

Isoglossa woodii Shrub with white flowers. Umtanvuna, 2019.

Thunbergia atriplicifolia Natal Primrose. Flowers creamy yellow. Port Edward, locally common.

Aizoaceae

Delosperma caespitosumPort Edward.Delosperma hirtumGolden Gate.

Delosperma lavisiae Mountain Vygie. Magenta flowers. Giant's Castle and Sani.

Delosperma lineare White flowers. Umtanvuna.

Delosperma subpetiolatum Trailing Vygie. White flowers. Port Edward.

Delosperma sutherlandii Flowers magenta fading to white at base, pink or white. Sani 2018.

Amaranthaceae (includes Chenopodiaceae)

Achyranthes aspera Alien. Giant's Castle.

Anacardiaceae

Harpephyllum caffrum Wild-plum. Umnatvuna, new in 2019.Loxostylis alata Tarwood. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Protorhus longifolia Red-beech. Port Edward.

Schinus terebinthifolius Brazilian Pepper Tree. Port Edward. A noxious weed.

Searsia (formerly Rhus) are shrubs or small trees with trifoliate leaves.

Searsia acocksii Pondo Climbing Currant. Umtanvuna.

Searsia carnosula Port Edward.

Searsia dentata Golden Gate, Giant's Castle and Sani.

Sani, Golden Gate, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.

Searsia laevigata Giant's Castle.

Searsia lancea

Searsia lucida Golden Gate.

Searsia pyroides Giant's Castle and Sani.

Searsia tomentosa

Searsia viminalis Giant's Castle.

Apiaceae

Alepidea have conspicuous petal-like bracts.

Alepidea amatymbica Giant Alepidea. Golden Gate. New in 2019.

Alepidea natalensis Leaves in basal rosette. margins toothed, flowerheads c.15mm, bracts

white. Widespread, e.g. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.

Alepidea peduncularis Port Edward.

Alepidea sp. c.12 cm tall, very narrow leaves, white bracts.

Alepidea sp. Taller species with spiny edged leaves.

Bupleurum mundii Perennial herb. Witsieshoek and Sani.
Centella asiatica Marsh Pennywort. Port Edward.

Centella glabrata var.natalensis Umtanvuna. Ciclospermum leptophyllum Naturalised.

Heteromorpha arborescens Parsley-tree. Giant's Castle and Golden Gate.

Hydrocotyle bonariensis Naturalised in Port Edward area.

Lichtensteinia interrupta Port Edward.

Peucedanum thodei Robust. Witsieshoek, new in 2019.

Pimpinella caffra Basal leaves entire, stem leaves finely divided.

Sium repandum Water Parsnip. Day 6.

Apocynaceae (includes Asclepiadaceae)

Asclepias adscendens Pompom Cartwheels. Himeville.

Asclepias macropus Tailed Cartwheels. Himeville Nature Reserve and Kamberg.

Aspidoglossum gracile Umtanvuna. Brachystelma australe Umtanvuna.

Brachystelma rubella Pink Tenaris. Red Desert 2018. (Tenaris rubella).

Carissa bispinosa Num-num. Thorny shrub with milky sap. Port Edward and Giant's Castle.

Carissa macrocarpa Big Num-num. Port Edward.

Ceropegia carnosa Port Edward.

Gomphocarpus fruticosus Shrub with nodding clusters of cream flowers. Fruits swollen with fleshy

projections. Widespread and common.

Gomphocarpus physocarpus Stem solitary below. Fruits roundish and inflated. Port Edward area.

Miraglossum verticillare Wreathed Miracle-tongue. Witsieshoek 2018.

Pachycarpus asperifolius Large Red Milkwort. Port Edward.

Pachycarpus grandiflorus Grand Pachycarpus. Large hanging, round, yellow and purple flowers. Port

Edward 2018.

Periglossum angustifolium Round Head. Flowers yellow inside, reddish brown outside, inner corola

lobes threadlike. Himeville.

Riocreuxia torulosa Candle-vine. Leaves heart-shaped, tubular flowers with inflated base and

lobes joined at tips to form a cage. Giant's Castle 2018.

Schizoglossum atropurpureum Flowers almost black. Port Edward (ssp.virens), and Giant's Castle.

Schizoglossum bidens atrorubensVariable Schizoglossum. Sani.Schizoglossum hillardiaeHilliard's Schizoglossum. Sani.

Secamone alpini Russet Secamone. Umtanvuna, new in 2019. Sisyranthus virgatus Thin Grass-flower. Port Edward 2018.

Voacanga thouarsii Large white flowers turn creamy yellow. Port Edward.

Xysmalobium involucratumScented Xysmalobium. Umtanvuna.Xysmalobium stockenstromenseMountain Uzura. Witsieshoek.Xysmalobium undulatumLarge inflated fruits, Giant's Castle.

Aquifoliaceae *Ilex mitis* 

Araliaceae

Cussonia paniculata Mountain Cabbage Tree. Widespread.

Cussonia spicata Port Edward.

Schefflera umbellifera False Cabbage-tree. Red Desert.

Asteraceae

Achillea millefolium Yarrow. Alien.

Ageratum conyzoides Alien. Port Edward.

Ageratum houstonianum Alien.

Arctotis have 5 or 6 rows of bracts, outer often tailed, inner broad with large membranous tips.

Arctotis arctotoides Yellow flowers 25 to 40 mm, yellow, ray florets often purplish beneath.

Lesotho, Sani, 2018.

Artemisia afra Wormwood. Widespread and locally numerous. Aspilia natalensis Wild Creeping Sunflower. Port Edward.

Aster bakerianus Flowers white to deep pink, bracts with long hairs at least on midline.

Giant's Castle.

Aster erucifolius Prostrate, ray florets purple. Sani.

Aster perfoliatus Grey-leaved Aster. Distinctive with leathery perfoliate grey-green leaves.

Not in flower, Sani and Golden Gate.

Athrixia angustissima Stem leaves slender. Ray florets white. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Athrixia fontana Long cobwebby bracts with recurved tips. Many at Witsieshoek.

Athrixia phylicoides Ray florets mauve. Umtanvuna.

Berkheya are thistle-like usually with yellow flowers.

Berkheya bergiana Robust, day 3, 2019.

Berkheya bipinnatifida 1-3m, disc florets white to mauve. Port Edward.
Berkheya cirsiifolia Ray florets white or yellow. Lesotho and Witsieshoek.

Berkheya echinacea Spionkop, 2019.

Berkheya multijuga Leaves deeply lobed and spiny. Flowers yellow. Witsieshoek.

Berkheya purpurea Purple Berkheya. Sani, new in 2019.

Basal leaves in rosette, harshly hairy, long narrow inflorescence of yellow

flowers. Widespread.

Berkheya rosulata Rosette Thistle. Leaves dark green above, white-felted below, solitary

yellow flowers. Witsieshoek.

Berkheya setifera Upper surface of leaves with coarse bristles. Flowers yellow. Giant's

Castle and above Lower Loteni.

Berkheya speciosa Leaves basal, green above, white-felted below. Flowers yellow. Port

Edward and Golden Gate.

Bidens formosa Cosmos. Naturalised on roadsides. Brachylaena discolor Coast Silver-oak. Red Desert.

Callilepis laureola Ox-eye Daisy. Still in flower at Red Desert.

Chrysocoma ciliata Scattered records, e.g. Sani.

Cineraria albicans Port Edward.

Cineraria dieterlenii Herb with lobed kidney shaped leaves, flowers yellow with ray florets.

Sani.

Cirsium vulgare Alien. Widespread.

Conyza sp.

Coreopsis lanceolata Naturalised at Himeville.

Cotula have discoid heads, although sometimes with rays, 2 rows of bracts with narrow membranous margins.

Cotula hispida

Cotula membranifolia Sani and Witsieshoek.

Cotula paludosa Sani.

Dicoma anomala Perennial with narrow leaves. Golden Gate 2018.

Dimorphotheca jucunda Trailing Pink Daisy. Ray florets pink, coppery below, disc florets yellow

tipped black. Witsieshoek.

Eumorphia sericea Dwarf shrub white ray florets, bracts with large orange oil glands on

the inner surface. Lesotho.

Euryops are shrubs with yellow flowers with one row of smooth oval bracts joined at the base.

Euryops acraeus Rounded shrub, leaves leathery. In fruit at Sani.

Euryops decumbens Dwarf shrublet. Sani.

Euryops evansii Shrub with grey-green leaves, yellow flower in terminal clusters. Sani.

Euryops leiocarpus Port Edward.

Euryops tysonii Shrub with glossy green leaves, smaller yellow flowers than previous

species, in crowded terminal clusters. Sani.

Felicia have yellow or rarely blue disc florets and blue, pink or white rays, with 2 to 4 rows of green bracts with narrow

membranous margins.

Felicia filifolia Fine-leaved Felicia. Aromatic shrub with mauve to blue flowers.

Golden Gate, Witsieshoek, and Sani.

Felicia muricataLow growing bushy herb. Golden Gate.Felicia uliginosaHerb with blue to mauve flowers. Lesotho.

Galinsoga ciliata Alien. Giant's Castle, 2018.

Gazania are perennials or annuals with milky latex. Several rows of stiff bracts joined below into a smooth or hairy cup.

Gazania krebsiana Perennial. Leaves narrow, flowers yellow or orange. Scattered records.

Gerbera piloselloides Leaves in basal rosette, stem swollen below flowerhead. Golden Gate, over.

Haplocarpha nervosa Lesotho, new in 2019.

Haplocarpa scaposa Leaves in basal rosette, white-felted beneath. Yellow flowers. Giant's

Castle and Golden Gate grasslands.

Helichrysum are usually woolly or felted, with disciform flowers with several rows of papery bracts. A very large genus in

the region.

Helichrysum acutatumHelichrysum adenocarpumSilver leaves, yellow bracts. Sani and Giant's Castle.Helichrysum adenocarpumSolitary flowerheads, bracts red or pink. Port Edward.

Helichrysum albo-brunneum White bracts tipped brown. Sani.

Helichrysum album White bracts red at base inside. Sani, 2019.

Helichrysum appendiculatum Upper stem leaves often tipped with a small coloured bract. Bracts dull

white to yellowish to pink. Widespread.

Helichrysum aureonitens Silvery grey perennial with compact heads of yellow flowers. Locally

abundant.

Helichrysum aureum var.monocephalum. Solitary yellow flowerheads. Port Edward.

Helichrysum auricepsHelichrysum bellumCongested heads of bright yellow flowers. Sani.Basal leaves thin and soft. Bracts snow-white. Lesotho.

Helichrysum chionosphaerum Tiny Snowball Everlasting. Mat-forming, wool usually confined to 3 veins

and margins. Bracts glossy white. Witsieshoek and Golden Gate.

Helichrysum cymosum Compact yellow inflorescences. Port Edward.

Helichrysum dasycephalumBranches covered in grey tissue like felt. Flowers yellow. Witsieshoek.Helichrysum drakensbergenseTight heads of yellow flowers felted together at the base. Sani, 2019.Helichrysum ecklonisLarge solitary flowers with glossy white to pink bracts. Umtanvuna.

Helichrysum flanaganii Forms large mats, narrow leaves woolly or not, bracts tawny yellow tipped

golden brown. Lesotho and Witsieshoek.

Helichrysum krookii Leaves mostly in basal rosette. Bracts bright yellow. Giant's Castle and

Witsieshoek.

Helichrysum herbaceum Monkey-tail Everlasting. Bracts to 28mm across, outer golden brown, inner

lemon-yellow. Red Desert, Golden Gate, Giant's Castle, Sani, Witsieshoek.

Helichrysum hypoleucum Scrambling shrub with yellow flowers. Giant's Castle.

Helichrysum lineatum Greyish rounded leaves in basal rosettes. Bracts light golden brown.

Sani, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.

Helichrysum marginatum Mat-forming dwarf shrub with solitary flowers with dull white bracts.

Helichrysum milfordiae Silvery subshrub with glossy white bracts red or brown tipped. Lesotho.

Helichrysum mixtum Port Edward.

Helichrysum montanum Dwarf shrub, leaves thick grey woolly, bracts bright yellow. Sani.

Helichrysum monticola Bracts glossy white. Sani 2018.

Helichrysum odoratissimum Aromatic perennial. Flowerheads matted together with wool at the base.

Flowers yellow. Port Edward.

Helichrysum oreophilum Leaves grey woolly, only main vein visible beneath. Bracts lemon-yellow.

Golden Gate 2018.

Helichrysum pagophyllum Very compact hard cushions at Sani.

Helichrysum pallidum Sani, new in 2019.

Helichrysum panduratum Grey woolly subshrub, bracts white, disc florets yellow. Port Edward. Helichrysum populifolium Shrub with large leaves and branched inflorescences of small flowers,

bracts brown and white. Port Edward.

Helichrysum praecurrens Dense mats, gone over at Sani, 2019.

Helichrysum ruderale Leaves sticky. Inflorescence branches white woolly. Port Edward.

Helichrysum rugulosum Tufted perennial to 30cm. Sani and Giant's Castle.

Helichrysum sessilioides Cushion-forming dwarf shrub. Sani 2018.

Helichrysum spiralepis Flowerheads in small congested clusters surrounded by leafy bracts.

Scattered e.g. Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.

Helichrysum subglomeratum This at Sani?

Helichrysum sutherlandii Shrublet. Woolly bracts. Golden Gate, over.

Helichrysum tenax Sticky Everlasting. Subshrub with heads of attractive yellow flowers.

Golden Gate, new in 2019.

Helichrysum trilineatum Aromatic shrublet, leaves with three parallel veins, bracts bright yellow.

Lesotho and Sani.

Helichrysum umbraculigerum Leaves very variable, greyish woolly, bracts golden yellow. Giant's Castle,

Sani.

Hirpicium armerioides Large white ray florets, yellow to purplish black beneath. Witsieshoek.

Hypochoeris radicata Cat's-ear. Alien.
Inulanthera leucoclada Umtanvuna.
Inulanthera thodei Umtanvuna.

Lactuca inermis

Macowania hamataSani, very local endemic.Mikania natalensisClimber. Port Edward, 2018.

Nidorella auriculata Port Edward.

Osteospermum have 2 to 4 rows of narrow bracts, and yellow flowers.

Osteospermum imbricatum

Leaves leathery. Red Desert.

Osteospermum monilifera

(Chrysanthemoides monilifera)

Osteospermum thodei Witsieshoek.

Pentzia cooperi Sani.

Relhania pungens Leaves sharp tipped. Yellow flowers. Port Edward.

Senecio usually has one row of bracts, often with membranous edges. Usually a few small dark-tipped bracts occur on the

pedunclebelow the involucral bracts.

Senecio asperulus Solitary bright yellow flowers. Sani 2018.

Senecio deltoideus Scrambler with zigzag stems.

Senecio discodregeanus Flowers deep violet. Himeville and Kamberg.

Senecio erubescens Port Edward.

Senecio glaberrimus Umtanvuna and Witsieshoek.

Senecio haygarthii Robust shrubby herb, leaves white felted beneath. Sani and Giant's Castle.

Senecio hygrophilus Blue green with yellow flowers. Giant's Castle riverside.

Senecio inaequidensSani.Senecio inornatusWidespread.Senecio isatideusLocally common.Senecio macrocephalusPink flowers. Sani.

Senecio macrospermus Large grey-woolly herb with large yellow flowers. Sani.

Senecio oxyriifolius False Nasturtium. Very distinctive blusih-green leaves, resembling the

genus Oxyria. In leaf Port Edward and Kamberg.

Senecio rhomboideus Fleshy perennial with blue-green leaves. Witsieshoek. Senecio rhyncholaenus Herb with yellow flowers, bracts sticky. Port Edward.

Senecio seminiveus Dwarf shrub, young leaves densely white woolly, large yellow flowers.

Sani.

Senecio subrubriflorus Sticky aromatic herb with pale mauve to white flowers. Golden Gate.

Stoebe vulgaris Zigzag Bush. Intricately branched shrub. Red Desert.

Taraxacum officinale Dandelion. Scattered records.

Taraxacum sp. Lesotho.
Tarchonanthus trilobus Umtanvuna.

Tenrhynea phylicifolia Leaf base winged onto stem. Umtanvuna.

Ursinia montana Sani, 2019.

Ursinia tenuiloba Ray florets yellow above, reddish below.

Vernonia corymbosa Red Desert. Vernonia dregeanum Umtanvuna.

Vernonia hirsuta

Vernonia natalensis Silver Vernonia. Covered in silvery silky hairs. Golden Gate, Giant's

Castle, Himeville, etc.

Zinnia peruviana Alien. Spionkop.

Balsaminaceae

Impatiens hochstetteri Giant's Castle.

Begoniaceae

Begonia sutherlandii

Boraginaceae

Afrotysonia glochidiata Tall herb, widely branched inflorescence of white flowers flushed mauve.

Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.

Cynoglossum austro-africanum Blue flowers. Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.

Cynoglossum geometricum

Cynoglossum spelaeum White flowers. Cave Sandstone at Giant's Castle and Sani.

Echium plantagineum Naturalised at Ntsikeni, 2018.

Lithospermum afromontanum Flowers pale yellow to white. Giant's Castle.

Lithospermum papillosum Flowers white to blue. Sani.

Myosotis semiamplexicaulis Forget-me-not. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Brassicaceae

Heliophila are annual or perennial, sometimes slightly woody. Flowers blue, pink, white, or occasionally yellow.

Heliophila elongata White flowers. Port Edward.

Heliophila rigidiuscula Flower colour variable. Umtanvuna, Sani and Witsieshoek.

Heliophila spp. A few others seen.

Lepidium sp.

Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum Water Cress. Kamberg, 2019.

Buddlejaceae

Buddleja salviifolia Quilted Sagewood. Locally numerous, e.g. Sani.

Gomphostigma virgatum River Stars. Giant's Castle and Sani.

Cactaceae

Rhipsalis baccifera Mistletoe Cactus. Straggling, pendulous, epiphytic succulent. Port

Edward area.

Campanulaceae

Craterocapsa congesta Prostrate perennial herb. Blue stalkless flowers, crowded at tips. Lesotho

2018.

Craterocapsa tarsodes Carpet Bell Flower. Stems end in rosettes of leaves. Blue flowers solitary.

Witsieshoek.

Cyphia are erect or twining herbs with white to purple flowers, equally five lobed or two lipped, and split down the side.

Cyphia elata Erect herb, flowers creamy white with mauve markings. Witsieshoek.

Cyphia tysonii Twining herb. Sani.

Lobelia has the corolla two-lipped and split to the base at the back, the front lip with three lobes.

Lobelia anceps Swamp Lobelia. Umtanvuna. Lobelia erinus Annual. Marshes at Ntsikeni, 2018.

Lobelia flaccida Annual herb, two crests in mouth of flower tube. Witsieshoek.

Lobelia galpinii Creeping herb. Common at Sani Top.

Lobelia preslii Perennial herb, flowers bright deep blue, stems up to 240mm long. Giant's

Castle, Sani, and Witsieshoek.

Lobelia pteropoda Port Edward. Lobelia tomentosa Port Edward.

Lobelia vanreenensis Flowers whitish, yellow on palate. Sani and Giant's Castle.

Monopsis decipiens Butterfly Monopsis. Flowers violet and blue with a yellow palate. Golden

Gate, Witsieshoek, Himeville, Kamberg, Giant's Castle.

Monopsis stellarioides Sticky-leaved Monopsis. Giant's Castle 2018.

Monopsis unidentata Wild Brown Violet. Port Edward.

Roella glomerata Bell shaped white to blue flowers. Port Edward.

Wahlenbergia has campanulate flowers with broad petals.

Wahlenbergia cuspidata Large violet-blue flowers. Widespread and locally common.

Wahlenbergia grandiflora Giant Bell Flower. This species at Ntsikeni? 2018.

Wahlenbergia huttonii Flowers in small terminal clusters, lobes long and narrow. Giant's Castle

2018.

Wahlenbergia madagascariensis Very small flowers. Port Edward.

Wahlenbergia krebsii Fairy Bell-flower. Leaves crowded towards base of stems. Violet-blue

flowers. Sani, Kamberg.

Wahlenbergia pallidiflora Chalky blue flowers. Marsh at Ntsikeni 2018. Wahlenbergia polytrichifolia ssp. Mat forming on rock sheets at Sani Top.

dracomontana

Wahlenbergia sp. A species with short pointed leaves. Golden Gate, 2019.

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium arabidis Snow Flower. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Dianthus mooiensis Frilly Dianthus, Umtanyuna.

Dianthus basuticus Lesotho Dianthus. Pink or white flowers. Witsieshoek, Golden Gate, and

Sani.

Silene bellidioides Sani 2019.

Silene burchellii Port Edward and Golden Gate.

Silene undulata 20 to 40mm white to pink flowers. Leafy flower stem from side of rosette.

Sani and Giant's Castle.

Celastraceae

Gymnosporia buxifolia Common Spikethorn. Giant's Castle, 2019.

Maytenus peduncularis Cape-blackwood. Giant's Castle.

Pseudosalacia polyantha Umtanvuna.

Putterlickia retrospinosa Pondo False-spikethorn. Umtanvuna.

Robsonodendron eucleiforme False Silky-bark. When leaf broken, connected by silvery threads.

Umtanvuna.

Celtidaceae Celtis africana

Trema orientalis Umtanvuna.

Convolvulariaceae

Cuscuta campestris Dodder. Alien.

Hewittia malabarica Hewitt's Dwarf Morning Glory. Flowers pale yellow ith deep red centre.

Port Edward and Weza.

Ipomoea cairicaLeaves with 5 to 7 lobes. Port Edward.Ipomoea crassipesLeaves hairy. Port Edward and Golden Gate.Ipomoea mauritianaPinkish mauve flowers in clusters. Port Edward.Ipomoea pes-capraeDune Morning Glory. Munster coast, new in 2019.

Ipomoea purpurea Naturalised weed. Port Edward.

Cornaceae

Curtisia dentata Assegai.

Crassulaceae

Cotyledon orbiculata Large succulent leaves, clusters of nodding tubular red flowers, which are

stalked. Lesotho and Golden Gate.

Crassula alba Red flowers. Sani, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek. Crassula brachypetala Herb with starry white flowers. Umtanvuna.

Crassula dependens Sharp-tipped leaves at right angles to stems. White flowers. Sani.

Crassula ericoides Umtanvuna.

Crassula natalensis Leaves in basal rosette. Flowers small, petals recurved, white or pink.

Golden Gate.

Crassula natans Aquatic herb. Sani 2018.

Crassula nudicaulis Leaves in a basal rosette. Golden Gate.

Crassula obovata ssp.obovata Perennial white write or cream flowers. Port Edward area.

Crassula pellucida Leaves sharp tipped, flowers in terminal inflorescence, white tinged pink.

Witsieshoek.

Crassula peploides Sani, 2019.

Crassula sarcocaulis ssp.rupicola Shrublet. White flowers. Witsieshoek.

Crassula setulosa Mats of leaf rosettes, terminal clusters of white flowers. Witsieshoek and

Sani (var. rubra).

Crassula vaginata Stems leafy, yellow flowers. Witsieshoek, and Giant's Castle.

Cucurbitaceae

Zehneria scabra Trailing herb, leaves with rough white dots, small white flowers, hairy

yellow to red or brown fruits. Giant's Castle.

Cunoniaceae

Cunonia capensis Butterspoon Tree.

Dipsacaceae

Cephalaria galpiniana ssp.simplicior

Cephalaria natalensis

Basal leaves with small lobes. Witsieshoek.

Robust herb with large compound leaves.

Cephalaria oblongifolia To 1m, leaves in basal rosettes, margins entire. Port Edward, Sani,

Witsieshoek.

Scabiosa columbaria Small Scabious. Native here as well as in Europe. Scattered records, e.g.

Port Edward, Witsieshoek, Lesotho, Sani.

Scabiosa drakensbergensis Drakensberg Scabious. Large perennial herb, leaves deeply divided. Giant's

Castle 2018.

Droseraceae

Drosera natalensis Port Edward and Giant's Castle.

Ebenaceae

Diospyros austro-africana Fire-sticks Star Apple. Giant's Castle.

Diospyros dichrophylla Poison Star Apple. Golden Gate? Apparently this but too high altitude?

Diospyros scabrida Coast Bladder-nut. Port Edward.

Diospyros whyteana Bladder-nut. Scattered records e.g. Giant's Castle and Golden Gate.

Euclea crispa Blue Guarri. Giant's Castle.

Ericaceae

Erica aestiva Sticky pink flowers. Golden Gate, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.

Erica albospicata Terminal spikes of white flowers. Giant's castle, new in 2019.

Erica alopecurosFoxtail Erica. Spikes of pink flowers. Lesotho 2018.Erica caffrorumMountain Heath. Up to 2m. Widespread, not in flower.Erica cerinthoidesRed Hairy Heath. Large red flowers. Sani, over this year.

Erica cubica Pink flowers in dense clusters. Port Edward area.

Erica frigida Sticky white flowers. Sani Top.

Erica oatesii Shrublet to 40cm, red flowers. Giant's Castle 2018.
 Erica straussiana Sepals as long or longer than corolla. Sani 2018.
 Erica thodei Dwarf shrublet with white to pink flowers. Sani.

Erica woodii Flowers white, stigmas just exserted. Sani, Kamberg, and Witsieshoek.

Erica spp. Other species, most not in flower, unidentified.

Erythroxylaceae

Erythroxylum pictum Forest Coca-tree. Umtanvuna.

Euphorbiaceae

Acalypha peduncularis Male and female plants separate. Ntsikeni 2018.

Acalypha punctata Male and female plants separate. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek, locally

very common. Umtanvuna.

Clutia floribundaUmtanvuna.Clutia roseaUmtanvuna.

Clutia spp. Golden Gate and Clarens.

Dalechampia capensis Conspicuous petal-like bracts. Port Edward 2018.

Euphorbia clavarioides Lion's Spoor. Cushionlike succulent. Bracts bright yellow. Lesotho.

Euphorbia epicyparissias Subshrub, bracts large and yellowish green tinged red. Sani.

Euphorbia natalensisLeaves closely packed and erica-like. Port Edward.Euphorbia striataHerb with red leaf margins. Witsieshoek and Golden Gate.

Euphorbia woodii Dwarf succulent. Cyathia yellow. Port Edward.

Phyllanthus meyerianus Port Edward.

Shirakiopsis elliptica Jumping-seed Tree. Red Desert 2018.

Fabaceae

Abrus laevigatus Mauve to cream flowers clustered towards tips of terminal inflorescence.

Port Edward.

Acacia karooSweet Thorn. Spionkop etc.Acacia melanoxylonAustralian Blackwood. Widespread.Acacia niloticaScented-pod Thorn. Spionkop.Acacia sieberanaPaperbark Thorn. Spionkop etc.

Argyrolobium amplexicaule Port Edward 2018.

Argyrolobium harveyanum Slender herb, flowers c.10mm. Port Edward 2018.

Argyrolobium marginatum Silvery hairy herb, leaf margins golden, yellow flowers 10-15mm. Giant's

Castle and Sani.

Aspalathus chortophyla Shrublet with yellow flowers. Port Edward.

Calpurnia sericea Mountain Calpurnia. Small yellow flowers in erect terminal bunches.

Giant's Castle, locally common. A few Golden Gate.

Chamaecrista comosa Trailing Dwarf Cassia. Perennial with large golden yellow flowers. Port

Edward.

Chamaecrista mimosoides Fishbone Dwarf Cassia. Annual with sensitive leaves and yellow flowers.

Port Edward.

Chamaecrista plumosa Perennial, stems annual. Port Edward.

Crotalaria globifera Round Pod Rattle Bush. Bright yellow flowers coppery when old.

Umtanvuna.

Crotalaria lanceolata Twin-leaved Rattle Bush. Small yellow flowers. Port Edward, new in

2019.

Dalbergia sp. Red Desert.

Desmodium dregeanum Marsh Desmodium. Port Edward.

Desmodium repandum Orange Desmodium.

Dichrostachys cinerea Sickle-bush. Port Edward 2018.

Dolichos falciformis Port Edward.

Eriosema distinctum Scarlet Eriosema. Ntsikeni 2018.

Eriosema dregei Port Edward.

Eriosema parviflorum Port Edward, new in 2019. Eriosema salignum Port Edward and Himeville.

Eriosema umtamvunense Large red and yellow flowers. Umtanvuna.

Erythrina humeana Dwarf Coral Tree. Port Edward.

Indigastrum fastigiatum Slender Indigo. Small pink flowers. Port Edward.

*Indigofera* are herbs or shrubs with pink flowers, the keel petals with a sac or spur.

Indigofera abbottiPort Edward.Indigofera dimidiataWitsieshoek.Indigofera dregeanaPort Edward.Indigofera grataRed Desert.

Indigofera hedyantha Black-bud Indigo. Shrublet, flowers red with darker spot in centre, standard

covered in golden silky hairs, calyx covered in black hairs. Sani, Giant's

Castle, Golden Gate.

Indigofera herrstreyi Port Edward. An as yet undescribed species.

Indigofera natalensisPort Edward. New in 2019.Indigofera shiluwanensisUmtanvuna, new in 2019.

Lessertia perennans Shrublet with large inflorescence of pink flowers. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Lotononis corymbosa Perennial, flowers yellow turning orange-red. Giant's Castle.

Lotononis eriantha Russet Lotononis. Shrublet, flowers yellow turning reddish brown, densely

hairy. Golden Gate and Witsieshoek.

Lotononis galpinii Solitary blue flowers with white eye. Sani.

Lotononis laxa Mat forming herb with silvery leaves and yellow flowers. Golden Gate

and Witsieshoek.

Lotononis lotonoides Shrublet with long inflorescence of blue flowers. Scattered records, e.g.

Witsieshoek, Giant's Castle, Sani.

Lotononis pulchella Silvery grey with pale blue-violet flowers. Witsieshoek.

Lotononis pulchra Herb with yellow flowers turning orange. Kamberg and Witsieshoek.

Lotononis sericophylla Silky with blue and yellow flowers. Sani.

Lotononis viminea White Lotononis. Shrublet with mauve veined white flowers. Umtanvuna.

Melilotus albus White Melilot. Day 3 etc.

Ophrestia oblongifolia Creeping herb with white to lilac flowers, calyx densely golden hairy. Port

Edward, locally common.

Otholobium polystictum Shrub with pale blue flowers. Giant's Castle.

Pseudarthria hookeri Bug-catcher. Robust shrub with pink flowers.

Psoralea glabra Narrow-leaf Fountain-bush. Shrub with linear leaflets and blue flowers.

Umtamvuna Nature Reserve.

Psoralea sp. Subshrub with fine leaflets and bright blue flowers. Riverside at Giant's

Castle. An undescribed species.

Rafnia elliptica Hairless shrub. Red Desert, locally common.

Rhynchosia cooperi Trailing herb. Leaves held erect, inflorescence erect. Giant's Castle.

Sphenostylis angustifolia Wild Sweetpea Bush. Large magenta flowers.

Sutherlandia montana Mountain Balloon Pea. Sani.

Tephrosia capensis

Tephrosia gnidioides Umtanvuna.

Tephrosia grandiflora Large magenta flowers. Port Edward.

Tephrosia kraussii Red Desert.

Tephrosia macropodaCreeping Tephrosia. Pink flowers. Port Edward.Tephrosia polystachyaPioneer Tephrosia. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.Tephrosia purpureaSilver Tephrosia. Spionkop, new in 2019.

Trifolium burchellianumWild Clover. Pink flowers. Widespread.Trifolium repensWhite Clover. Naturalised at Giant's Castle.

Vigna unguiculata Trailing herb, white to purple flowers on erect stems. Ntsikeni 2018.

Vigna vexillata Trailing creeper with lilac to purple flowers. Port Edward.

Zornia linearis Port Edward.

Fagaceae

Quercus robur Pedunculate Oak. Alien.

Flacourtiaceae

Gerrardina foliosa Krantz-berry. Umtanvuna.

Pseudoscolopia polyantha False Red-pear. Umtanvuna, 2019.

Scolopia mundii Red Thorn-pear.

Trimeria grandiflora Wild-mulberry. Giant's Castle.

Fumariaceae

Cysticapnos pruinosa Climbing annual with small pink flowers and inflated fruits. Sani,

locally common.

Gentianaceae

Chironia albiflora Small White Chironia. Umtanvuna. Very local endemic.

Chironia krebsii Showy deep pink flowers. Kamberg.
Chironia sp. A pink flowered species at Giant's Castle.

Sebaea are herbs often with angled or winged stems. Flowers usually yellow, sometimes white.

Sebaea grandisLarge white flowers. Umtanvuna.Sebaea natalensisAnthers tipped with small round gland.Sebaea sedoidesSmall yellow flowers. Scattered records.Sebaea thomasiiShowy yellow flowers. Witsieshoek.

Sebaea sp.nov White flowers. A very local endemic. Port Edward.

Sebaea spp. Several were unidentified.

Geraniaceae

Geranium drakensbergensis Blue-purple flowers in pairs. Sani 2018.

Geranium magniflorum Leaves less divided than following species, large pink to purple flowers.

Witsieshoek.

Geranium multisectumLeaves finely divided, flowers violet to magenta. Lesotho and Sani.Geranium pulchrumLeaves large and deeply lobed, large pink flowers. Sani, locally common.Geranium schlechteriLeaves lobed, small pink or white veined pink flowers. Sani, Witsieshoek

and Giant's Castle.

Geranium wakkerstroomianum White Geranium. White flowers veined pink or red. Sani, Giant's Castle

and Witsieshoek.

Monsonia attenuata Large whitish flowers. Kamberg, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, and

Witsieshoek.

Monsonia grandifolia Large-leaved Monsonia. Ntsikeni 2018.

The 3 volume 'Pelargoniums of Southern Africa' by Van der Walt (and Vorster, volume 3), various publishers, is the

standard work on the genus.

Pelargonium alchemilloides Leaves sometimes with purplish mark in centre. Giant's Castle and Golden

Gate.

Pelargonium capituliforme Very small flowers in crowded heads. Golden Gate.

Pelargonium luridum Waving Pelargonium. Leaves deeply lobed. Sani, Giant's Castle,

Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.

Pelargonium ranunculophyllum On shaded rocks, Lesotho. 2018.

Gesneriaceae

Streptocarpus gardenii Lower lip of flower pale violet with deep violet broken lines. Numerous

in forest at Giant's Castle.

Streptocarpus porphyrostachys Rocks by forested stream at Umtanvuna. Local endemic. In leaf this year.

Streptocarpus pusillus White flowers. Sani, in flower.

Greyiaceae

Greya sutherlandii Natal Bottlebrush Tree. Giant's Castle.

Gunneraceae

Gunnera perpensa Wild Rhubarb. Leaves large, spikes of tiny brown flowers. Sani,

Giant's Castle, Witsieshoek.

Hypericaceae

Hypericum aethiopicumPerennial. Scattered records, e.g. Sani.Hypericum forrestiiAlien shrub. Naturalised at Giant's Castle.Hypericum lalandiiErect herb. Golden Gate, new in 2019.

Icacinaceae

Apodytes abbottii Pondo White-pear. Port Edward.

Cassinopsis tinifolia False Lemon-thorn. In flower Umtanvuna.

Kiggelariaceae

Kiggelaria africana Wild Peach. Sani.

Lamiaceae

Aeollanthus parvifolius Pink Spur Bush. Shrublet, pink to white flowers in much branched

inflorescence. Port Edward.

Ajuga ophrydis Bugle Plant. Blue flowers. Sani 2018. A white flowered form at

Golden Gate, 2019.

Becium obovatum Port Edward 2018.

Leonotis dubia Leaf stalks long. Giant's Castle.

Leonotis intermediaBroad-leaved Leonotis. Leaf stalks short. Day 3 and Witsieshoek.Leonotis leonurusNarrow-leaved Leonotis. Whorls of orange tubular flowers. Day 3.Leucas martinicensisTumble Weed. Small white flowers in well spaced crowded clusters.

Spionkop.

Mentha aquaticaWater Mint. Day 3.Mentha longifoliaHorse Mint. Golden Gate.

Plectranthus grallatus Tuberous Spur-flower. Shrub with flowers white flushed pink. Giant's

Castle

Plectranthus hadiensis Flowers mauve to purple. Port Edward 2018.

Plectranthus saccatus pondoanus Umtanvuna 2018.

Pycnostachys reticulata Slender Pycnostachys. Mauve flowers in dense terminal spikes.

Himeville.

Rabdosiella calycinus Upland Fly Bush. Coarse herb with dense leafy spikes of cream flowers

tipped purple. Day 6, Giant's Castle, and Witsieshoek.

Satureja reptans Flowers white to pale blue, flushed pink in throat with a yellow stripe.

Giant's Castle.

Stachys aethiopica White to pink flowers. Giant's Castle.

Stachys grandifolia White flowers with mauve spots on lower lip. Common in Giant's

Castle forest.

Stachys nigricans Umtanvuna.

Stachys sessilis Ntsikeni and Himeville 2018.

Syncolostemon parviflorus Small-flowered White Plume. To 1m, white to pinkish flowers. Port

Edward.

Syncolostemon ramulosus Umtanvuna, in leaf, 2018. A very local endemic.

Syncolostemon rotundifolius Round-leaved Pink Plume. Umtanvuna.

Tinnea galpinii Black lip-flower. Umtanvuna.

Lentibulariaceae

Genlisea hispidula A bladderwort. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Utricularia livida Flowers mauve. Port Edward.

Linaceae

Linum thunbergii Yellow flowers. Scattered records e.g. Port Edward, Sani, Witsieshoek

Golden Gate.

Loganiaceae

Gomphostigma virgatum River Stars. Lower Sani and Giant's Castle riverside.

Loranthaceae

Erianthemum dregei Hairy Mistletoe. Clusters of white to pale pink hairy flowers.

Umtanvuna, 2019.

Malvaceae

Anisodontea julii Shrub with showy pink flowers. Sani.

*Hermannia* are shrublets or perennials with small yellow, red or pink flowers with spirally twisted petals and globular to bell-shaped calyces. A very complex genus with many recently discovered and undesribed species, although only a few in this area.

Hermannia coccocarpa Purplish-blue flowers. Lesotho 2018.

Hermannia malvifolia Yellow flowers hidden among the rounded leaves. Sani 2018.

Hermannia woodii Flowers few on long stalks, pink, red, or creamy yellow. Witsieshoek,

Kamberg, Giant's Castle, and Sani.

Hermannia sp. A species with small red flowers. Giant's Castle.

Hibiscus aethiopicus Common Dwarf Wild Hibiscus. Himeville roadsides.

Hibiscus tiliaceus Lagoon Hibiscus. Small tree with large yellow flowers. Coast.

Hibiscus trionum Bladder Hibiscus. Flowers cream-yellow with red centre. Port Edward,

Sani, and Golden Gate NP.

Malva parviflora Recorded 2019.

Modiola carolinianum Annual herb with red flowers.

Sida rhombifolia Spionkop.

Sida sp. Another species with narrow leaves seen.

Melastomataceae

Dissotis canescens Pink Marsh Dissotis. Shrub with striking magenta flowers. Marshes at

Port Edward.

Meliaceae

Ekebergia pterophylla Rock Cape-ash. Umtanvuna.

Melia azedarach Persian Lilac.

Trichilia dregeana Forest Natal Mahogany. Port Edward area.

Melianthaceae

Trees or shrubs. Racemes of green, brown or red flowers. Sepals 5, petals 4 or 5.

Melianthus villosus Maroon Honey-flower. Densely hairy leaves, fruit inflated and 4-angled.

Giant's Castle.

Menyanthaceae

Nymphoides thunbergiana Small Yellow Waterlily. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Molluginaceae

Psammotropha mucronata Himeville and Giant's Castle.

Psammotropha obtusa Small mats with leaves crowded in rosettes at branch tips. Witsieshoek.

Psammotropha sp. Another species at Golden Gate.

Moraceae

Ficus ingens Red-leaf Rock Fig. Umtanvuna and Sani.

Myricaceae

Morella serrata Lance-leaved Waxberry. Shrub with narrow leaves with entire to deeply

serrate margins, yellow gland dots beneath, aromatic. Giant's Castle.

Myrsinaceae

Maesa lanceolataFalse-assegai. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.Myrsine africanaCape Myrtle. Golden Gate and Giant's Castle.

Rapanea melanophloeos Cape Beech. Giant's Castle etc.

Myrtaceae

Eugenia albanensis Dwarf Grassland Eugenia. A large 'colony' at Port Edward.

Eugenia capensis ssp.capensis Dune Myrtle. Port Edward area. Eugenia erythrophylla Large-leaf Myrtle. Umtanvuna.

Eugenia verdoorniae Small-leaf Myrtle. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Psidium guajava

Syzygium cordatum Waterberry. Umtanvuna.

Oleaceae

Olea capensis ssp.enervis Umtanvuna.

Olea europaea ssp.africana

Oliniaceae

Olinia emarginata Mountain Hard Pear. Giant's Castle, dominant in forest.

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Onagraceae

Epilobium capense Flowers white, stigma 4-lobed.

Epilobium salignum Flowers white turning pink after pollination. Stigma entire. Scattered

records, e.g. Sani and Giant's Castle riverside.

Ludwigia octovalvis Shrubby Ludwigia. Port Edward.

Oenothera rosea Rose Evening Primrose. Small pink flowers. Alien. Widespread.

Oenothera sp. An evening primrose. Large yellow flowers.

Orobanchaceae

Harveya pulchra Parasitic herb. Pink flowers. Sani.

Harveya scarlatina 2 at Sani 2018.

Harveya speciosa Tall White Ink-flower. Parasitic herb. White flowers. Scattered records, e.g.

Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis depressa Hairless, leaflets often purple below, flowers pink or white. Giant's Castle,

and Golden Gate.

Oxalis obliquifolia Oblique-leaved Sorrel. Leaflets broader than long with long hairs near base

of stalk. Solitary pink flowers. Rather widespread e.g. Sani, Kamberg, and

Golden Gate.

Oxalis smithiana Narrow-leaved Sorrel. Deeply divided leaves with narrow lobes. In leaf

Sani.

Papaveraceae

Argemone mexicana Alien.

Papaver aculeatum Orange Poppy. Scattered records, e.g. Sani.

Plantaginaceae

Plantago lanceolata Scattered records.
Plantago major Giant's Castle, 2019.

Polygalaceae

Muraltia flanaganii Probably this species at Golden Gate, 2018.

Polygala amatymbica Dwarf Polygala. Golden Gate.
Polygala confusa Forest at Giant's Castle.

Polygala gracilenta Himeville, Kamberg, Giant's Castle.

Polygala hispida Golden Gate.

Polygala hottentotta Small Purple Broom. Perennial with pink flowers. Sani, Kamberg, Giant's

Castle, Golden Gate.

Polygala ohlendorfiana Slender herb with deep pink flowers. Sani and Giant's Castle.

Polygala rehmanniiSpionkop.Polygala rhinostigmaWitsieshoek.

Polygala virgata Purple Broom. Shrub with large pink flowers. Port Edward, Giant's

Castle, and Sani.

Polygonaceae

Persicaria attenuata Ntsikeni 2018.
Persicaria lapathifolia Scattered records.

Persicaria serrulata

Rumex acetosella spp.angiocarpus Scattered, naturalised.

Rumex lanceolatus Sani, 2019.

Rumex sagittatus Climbing Dock. Giant's Castle.
Rumex woodii Scattered records, e.g. Giant's Castle.

Primulaceae

Anagallis huttonii White Pimpernel. Marsh at Ntsikeni 2018.

#### Proteaceae

Trees or shrubs. Sometimes dioecious. Inflorescence often with colourful bracts. Sepals 4, petals absent. Ovary superior. Fruit a woody nutlet, often aggregated into a cone.

Grevillea banksii Scarlet Silky Oak. Alien. Invasive at Red Desert.

Grevillea robustaAustralian Silky Oak. Alien.Hakea sericeaSilky Hakea. Alien. Port Edward.

Leucadendron spissifolium ssp.oribinum Oribi Spear-leaved Conebush. Umtanvuna.

Protea are shrubs or small trees, with flowers in terminal heads, surrounded by large colourful bracts.

Protea caffra Common Protea/Sugarbush. Small tree, light green leaves, bracts pink or

cream, flowers white. Locally dominant. Port Edward, Giant's Castle, Sani,

Golden Gate, Witsieshoek.

Protea dracomontana Drakensberg Dwarf Protea/Sugarbush. Dwarf shrub with flowers 40 to 60

mm, creamy yellow, pink, to red. Locally dominant with a few in flower on

lower Sani Pass road.

Protea roupelliae Silver Protea/Sugarbush. Small tree, dark bluish green leaves. Inner bracts

spoon-shaped and deep pink, flowers densely hairy and pink to red. Widespread and locally common, Golden Gate, Giant's Castle, Sani, Port

Edward.

Protea simplex Dwarf Grassland Protea. Port Edward and Sani.

Protea subvestita Lip-flower Protea/Sugarbush. Small tree, leaves grey, flowerheads narrow,

bracts creamy white, pink, to carmine, tips of inner bracts folded back.

Some in fine flower along lower Sani road.

Ranunculaceae

Anemone fanninii Giant Wild Anemone. In leaf Sani.

Clematis brachiata Widespread, in flower (briefly) at Golden Gate.

Ranunculus baurii Large-leaved Ranunculus. In impressive flower at Witsieshoek, 2018.

In leaf 2019.

Ranunculus multifidus Leaves deeply divided. Sani, Giant's Castle, Witsieshoek.

Ranunculus sp. Lesotho, cordate leaves. 2019.

Thalictrum rhynchocarpum Herbaceous shrub. Giant's Castle and Sani.

Rhamnaceae

Phylica are shrubs or small trees. Leaves ericoid, flowers often grouped in heads, calyx woolly or hairy outside.

Phylica natalensis Red Desert and Umtanvuna. Local endemic, vulnerable.

Phylica thodei Rigid small shrub, sepals densely covered in white woolly hairs.

Witsieshoek.

Rhamnus prinoides Glossy-leaf. Sani, in flower and fruit.

Rhizophoraceae

Bruguiera gymnorrhiza Black Mangrove. Coast.

Rhynchocalycaceae

Rhynchocalyx lawsonioides False Waterberry. Umtanvuna.

Rosaceae

Agrimonia procera Himeville area.

Alchemilla woodii Witsieshoek.

Alchemilla sp. Ntsikeni 2018.

Cliffortia nitidula pilosa Needlelike leaves in tufts of three. Sani, locally dominant.

Cliffortia sp. Witsieshoek.

Geum capensis Noted in fruit in Lesotho 2018.

Leucosidea sericea Oldwood. Small tree, flaking bark, greyish white leaves. Widespread and

often dominant in scrub.

Rubus cuneifolius American Bramble. Alien. Widespread.

Rubus ludwigii Silver Bramble. Underside of leaves white-woolly. Widespread.

Rubiaceae

Alberta magna Krantz Flame-tree. Umtanvuna.

Anthospermum are shrubs or herbs with narrow often whorled leaves. Flowers small.

Anthospermum galpinii Red Desert 2018.

Anthospermum herbaceumPort Edward.Anthospermum hispidulumPort Edward.Anthospermum spp.Several others seen.

Burchellia bubalina Tree. Port Edward.

Canthium inermeTurkey-berry. Port Edward.Canthium vanwykiiPondo Turkey-berry. Umtanvuna.Conostomium natalenseWild Pentas. Port Edward 2018.

Eriosemopsis subanisophylla Erect herb with woody rootstock. Rare. Port Edward.

Galium capense Scrambling glabrescent perennial. Leaves in whorls of 6 to 10. A few

records, e.g. Sani, Giant's Castle, and Witsieshoek.

Galium sp. Broad leaves in whorls of 4. Giant's Castle forest.

Galium sp. Small, leaves in whorls of 3 and 4, off white flowers. In shade at

Golden Gate.

Galium sp. Giant's Castle riverside.

Keetia gueinzii Climbing Turkey-berry. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Oldenlandia herbacea Umtanvuna 2018.

Pavetta bowkeri Hairy Coast Brides-bush. Umtanvuna 2018. Pentanisia angustifolia Almost hairless, narrow leaves. Port Edward.

Pentanisia prunelloides Broad-leaved Pentanisia. Leaves hairy to hairless. Dense inflorescence of

purplish flowers. Widespread.

Psychotria capensis Black Bird-berry. Umtanvuna.

Psydrax obovata Quar. Umtanvuna.

Rothmannia globosa September Bells. Umtanvuna 2018.

Rutaceae

Trees or shrubs. Often aromatic. Frequently ericoid. Leaves dotted with oil glands. Flowers mostly white to pink. Sepals

and petals 5 (rarely 4). Ovary superior.

Agathosma ovata Oval-leaved Buchu. Crushed leaves citrus scented. Red Desert.

Calodendrum capense Cape-chestnut. Lower Ntsikeni, 2018.

Zanthoxylum davyi Forest Knobwood.

Salicaceae

Populus x canescens Grey Poplar. Alien. Widespread.

Populus nigra italica Lombardy Poplar. Alien.

Salix babylonica Weeping Willow. Alien. Giant's Castle.
Salix mucronata Small-leaf Willow. Native. Giant's Castle.

Santalaceae

Colpoon compressum Port Edward.

Osyris lanceolata Hemiparasitic shrub. Giant's Castle.

Thesium are hemiparasites with perianth lobes and stamens 5.

Thesium natalensis

Thesium pallidum

Thesium spp.

Umtanvuna 2018.

Port Edward and Sani.

Other species unidentified.

Sapotaceae

Sideroxylon inerme White-milkwood.

Scrophulariaceae

Alectra sessiliflora Hemiparasitic herb with yellow flowers. Toothed leaflike bracts. Port Edward.

Anastrabe integerrima Pambati-tree. Umtanvuna, new in 2019.

Bowkeria verticillata Southern Shell-flower. Small tree. Giant's Castle.

Buchnera are pernnial herbs, often parasitic, with regular flowers.

Buchnera dura Flower tube softly hairy. Port Edward.

Buchnera simplex Leaves basal, heads of small blue to lilac flowers. Flower tube +/- hairless.

Giant's Castle.

Mole's Spectacles. Dried out plants reabsorb water and recover within 24 Craterostigma nanum

hours. Umtanvuna 2018.

Cycnium are perennial parasitic herbs with large nearly regular flowers.

Cycnium racemosum Large Pink Ink Plant. Large pink flowers turn black when bruised.

Port Edward, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.

Diascia have mostly purple flowers with bright yellow windows, lower petal with pouches or spurs.

Diascia anastrepta Upturned Twinspur. Conspicuous spreading upturned spurs. Sani 2019.

Diascia barberae Spurs incurved. Witsieshoek, 2019.

Diascia cordata Pink flowers with diverging blunt spurs. Sani and Giant's Castle. Flowers pale pink. Spurs incurved at tips, pointing downwards. Diascia integerrima

Flowers nodding, spurs very short. Witsieshoek. Diascia purpurea

Dwarf Snapdragon. Sprawling herb with white flowers with violet spots, Diclis reptans

palate yellow, spur slender, violet. Giant's Castle.

Has shorter and broader spur than previous species, less toothes leaves. Diclis rotundifolia

En route to Kamberg, Golden Gate, etc.

Glumicalyx are perennial herbs or shrublets with cylindrical flowers in nodding inflorescence. Genus endemic to Eastern

Mountain Region.

Glumicalyx flanaganii Flower tube up to 17mm, leaves finely hairy. Golden Gate.

Glumicalyx goseloides Flower tube 20 to 29mm. Sani and Witsieshoek

Glumicalyx montanus Flower tube 4 to 6mm. Cream flowers. Witsieshoek, new in 2019.

Glumicalyx nutans Flower tube 12 to 16mm. Sani.

Halleria lucida Tree Fuchsia. Small tree with orange flowers. Giant's Castle and

Golden Gate.

Hebenstretia have sessile flowers in dense spikes, white usually with orange fleck at the base of petals.

Hebenstretia comosa Golden Gate.

Soft wooded shrub. Sani. Hebenstretia cooperi Hebenstretia dura Perennial herb. Sani. Hebenstretia sp. Witsieshoek. Jamesbrittenia are shrubs or herbs with glands. Corolla regular.

Jamesbrittenia aurantiaca Red or orange flowers. Paths at Golden Gate.

Jamesbrittenia breviflora Large brick-red flowers. Sani.

Jamesbrittenia pristisepala Dwarf shrublet with lilac flowers. Sani and Witsieshoek.

Limosella are aquatic herbs, flowers among leaves.

Limosella longiflora Leaves needle-shaped, calyx five-veined. Sani.

Limosella vesiculosa Leaves roundish, flowers white, calyx tube wrinkled from bladdery swellings.

Lesotho and Sani.

Tall perennial, long spike of yellow flowers. Witsieshoek. Manulea crassifolia

Dwarf perennial, long inflorescence of yellow flowers in clusters of 2 or Manulea platystigma

3. Lesotho 2018.

Melasma scabrum Hemiparasite with large yellow flowers with red centre. Marsh, Day 5

afternoon.

Nemesia have strongly 2-lipped flowers, rather snapdragon like.

Nemesia caerulea Violet-blue flowers with two raised yellow bosses in mouth. Golden

Gate and Witsieshoek.

Clustered white to mauve flowers, palate yellow. Sani and Witsieshoek. Nemesia rupicola Nemesia sylvatica

White Forest-Nemesia. Large white flowers. Giant's Castle and

Witsieshoek.

Phygelius aequalis River Bells. Shrub, tubular red flowers with equal mouth. Giant's Castle.

Phygelius capensis Southern Phygelius. Shrub, scarlet flowers, tube curved, mouth

oblique. Sani.

Selago are shrubs or herbs with small flowers often in many flowered heads.

Clusters of white flowers. Giant's Castle. Selago densiflora

Selago flanaganii Large inflorescence of white to mauve flowers. Sani and Golden Gate.

Selago galpinii Heads of blue-violet flowers. Sani etc.

Selago tarachodes Compact inflorescence of white flowers. Port Edward.

Selago trinervia Port Edward, new in 2019.

Sopubia cana Silvery Sopubia. Parasitic herb. Silvery grey with pink flowers.

Sani, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.

Sopubia simplex Nearly hairless. Port Edward.

Striga are parasitic herbs.

Striga asiatica Red flowers. Red Desert.

Striga bilabiata Lilac 2-lipped flowers. Widespread. Large red flowers. Spionkop. Striga elegans

Sutera floribunda Aromatic perennial herb with many white flowers. Sani. Sutera patriotica Pink flowers with yellow-orange tube. Day 5 and Witsieshoek. Blue Water-speedwell. Naturalised at Golden Gate, 2019. Veronica anagallis-aquatica

Zaluzianskya, Drumstick Flowers, have flowers with 5 more or less similar lobes, the lobes often notched or forked.

Short-tubed Drumsticks. Flower has two upward facing lobes and three Zaluzianskya microsiphon

downward, pink outside, white inside. Widespread.

Zaluzianskya natalensis Flower tube horizontal, mouth with thick hairs. Kamberg.

Corolla limb held horizontally. White inside, pink outside. Sani and Zaluzianskya ovata

Day 6.

Solanaceae

Physalis viscosa Wild Gooseberry. Alien.

Solanum mauritianum Bugweed. Alien.

Mauve flowers. Spionkop, 2019. Solanum panduriforme Solanum retroflexum White flowers. Golden Gate and Sani.

Thymelaeaceae

Small trees or shrubs, often ericoid. Inflorescence a spike or head. Flowers white, yellow or pinkish, tubular, sepals 4 or 5, petals replaced by 4, 8, or 12 scale-like appendages. Ovary superior.

Dais cotinifolia Pompom Tree. Giant's Castle.

Gnidia are often ericoid, flowers usually in heads, usually white or yellow, membranous or fleshy petal scales in the mouth of the fused sepal tube. (Lasiosiphon).

Gnidia anthylloides Flowers bright lemon yellow. Port Edward.

Gnidia baurii Umtanvuna and Red Desert.

Softly silvery hairy shrublet, flowers shiny lemon yellow. Golden Gate. Gnidia caffra

Robust shrublet. Umtanvuna. Gnidia kraussiana

Port Edward. Gnidia nodiflora

Gnidia polyantha Silky subshrub with crowded heads of bright yellow flowers. Giant's Castle

and Sani.

Gnidia triplinervis Flowers yellow, calyx tube silky. Port Edward.

Passerina has small cream or reddish flowers.

Small creamy flowers in profusion in terminal clusters. Lesotho and Passerina montana

Giant's Castle.

Umtanvuna. Passerina sp.

Strychnaceae

Red Desert. Strychnos sp.

Tiliaceae

Grewia occidentalis Cross-berry Raisin. Port Edward and Giants' Castle.

Urticaceae

Golden Gate. Urtica sp.

Valerianaceae

Valeriana capensis Cape Valerian. Giant's Castle.

Verbenaceae

Lantana camaraAlien. Port Edward.Phyla nodifloraAlien. Port Edward.

Verbena aristigera Fine-leaved Verbena. Alien. Widespread. Numerous at Spionkop.

Verbena bonariensis Tall Verbena. Alien. Very common and widespread.

Verbena brasiliensis

Violaceae

Hybanthus enneaspermus Lady's Slipper. Pink flowers with lowest petal pouched at base. Port

Edward.

Viscaceae

Viscum sp. Umtanvuna.

Vitaceae

Rhoicissus tridentata Bushman's Grape. Giant's Castle.

## Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Helmeted GuineafowlNumida meleagrisRoadsides.Grey-winged FrancolinScleroptila afraWitsieshoek.Red-winged FrancolinScleroptila levaillantii2, Kamberg.Shelley's FrancolinScleoptila shelleyiSpionkop.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* Scattered records. Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* Widespread.

Egyptian Goose Alopochen aegyptiaca Widespread and common.

African Black Duck Anas sparsa Day 6.

Yellow-billed Duck Anas undulata Widespread in small numbers.

Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis Day 6 and Golden Gate.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* Giant's Castle. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* 2 on Day 2.

White Stork Ciconia ciconia Widespread, numerous Underberg area, etc.

African Sacred Ibis Threskiornis aethiopicus Scattered records.

Southern Bald Ibis Geronticus calvus Near Giant's Castle, Lesotho, Sani.

Hadada Ibis Bostrychia hagedash Common and widespread.

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis Widespread and reasonably common.

Black-headed Heron Ardea melanocephala Widespread singletons.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea Kamberg. Great Egret Ardea alba Day 3.

Little EgretEgretta garzettaScattered records.HamerkopScopus umbrettaScattered records.Reed CormorantMicrocarbo africanusScattered records.

White-breasted Cormorant Phalacrocorax lucidus Day 5

Secretarybird Sagittarius serpentarius Singletons near Giant's Castle, and at Golden

Gate.

Black-winged Kite Elanus caeruleus Day 3 and Golden Gate.

Yellow-billed Kite Milvus aegyptius Widespread. African Fish Eagle Haliaeetus vocifer Day 3.

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) Gypaetus barbatus Seen on 4 days.

White-backed Vulture Gyps africanus Many feeding on a giraffe carcass at

Spionkop.

Cape Vulture Gyps coprotheres Seen on 6 days. Many feeding on a giraffe

carcass at Spionkop.

African Marsh Harrier Circus ranivorus Day 6.

Black Harrier Circus maurus An immature at Witsieshoek.

African Harrier-Hawk Polyboroides typus Scattered records. Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk Accipiter rufiventris 1 at Witiseshoek. Common (Steppe) Buzzard Buteo [buteo] vulpinus Widespread. Jackal Buzzard Buteo rufofuscus Widespread. Giant's Castle. Verreaux's Eagle Aquila verreauxii Long-crested Eagle Lophaetus occipitalis Scattered records.

Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni Day 8. Rock Kestrel Falco rupicolus Golden Gate.

Amur Falcon Falco amurensis Widespread and locally very common.

Red-footed Falcon Falco vespertinus Golden Gate.

Lanner Falcon Falco biarmicus Sani.

Denham's Bustard Neotis denhami Near Kamberg (BD). Striped Flufftail Sarothrura affinis Heard at Witsieshoek. African Rail Rallus caerulescens Heard at Himeville.

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Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus Day 6 and Golden Gate. Red-knobbed Coot Fulica cristata Scattered records.

Grey Crowned Crane Balearica regulorum Day 3, Himeville area, and Golden Gate.

Blacksmith Lapwing Vanellus armatus Scattered records.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola Day 6. Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida Day 6.

Feral Pigeon Columba livia Towns, common and widespread. Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea Widespread, seen most days. African Olive Pigeon Columba arquatrix Afromontane forest, Giant's Castle.

Widespread and common. Red-eyed Dove Streptopelia semitorquata Streptopelia capicola Ring-necked Dove Widespread and common.

Widespread. Laughing Dove Streptopelia senegalensis Knysna Turaco Tauraco corythaix Port Edward.

Dideric Cuckoo Chrysococcyx caprius Heard at various sites. Klaas's Cuckoo Chrysococcyx klaas Heard at Giant's Castle. Black Cuckoo Cuculus clamosus Heard lower Sani.

Cuculus solitarius Seen at Giant's Castle, heard lower Sani. Red-chested Cuckoo

African Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus On the coast. Alpine Swift Tachymarptis melba Scattered records. Common Swift Apus apus Scattered records. Apus barbatus African Black Swift Scattered records. Little Swift Apus affinis Scattered records.

Apus horus Sani. Horus Swift Apus caffer White-rumped Swift Sani.

Speckled Mousebird Colius striatus Scattered records. Brown-hooded Kingfisher Halcyon albiventris Munster (BD). Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima Lower Sani. Green Wood Hoopoe Phoeniculus purpureus Munster (BD).

Bycanistes bucinator Durban area, seen by PGC before the group Trumpeter Hornbill

arrived.

White-eared Barbet Stactolaema leucotis Durban area, seen by PGC before the group

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird Pogoniulus bilineatus Calling at Port Edward. Black-collared Barbet Lybius torquatus Port Edward area. Red-throated Wryneck Jynx ruficollis Lower Sani.

Ground Woodpecker Geocolaptes olivaceus A good number of sightings this year.

Cardinal Woodpecker Dendropicos fuscescens Spionkop.

Bearded Woodpecker Dendropicos namaquus A pair at Spionkop. Bokmakierie Telophorus zeylonus Scattered records. Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegalus Heard on Day 3.

Laniarius ferrugineus Scattered records, e.g. Giant's Castle. Southern Boubou

Common Fiscal Lanius collaris Widespread.

Black-headed Oriole Oriolus larvatus Scattered records, mainly on the coast.

Fork-tailed Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis Widespread in small numbers.

African Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone viridis A pair at Giant's Castle.

Cape Crow Corvus capensis Widespread and reasonably common.

Pied Crow Corvus albus Widespread. White-necked Raven Corvus albicollis Widespread.

Drakensberg Rockjumper Chaetops aurantius Seen very well at Sani and Witsieshoek. Southern Black Tit Seen in Durban area by PGC before the Parus niger

group arrived.

Rufous-naped Lark Mirafra africana Spionkop. African Red-eyed Bulbul Pycnonotus nigricans Golden Gate.

Dark-capped Bulbul Pycnonotus tricolor Widespread and common.

Black Saw-wing Psalidoprocne pristoptera Scattered records.
Banded Martin Riparia cincta A few records.

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica Widespread and common.

White-throated Swallow Hirundo albigularis Scattered records, e.g. Underberg area.

Greater Striped Swallow Hirundo cucullata Widespread and common.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Widespread.
Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Scattered records.

South African Cliff Swallow Petrochelidon spilodera Day 8.

Cape Grassbird Sphenoeacus afer Sani and Golden Gate.

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus Seen near Durban by PGC before the group

arrived.

Fan-tailed Grassbird Schoenicola brevirostris Umtanvuna.

Barratt's Warbler Bradypterus barratti Seen well at Sani and Giant's Castle.

Lazy Cisticola Cisticola aberrans Giant's Castle.
Rattling Cisticola Cisticola chiniana Spionkop.

Wailing Cisticola Cisticola lais Common and widespread.

Levaillant's Cisticola Cisticola tinniens Widespread in wetter vegetation.

Croaking Cisticola Cisticola natalensis Port Edward.
Neddicky Cisticola fulvicapill A few records.
Zitting Cisticola Cisticola juncidis Scattered records.

Wing-snapping Cisticola Cisticola ayresii Widespread, displaying high.

Tawny-flanked PriniaPrinia subflavaUmtanvuna.Karoo PriniaPrinia maculosaGolden Gate.

Drakensberg Prinia Prinia hypoxantha Scattered records, e.g. Giant's Castle,

where nesting.

Bush Blackcap Lioptilus nigricapillus Seen well at Giant's Castle, also Sani.

Cape White-eyeZosterops capensisScattered records.Gurney's SugarbirdPromerops gurneyiUmtanvuna and Sani.Common MynaAcridotheres tristisAround habitation.European StarlingSturnus vulgarisHimeville and Day 6.

Black-bellied Starling Notopholia corrusca Port Edward.

Pied Starling Lamprotornis bicolor Widespread and common.

Red-winged Starling Onychognathus morio Widespread and very common.

Olive Thrush Turdus olivaceus Widespread.

Cape Robin-chat Cossypha caffra Widespread and reasonably common.

African Stonechat Saxicola torquatus Widespread and common.

Buff-streaked Chat Campicoloides bifasciatus Sani, Golden Gate, Witsieshoek, etc.

Mountain WheatearOenanthe monticolaSani.Sickle-winged ChatCercomela sinuataLesotho.

Familiar Chat Cercomela familiaris Golden Gate, Spionkop, etc.

Ant-eating Chat Myrmecocichla formicivora Scattered records.

Mocking Cliff Chat Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris Umtanvuna.

Cape Rock Thrush Monticola rupestris Scattered records.

Sentinel Rock Thrush Monticola explorator Sani and Giant's Castle.

Amethyst Sunbird Chalcomitra amethystina Sani.

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa* Scattered records.

Greater Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afer* Sani, Giant's Castle, etc.

House Sparrow Passer domesticus Widespread around habitation.

Cape Sparrow Passer melanurus Widespread.
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow Passer diffusus Scattered records.

Cape Weaver Ploceus capensis Widespread.
Southern Masked Weaver Ploceus velatus Common.

Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus Seen near Durban by PGC before the

group arrived.

Red-billed Quelea Quelea quelea Recorded.

Yellow-crowned Bishop Euplectes afer Scattered records.

Southern Red Bishop Euplectes orix Widespread and reasonably common.
Yellow Bishop Euplectes capensis Scattered records.
Fan-tailed Widowbird Euplectes axillaris Scattered records.

Red-collared Widowbird Euplectes ardens Widespread and reasonably common.

Long-tailed Widowbird Euplectes progne Widespread and common.

Common Waxbill Estrilda astrild Scattered records.

African Quailfinch Ortygospiza fuscocrissa Himeville. Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura Widespread. Cape Wagtail Motacilla capensis Widespread. Cape Longclaw Macronyx capensis Kamberg. Yellow-throated Longclaw Macronyx croceus Umtanvuna. African Pipit Anthus cinnamomeus Scattered records. African Rock Pipit Anthus crenatus Heard in Lesotho. Yellow-breasted Pipit Anthus chloris Golden Gate. Cape Canary Serinus canicollis Widespread. Forest Canary Crithagra scotops Scattered records.

Yellow-fronted Canary Crithagra mozambica Spionkop.

Yellow Canary Crithagra flaviventris Scattered records.

Drakensberg Siskin Crithagra symonsi Sani.

Cape Bunting Emberiza capensis Sani and Golden Gate.

Golden-breasted Bunting Emberiza flaviventris Lower Sani.

## **Systematic List Number 3**

### **Mammals**

The nomenclature and systematic order follow 'Smither's Mammals of Southern Africa. A Field Guide', edited by Peter Apps, 2000 edition.

Sloggett's Ice Rat Otomys sloggetti Seen very closely at Sani Pass.
Rock Hyrax Procavia capensis Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.

Porcupine *Hystrix africaeaustralis* A quill found on day 6.

Hare sp. Lepus sp. Port Edward.

Burchell's Zebra Equus burchelli Spionkop and Golden Gate.

Warthog Phacochoerus aethiopicus Spionkop. Giraffe Giraffa camelopardalis Spionkop 2018.

Black Wildebeest Connochaetes gnou Seen well at Golden Gate and Kamberg.

Blue WildebeestConnochaetes taurinusSpionkop.Red HartebeestAlcelaphus buselaphusGolden Gate.TsessebeDamaliscus lunatusSpionkop.

Blesbok Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi Widespread and often numerous. Giant's

Castle, Spionkop, Golden Gate.

Common Duiker Sylvicapra grimmia Underberg.

Springbok Antidorcas marsupialis Sterkfontein Dam and Golden Gate.

KuduTragelaphus strepsicerosSpionkop 2018.ImpalaAepyceros melampus1 at Spionkop.SteenbokRaphicerus campestrisDay 8.

Grey Rhebuck Pelea capreolus Sani, Witsieshoek, and Golden Gate.

Common Reedbuck Redunca arundinum Sani.

Eland Taurotragus oryx Golden Gate.

Black-backed Jackal Canis mesomelas Sign, Ntsikeni and Sani, 2018.

Yellow Mongoose *Cynictis penicillata* 2 on Day 8.

Chacma Baboon Papio cynocephalus ursinus Scattered records, e.g. Golden Gate, Sani,

Witsieshoek.

Vervet Monkey Cercopithecus aethiops Port Edward area.

Bat spp. Several seen but unidentified.

# Systematic List Number 4 Amphibians and Reptiles

Painted Reed Frog Hyperolius marmoratus Umtanvuna.

Variable Skink Trachylepis varia Scattered records.

Striped Skink Trachylepis striata Scattered records, e.g. Witsieshoek lodge.

Drakensberg Crag Lizard Pseudocordylus melanotus Common at Witsieshoek, also Sani Top.

Southern Rock Agama Agama atra Scattered records.

## Systematic List Number 5 Butterflies

The standard work is 'Pennington's Butterflies of Southern Africa' second edition 1994, edited by Pringle et al. The excellent and much more portable 'Field Guide to Butterflies of South Africa', by Steve Woodhall, Struik 2005 was used in the field. I have included foodplant (FP) details. Species added to the list in 2019 are annotated 2019. Of course all species with no year annotation were also seen this year.

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Pa	ทเไเก	nidae
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Papilio demodocus Citrus Swallowtail Munster. FP: citrus, Toddalia asiatica,

Calodendrum capense, Zanthoxyllum capense,

Foeniculum vulgare, etc. etc.

Papilio nireus lyaeus Green-banded Swallowtail Durban (PGC). FP: citrus, Calodendrum

capense, Clausena anisata, Toddalia asiatica,

Zanthoxylum capense, etc.

Graphium antheus/policenes Large Striped Swordtail/ One of these species in flight at

Small Striped Swordtail Umtanvuna.

Pieridae

Pontia helice Meadow White Spionkop. Numerous at Golden Gate. FP:

Heliophila spp. and other crucifers.

Mylothris agathina Common Dotted Border A few at Giant's Castle. FP: Tapinanthus

oleifolius, Ximenia caffra, Osyris lanceolata, Colpoon compressum etc.

aethiopicum and Chamaecrista mimosoides.

Catopsilia florella African Migrant Widespread. FP: Senna spp.

Eurema hecabe solifera Common Grass Yellow A few records. FP: Hypericum aethiopicum

and Chamaecrista mimosoides.

Eurema brigitta Broad-bordered or Small Scattered records. FP: Hypericum

Grass Yellow

Eurema desjardinsii marshalli Angled Grass Yellow Port Edward. FP: Chamaecrista mimosoides.

Lycaenidae

Miletinae

Lachnocnema durbani a woolly legs A female at Spionkop, 2019. Larval food:

Homoptera.

Lycaeninae

Leptomyrina lara Cape Black-eye A few at Golden Gate, 2019. FP: Cotyledon

orbiculata.

Axiocerses tjoane tjoane Common Scarlet Spionkop, 2019. FP: Acacia spp.

Aloeides rileyi Riley's Copper Golden Gate. A Drakensberg endemic.

Aloeides penningtoni Pennington's Copper Sani, 2019.

Aloeides aranda Aranda Copper Red Desert and Golden Gate, 2019.

FP: Aspalathus.

Aloeides maluti Maluti Copper Golden Gate, 2019. A Drakensberg endemic.

Aloeides swanepoeli Swanepoel's Copper Spionkop, 2019.

Chrysoritis chrysaor Burnished Opal Witsieshoek, 2019. FP: Tylecodon

paniculatus, Cotyledon orbiculata, Acacia

karoo, Searsia spp.

Anthene definita Common Hairtail Giant's Castle. Polyphagous.

Anthene amarah Black-striped Hairtail Several at Spionkop. FP: Acacia spp.

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Leptotes pirithous/brevidentatus Common/Short-toothed Blue Only distinguishable by dissection.

Polyphagous.

Cacyreus tespis Water Bronze Giant's Castle riverside. FP: Geranium spp.

and *Pelargonium* spp.

Cacyreus marshalli Geranium Bronze Witsieshoek.

FP: Geranium spp. and Pelargonium spp.

Lampides boeticus Long-tailed Blue Widespread. FP: Fabaceae.

Harpendyreus noquasa Marsh Blue Giant's Castle. FP: Alchemilla capensis.Lepidochrysops variabilis Variable Blue Golden Gate. FP: Selago spp., Becium spp.,

Salvia spp.

Lepidochrysops ketsi Ketsi Blue Several at Umtanvuna. FP: Selago spp. A

very local endemic.

Actizera lucida Rayed Blue 2+ Port Edward area, and Golden Gate.

FP: Oxalis spp., Argyrolobium sp., Rhynchosia spp., Crotalaria lanceolata.

Zizeeria knysna Sooty Blue A few records. FP: Tribulus terrestris, Oxalis

spp., Amaranthus deflexus, A.viridis,

Medicago sativa, Zornia spp.

Azanus ubaldus Velvet-spotted Blue

Azanus jesousTopaz-spotted BlueSpionkop. FP: Acacia spp.Azanus natalensisNatal Spotted BluePort Edward. FP: Acacia spp.

Azanus moriqua Thorn-tree Blue Spionkop and Umtanvuna. FP: Acacia sp. Zizula hylax Gaika Blue Scattered records. FP: Phaulopsis imbricata,

Ruellia spp., Justicia spp., Oxalis

corniculata, etc.

### Nymphalidae

Paralethe dendrophilus

Danainae

leucomacula

Danaus chrysippus African Monarch Widespread. FP: Asclepiadaceae.

Satyrinae

Bicyclus safitza Common Bush Brown A very worn individual at Port Edward.

FP: Grasses.

Aeropetes tulbaghia Table Mountain Beauty or Scattered records, e.g. Golden Gate,

Mountain Pride Witsieshoek. FP: Grasses. Bush Beauty or Forest Beauty Giant's Castle. FP: Grasses.

Cassionympha cassius Rainforest Brown Port Edward and Giant's Castle. FP:

Grasses.

Pseudonympa gaika Gaika Brown Sani Top 2018. FP: Grasses.

Pseudonympha magoides False Silver-bottom Brown A few records, e.g. Witsieshoek,

Umtanvuna. FP: Grasses.

Pseudonympha varii Vari's Brown Ntsikeni 2018.

Pseudonympha machacha Machacha Brown A few high altitude records, 2018. FP:

Grasses.

Stygionympha scotina Eastern Hillside Brown South African side of Sani, and

Witsieshoek. FP: Grasses.

Stygionympha wichgrafi grisea Wichgraf's Brown Umtanvuna 2019. Very local endemic

subspecies.

Heliconiinae

Acraea horta Garden Acraea Common at Giant's Castle. FP: Kiggelaria

africana and Passiflora spp.

Pardopsis punctatissima Polka Dot Umtanvuna. FP: Hybanthus capensis.

Biblidinae

Byblia ilithyia Spotted Joker Spionkop. FP: Tragia glabrata and

Dalechampis capensis.

Nymphalinae

Catacroptera cloanthe Pirate Golden Gate 2018. FP: Acanthaceae.

Precis octavia sesamus Gaudy Commodore f.natalensis, Port Edward. FP: Plectranthus

spp., Rabdosiella calycina, Pycnostachys

spp.

Junonia hierta cebreneYellow PansyScattered records. FP: Acanthaceae.Junonia oenoneBlue PansyMunster etc. 2018. FP: Acanthaceae.

Vanessa cardui Painted Lady 1 at Witsieshoek 2019. FP: Asteraceae, etc.

Hesperiidae

Pyrginae

Spialia diomus ferax Common Sandman Golden Gate 2019. FP: Hermannia spp.,

Hibiscus aethiopicus, Pavonia burchellii,

Sida spp.

Spialia spio Mountain Sandman Spionkop and Giant's Castle 2019.

FP: Hermannia spp., Hibiscus spp.,

Lavatera arborea, Sida spp., Triumfetta spp.

Hetropterinae

Metisella malgacha Grassveld Sylph Common at Witsieshoek. FP: Ehrharta

erecta.

Hesperiinae

Kedestes mohozutza Fulvous Ranger or Harlequin A fine species, one at Umtanvuna, 1 at

Skipper Port Edward, 2019.

Kedestes chaca Shaka's Ranger or Shaka's This fine species was seen at Himeville

Skipper Nature Reserve.

Gegenes niso niso Common Hottentot Skipper A few records, 2019. FP: Grasses.