

Drakensberg

Golden Gate and The Sani Pass

A Greentours Trip Report

8th to 21st January 2025

Led by Paul Cardy

Daily Accounts and Systematic Lists by Paul Cardy

Day 1 Thursday 9th January

Arrival, to Port Edward

Being already in residence at the Ocean Grove, our first guest house of the tour, I spent the morning travelling towards Durban, checking out a few sites en route.

At the airport I returned my hire car and picked up an excellent Staria, a great mini-bus that I love driving on our South African tours. There was time for me to stock up on Woolworths supplies, water, etc. and I had lunch whilst I waited for the group's arrival. Bob, Tim, Jim, and Janet arrived promptly and we loaded the vehicle. Red-winged Starlings were as usual much in evidence at the airport.

We bypassed Durban, the traffic not too heavy today, and motored purposefully west along the subtropical coast. A rest stop had a colony of Village Weavers. Among the many common birds as we drove were African Sacred Ibis and Hadada Ibis. *Strelitzia nicolai* featured in the coastal grassland.

Welcomed by Arthur and Ursula we settled into the comfortable rooms, surrounded by lovely gardens. Southern Black Flycatcher was outside my room. After a quick freshen up we met for a very welcome dinner and looked forward to the tour ahead.

Day 2 Friday 10th January

Port Edward, Red Desert

The morning was fine and warm, and Amethyst Sunbird and Knysna Turaco were among the birds in the flower rich garden. A fine breakfast was served by Arthur and Ursula.

First stop today was a small reserve a short drive to the east where I had found superb *Eulophia angolensis* the previous day, a tall yellow flowered orchid of coastal marshes. Belonging to the Melastomataceae, *Dissotis canescens* had striking purple flowers. There were *Helichrysum cymosum*, *Helichrysum odoratissimum*, and *Helichrysum panduratum*, *Hibiscus trionum* was in flower, and *Cycnium tubulosum* was a new species for the tour. The fern *Cyclosorus interruptus* was typical of the habitat. The leguminous shrub *Pseudarthria hookeri* was in flower and fruit and African Clover Blue, *Zizina otis*, was on the wing.

Having crossed the river to another part of this small reserve, the leguminous tree *Milletia grandis* was in fine flower, on the river bank were seven Water Thick-knees, and Horus Swifts were in the air.

Another short drive took us to grassland that swept down to the ocean. In the adjacent village we met a troop of Vervet Monkeys which we watched for some time. Now on foot, the site boasted many plants, including many Pondoland specialities. Legumes were a feature, and included *Tephrosia macropoda*, *Tephrosia grandiflora*, *Tephrosia shilawunesis*, *Ophrestia oblongifolia*, *Vigna vexillata*, *Aspalathus chortophylla*, *Indigofera abbotti*, *Indigofera dregeana*, *Indigofera herrstreyi*, and *Crotalaria lanceolata*. *Erythrina humeana* was in striking flower.

Orchids began with a white form of *Satyrium hallackii*, and *Eulophia clavicornis*. *Cynium racemosum* was in attractive flower. Each step we took produced new plants, among them *Sphenostylis angustifolia*, *Alectra sessiliflora*, *Berkheya speciosa*, *Ascolepis capensis*, *Euphorbia ericoides*, *Alepidea peduncularis*, and *Aloe maculata*.

Thunburgia atriplicifolia, the Natal Primrose, was showy. Also here were *Pentania prunelloides*, hemiparasitic *Thesium pallidum*, the lithophytic cactus *Rhipsalis baccifera*, and the endemic *Apodytes abbotti*, Pondo White-pear, was in fruit on rocky outcrops. *Cyperus rupestris* was a beautiful sedge. *Aeollanthus parviflorus*, the pink spur bush, was in flower and among the many petaloid monocots were *Schizocarpus nervosus*, *Scilla natalensis*, and *Bulbine asphodeloides*. The red flowered *Tritonia disticha* was in flower, and a great find was the yellow flowered *Tritonia lineata*, new for the tour.

Plants continued with *Lobelia tomentosa*, *Selago tarachodes*, the endemic *Cassytha pondoensis*, *Wahlenbergia madagascariensis*, Bushman's Grape, *Hypoxis colchicifolia* in fruit, and both *Watsonia densiflora* and *Watsonia bachmannii*, many in leaf, and a few in flower. White flowered *Utricularia livida* was followed by *Sopubia simplex*, *Monopsis unidentata*, and *Senecio erubescens*.

Common Buttonquail and Swamp Nightjar were flushed as we walked, and Knysna Turaco, Tawny-flanked Prinia, and Yellow-throated Longclaw were seen. Polka Dot and Dark Blue Pansy flew over the slopes, and we found an impressive Foam Grasshopper. A couple of days earlier I'd seen a pair of Lilac-breasted Black-eyes here, but we didn't see this species again today.

Captivated by all we were seeing we were startled by the sudden piercing repeated blows of a whistle. At the top of the slope had appeared two men, one blowing the whistle, the other a security guard. They were beckoning us urgently! Walking purposefully towards them I soon smoothed the incident. We were not plant thieves, as they thought, we were botanists enjoying the wealth of the flora. Fairly obvious I thought from our appearance and behaviour.

An excellent lunch had been prepared by the guesthouse and we enjoyed this on the shore where *Gloriosa superba* was in bloom. Also here was *Scaevola plumieri* new for the tour, and nearby was *Pelargonium capitatum*.

Driving through Port Edward we made a supermarket stop to stock up on water and sort a few practicalities.

Our next destination was the protected site of Red Desert. Not immediately apparent why it's so called, once on foot, amid the grassland, are indeed impressive open red sandstone formations.

Again legumes were immediately much in evidence, among them *Indigofera grata*, *Chamaecrista plumosa*, *Chamaecrista comosa*, and much *Rafnia elliptica*. Composites began with *Relhania pungens*, *Stoebe vulgaris*, and *Osteospermum imbricata*.

Roella glomerata was in beautiful bloom, and the scarce orchid *Habenaria pseudociliosa* was in fine flower, some ten seen today. The variety continued with *Heliophila elongata*, *Crotalaria lanceolata*, *Pentanisia angustifolia*, *Syncolostemon parviflorus*, *Leonotis leonurus*, *Isoglossa ovata*, and *Hypoxis acuminata*.

Here were our first proteas, with scattered *Protea roupelliae* and *Protea caffra* on the grassy slopes which were dominated by the grass *Loudetia simplex*. There was also fine flowering *Protea simplex*, a dwarf shrub. *Gnidia kraussiana*, *Phylica natalensis*, *Agathosma ovata*, and *Striga asiatica* continued the variety. Gurney's Sugarbird attended the protea flowers and Citrus Swallowtail was on the wing.

Overlooking the Umtamvuna 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*. *Ficus glumosa* was identified, new for the tour.

It was time to head home after a great first full day. There was time for a visit to the beach in Munster.

Dinner was lovingly prepared by Arthur and Ursula with good wine available.

Day 3 Saturday 11th January

Umtamvuna, to Underberg

We said fond farewells to Arthur and Ursula, and as always I look forward to returning to the lovely guest house again next year.

In the village a wooded lane had a Crowned Eagle nest, our first stop of the day. New for the tour here was the yellow flowered *Aneilema aequinoctiale*.

We drove a short way inland to Umtamvuna Nature Reserve where much *Agapanthus campanulatus* was in flower. On rocky outcrops the *Bulbine* is an as yet undescribed species and the grey moss-like *Selaginella dregei* grew in distinctive mats. Here too were *Dioscorea dregeana*, and the attractive fern *Pellaea calomelanos*. Amethyst Sunbird nectared.

A bonus was Natal Spurfowl on the rocky outcrop near the HQ, and Black-bellied Starling was seen.

Plants continued with the endemic *Canthium vanwykii*, and *Ekebergia pterophylla*. The cycad *Stangeria eriopus* represented this fascinating group of plants. Mocking Cliff Chat sang from rocky outcrops. *Dissotis canescens* was again in attractive flower and we saw *Zornia capensis*, *Linum thunbergii*, *Senecio rhomboideus*, *Chlorophytum krookianum*, *Zaluzianskya natalensis*, and *Desmodium dregeanum*. Croaking Cisticola was here, and *Papilio nireus* and *Papilio ophidocephalus* were on the wing.

A butterfly highlight was the endemic lycaenid *Alaena amazoula*, Yellow Zulu. It's larvae feed on cyanobacteria. A selection of other invertebrates punctuated the walk, with shield bugs, mantids, and an antlion among them.

Burchellia bubalina, the wild Pomegranate, was distinctive. Plants continued with the composite *Inulanthera leucoclada*, and Red Rock Fig. Southern Rock Agama was active in the sunshine.

As we walked across the extensive grassland the great floral variety continued with *Syncolostemon parviflorus*, *Alectra sessiliflora*, *Selago trinervia*, *Senecio rhyncholaemus*, *Tenrhynea phyllicifolia*, *Aristea abyssinica*, *Cyanotis speciosa*, and *Alepidea peduncularis*.

Orchids were represented by *Habenaria dives*, *Satyrium longicauda*, *Satyrium trinerve*, and *Orthochilus ensatus*. The great variety continued with *Hypoxis costata*, *Albuca setosa*, *Senecio discodregeanus*, *Crassula alba*, *Syncolostemon rotundifolius*, *Eucomis autumnalis*, *Dianthus mooiensis*, *Hybanthus enneaspermus*, and *Drosera natalensis*. *Tulbaghia acutiloba* was in flower. *Utricularia livida* was in fine flower this year, wet areas of the track supporting very many.

An interesting selection of butterflies continued with the acraea Polka Dot, the very local endemic lycaenid *Lepidochrysops ketsi leucomacula*, Ketsi Blue, a pleasing find, Gaudy Commodore, *Spialia spio*, and *Eurema brigitta*. Possibly seen too was *Lepidochrysops patricia*. The lovely skipper *Kedestes mohozutza* was a great find.

Trumpeter Hornbill flew across the veld and Black-Collared Barbet was seen.

Having reached another rock outcrop we found many new plants such as *Erica cubica*, rare *Chironia albiflora* in flower, *Cineraria dieterlinii*, and the orchids *Stenoglottis woodii* and *Polystachya pubescens* in flower. Violet-backed Starlings, of both sexes, flew in to a nearby tree and we had good views of this beautiful bird.

Helichrysum featured in the area and species not already mentioned were *Helichrysum aureum monocephalum* and *Helichrysum cymosum*. Among the many other plants were *Passerina montivaga*, *Tinnea galpinii*, and *Caesia contorta*. Fan-tailed Widowbird was admired.

Back at the HQ we ate lunch in a covered shelter where posters described some of the specialities of the area. Tracksides puddles supported the dragonflies *Palpopleura portia* and *Diplacodes luminans*. *Tridactyle bicaudata* was in stunning flower this year and before we left I showed everyone this fine plant on boulders near the HQ.

It was time to leave Umtamvuna and head north. The naturalised *Lilium formosanum*, native to Taiwan, a feature of roadsides in the area.

After a series of minor roads we joined the highway and made good progress. Leaving the Indian Ocean coastal belt we drove north, traversing sub-escarpment savanna, and reaching the sub-escarpment grassland bioregion. A detour along a minor road allowed a stroll along an interesting rocky roadside. Some thirty Amur Falcons perched on wires. A stop here was remarkable for the incredible grasshopper diversity, in a few minutes we saw many different species.

Birds seen on the journey included Cape Vulture, Common Buzzard, Jackal Buzzard, Long-crested Eagle, and Blue Crane.

Late afternoon saw us reaching our fine guesthouse in Underberg, and we settled into the comfortable rooms, this year in a separate building, not the main house. Hadada Ibis fed on the lawns.

That evening I arranged taxis to take us to and from the restaurant in Himeville for an enjoyable dinner.

Day 4 Sunday 12th 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. The sky was clear and it was already hot. The guesthouse was happy for us to leave most of our luggage until our return, taking with us only the essentials for an overnight stay. In fact this year we could even keep our rooms, leaving our belongings compact just in case the rooms were needed at the last minute. Stuart was as always our driver and guide for the Sani trip, and told us much about the area over the next two days. Two vehicles were necessary, Stuarts' son Glenn driving the second.

Our first stop was to admire fine *Gladiolus dalenii* at a site we had not stopped at before. Here too was the first orchid of the day, *Corycium nigescens*, as well as *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*, *Silene undulata*, and *Lactuca inermis*.

Greater Striped Swallows perched, African Paradise Flycatcher was in the trees, and Black-headed Oriole sang. The orchid *Disperis lindleyana* was in flower in leaf litter under planted pines. Adjacent grassland had *Hypoxis argentea*, *Sopubia cana*, *Hermannia woodii*, and lovely *Cyperus sphaerocephalus*. The slender asclepiad *Sisyranthus virgatus* was a good find. Orchids continued with *Disa stachyodes*. Delalande's Sandvelt Lizard was found.

The tree fern *Cyathea dregei* was a feature of the grassland.

We made a series of stops as we ascended the pass. The many plants included *Geranium wakkerstroemianum*, *Helichrysum herbaceum*, *Dioscorea sylvatica*, *Asparagus cooperi*, *Aristea abyssinica*, and *Rubus ludwigii*. A cliff had *Sandersonia aurantiaca* in fine flower, the only place we would see it. *Hypoxis parvula albiflora* on a rock ledge was already over this year, as was *Scilla natalensis*, and *Haemanthus humilis* was in leaf. *Polygala hottentota* was in flower and *Diascia cordata* was attractive. Southern Rock Agama basked. Orchids continued with *Pterygodium hastatum*, *Disa brevicornis*, *Satyrium neglectum*, and *Eulophia zeyheriana*.

Proteas were a feature with *Protea caffra*, *Protea subvestita*, *Protea roupelliae*, and *Protea dracomontana* all in flower. *Helichrysum rugulosum* and *Helichrysum confertum* continued that speciose genus. Here too were *Gunnera perpensa*, *Athrixia angustissima*, *Jamesbrittenia breviflora*, *Lotononis lotononoides*, *Watsonia lepida*, *Polygala gracilentia*, and *Lotononis galpinii*.

I remembered the site at which we'd found *Disa saxicola* some years ago and was very pleased to soon spot it there again today. Stuart and Glenn made their way down to it to take photos for the group. White flowered *Rhodohypoxis baurii* was here too, and *Agapanthus campanulatus* and *Xerophyta viscosa* were in flower.

We reached the South African border post where departure formalities were as usual straightforward. Plants continued with *Geranium pulchrum*, *Diascia integerrima*, *Felicia filifolia*, and *Clematis brachiata*. At the next stop a roadside cutting had *Bupleurum mundii*, *Asparagus asparagoides*, *Euryops tysonii*, *Myosotis semiamplexicaulis*, and *Asparagus ramosissimus*. Common birds included Cape Sparrow, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Cape Robin Chat, and Yellow Bishop. Two Ground Woodpeckers were seen and Malachite Sunbird was admired.

New plants kept coming, with *Sutera floribunda*, *Wahlenbergia cuspidata*, *Jamesbrittenia pristisepala*, *Indigofera dimidiata*, *Artemisia afra*, *Helichrysum trilineatum*, *Lotononis sericophylla*, *Hermannia malvifolia*, *Pentzia cooperi*, the orchid *Disa cephalotes*, and the pineapple lilies *Eucomis bicolor* and *Eucomis schiffi*.

Glumicalyx goseloides represented this endemic genus, and we would see five of its six species on the tour. A streamside stop had fine *Helichrysum montanum*, *Cyrtanthus epiphyticus* in fine flower, *Polygala ohlendoriana*, *Trifolium burchellianum*, *Lotononis galpinii*, and *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*. *Cliffortia nitidula pilosa* was locally dominant, and *Leucosidea sericea* formed scrub typical of the altitude. Chacma Baboons were much in evidence, Sentinel Rock Thrush was seen, and Cape Vulture was in the air. Larvae of African Monarch was found on an asclepiad, and Grassland Sylph was on the wing.

Plants continued with *Nemesia caerulea*, *Delosperma lavisiae*, *Dichilus reflexus*, *Trachyandra asperata*, and *Crassula dependens*.

There were fine views from the lunch site, where a superb picnic was provided by Stuart. *Dierama dracomontanum* was in numerous flower on the slopes here. In flower too were *Stachys kuntzei*, *Lotononis laxa*, *Cysticapnos pruinosa*, *Lessertia perennans*, *Lithospermum papillosum*, *Cerastium arabidis*, *Corycium dracomontanum*, and *Cycnium racemosum*.

Superb *Harveya pulchra* prompted another stop. Mountain Striped Skink and Drakensberg Crag Lizard were active on rocks.

Euryops evansii became a feature, and *Holothrix incurva* was in fine flower. *Glumicalyx nutans* was the second species of the genus, and there was *Geranium multisectum*.

The variety continued with *Hebenstretia cooperi* and *Hebenstretia dura*, *Wahlenbergia krebsii*, *Euphorbia epicyparissias*, *Sutherlandia montana*, and *Papaver aculeatum*.

There was a great diversity of *Helichrysum*, and species not already mentioned were *Helichrysum acutatum*, *Helichrysum auriceps*, and *Helichrysum krookii*. *Senecio* also featured, with weedy *Senecio inaequidens*, pink flowered *Senecio macrocephalus*, large yellow-flowered *Senecio macrospermus*, and the dwarf shrub *Senecio seminiveus*.

Orchids continued with *Disa stricta*, and superb *Disa crassicornis*. *Gladiolus longicollis* was new for the tour. *Dianthus basuticus* was seen and *Kniphofia ritualis* was in flower. Machacha Brown flew over the grassy slopes.

Male Drakensberg Rock Jumper was a highlight as was the endemic Bush Blackcap. Rock Hyraxes cavorted on the rocks.

Reaching the Lesotho border post the road became instantly excellent, fully paved in Lesotho, the road we had been driving up all morning being famously a challenge and still very rough, although this is being steadily 'improved', which will surely have an effect on the flora. As usual here were close views of Sloggett's Ice Rats, a fascinating mammal. *Limosella vesiculosa* and *Limosella longiflora* flowered in wet flushes and a great find was the small *Rhodohypoxis deflexa*.

We checked in to the characterful hotel at Sani Top. What an amazing location.

After a short break we drove further into Lesotho. Mountain Wheatear was near the hotel, and Black Stork on the grasslands.

Near the highest point we set out on foot, meeting two herdsmen on their horses. *Helichrysum milfordiae*, *Helichrysum flanaganii*, *Helichrysum trilineatum*, *Helichrysum albo-brunneum*, and

Helichrysum pagophyllum continued this speciose genus, these higher altitude species especially attractive. Here too were *Senecio gramineus*, *Selago galpinii*, *Geranium multisectum* again, *Cotula socialis*, *Lotononis galpinii*, and *Aster erucifolius*. *Gladiolus longicollis* was seen again. We had great views of soaring Lammergeier.

Another stop had fine *Androcymbium striatum*, *Sutera patriotica*, and *Cotyledon orbiculata*.

Back at Sani Top we enjoyed a good dinner and good wine in the 'highest pub in Africa'. Several moths were attracted to the lodge lights.

Day 5 Monday 13th January

Sani Pass, Himeville

We awoke to the beautiful scenery of Sani Top. There was much bird activity around the lodge, with Red-winged Starlings, fine Malachite Sunbirds on the *Kniphofia caulescens*, prominent around the rooms. Speckled Pigeons, Drakensberg Siskins, African Stonechat, and Cape Sparrow were all here, and Sloggett's Ice Rats were just outside our rooms. Drakensberg Rockjumper was again a highlight, seen very closely and Grey-winged Francolin was seen.

An alien *Myosotis* flowered in the short turf. We explored the rock sheets near the hotel where vast numbers of *Rhodohypoxis baurii* were in flower. Mats of *Lobelia galpinii* were in attractive bloom, and there was the related *Wahlenbergia polytrichifolia dracomontana*, although this was not in flower this year. Also here were *Eumorphia sericea*, *Trifolium burchellianum*, *Ranunculus multifidus*, and *Senecio gramineus*.

The variety continued with *Selago galpinii*, *Helichrysum milfordiae*, *Helichrysum bellum*, *Helichrysum marginatum*, and *Euphorbia clavarioides*. New for the tour two years ago had been *Albuca humilis* and *Rhodohypoxis rubella*, the latter subtly distinctive among the numerous *R.baurii*, but we did not see either of these this year or last. *Craterocapsa congesta*, *Scabiosa columbaria*, *Arctotis arctotoides*, and *Geranium multisectum* continued the variety. *Glumicalyx lesuticus* was a highlight, the third species of this endemic genus, and many were found. The satyrid Gaika Brown flew over the rock sheets.

After breakfast (slow but good) we checked out of our characterful rondavel rooms and again drove further into Lesotho. The endemic Southern Bald Ibis was on the open terrain, giving its name to the nearby town. Mountain Wheatear was seen again. A site with wet flushes had *Cotula paludosa*, *Felicia uliginosa*, *Felicia linearis*, *Helichrysum tenuifolium*, *Berkheya multijuga*, *Senecio polyodon*, *Limosella vesiculosa*, *Gnaphthium limicola*, and *Ranunculus meyeri*. Turning our attention to amphibians we made three great finds, the characterful Maluti River Frog, Drakensberg River Frog, and Clawed Toad all in the streamlets.

Birds continued with Mountain Pipit, Sickie-winged Chat, and Large-billed Lark.

A rocky slope had *Gazania krebsiana*, *Diascia barberae*, *Sutera patriotica*, *Selago galpinii*, impressive *Euphorbia clavarioides*, *Dierama robustum*, and pink *Romulea thodei*.

At another site were many *Massonia echinata*, all in fruit, and we again saw the 'pyjama flower' *Androcymbium striatum*. Here I had found one of the highlights of the tour two years ago. We'd been talking about the night flowering moth pollinated *Zaluzianskya rubrostellata*. Difficult to find, it usually involves a night search with a torch. But looking carefully at the sparse vegetation here, it suddenly struck me that I was looking at the distinctly closed flowers of this fine species. I carefully

opened one flower and called everyone to look. Stuart and Mondli were especially impressed as they knew how hard this plant is to find. In the end we found a total of four. Last year we were delighted to again find this special plant, with several found, and it was the same this year, there were several here.

Southern Bald Ibis were on the extensive grasslands.

A species of *Alchemilla* was here, and *Limosella inflata* and *Aponogeton junceus* were in wet flushes.

Having stopped again at the Lesotho border post, back in South Africa we saw fine examples of two species of *Glumicalyx* again, *goseloides* and *nutans*, but also a new one, *Glumicalyx flanaganii*, of which were many. *Helichrysum sessiloides* and *Eragrostis curvula* were here too and Drakensberg Siskin was seen again.

Making our way slowly down from the pass we made a series of stops, seeing amongst many things *Dianthus basuticus*, *Cynoglossum austro-africanum*, the very local endemic *Macowania hamata* in flower, *Anisodonteia julii*, *Heteromorpha arborescens*, and *Geranium schlechteri*. In the mist we could not see *Gladiolus flanaganii* flowering on the cliffs, so Stuart walked across to it to take photos for the group. *Senecio heliopsis* was new for the list, and *Holothrix incurva*, *Senecio rhomboideus*, *Lotononis pulchella*, *Ajuga ophrydis* and *Euphorbia epicyparissias* were seen.

Barratt's Warbler sang and was located, I saw Vlei Rat as we drove, Yellow Warbler was seen closely, and Sweet Waxbills were admired. *Protea dracomontana* was in flower.

At the South African border post were two Red-chested Cuckoos, Southern Boubou, and several Garden Acraea larvae on *Kiggelaria africana*. Here we ate lunch in a shaded spot.

Having reached the agricultural country around Himeville we saw first two Blue Cranes with two young, then Grey-crowned Cranes, then two Wattled Cranes! The three South African cranes within a few minutes. One field had many Southern Bald Ibis. Red Bishop, Southern Anteater Chat, and Pin-tailed Whydah perched on fences.

A roadside had several orchids, with *Habenaria clavata* in fine form, *Eulophia ovalis*, *Satyrium cristatum*, and *Orthochilus foliosus*. The distinctive sedge *Cyperus sphaerocephalus* had striking golden yellow flowers. Also here were *Psammotropha mucronata*, *Helichrysum cephaloideum*, the unusual *Kohautia amatymbica*, a member of the Rubiaceae, and striking *Asclepias macropus*. Common Swifts were in the air.

A marsh had striking *Satyrium hallacki* in flower, and at another site was fine *Orthochilus welwitschii*. African Blue Pansy was on the wing.

In Himeville Nature Reserve were several Blesbok, with young, Scarlet Darter, and Reed Cormorant.

Heading to the last stop in Underberg our target was *Nerine appendiculata*, which was in fine flower along one trackside.

Back at the lodge we prepared for dinner.

Again taxis took us to and from a hotel in Himeville for dinner. Last year, during dinner here, had been a remarkable prolonged hail storm, with huge hail stones. On the drive home we had

encountered a fallen tree almost completely blocking the road, fortunately with just enough room to pass in the vehicle. We had been pleased to get back to the guest house!

No similar drama this evening we returned peacefully to the guest house.

Day 6 Tuesday 14th January

To Giant's Castle via Kamberg

Last year the immense storm had affected a large area and to have driven the already rough minor roads I'd intended to take, after such a storm, was not an option. So we took a long circuitous route instead, initially east to Howick, on good roads, north from there, and then on minor roads west. This year I again took this route. I later discovered that had we driven the other route, a very fast rushing stream on the southern border of Kamberg would have blocked our route, it would have been impossible to cross.

We still reached Kamberg, our main site this transfer day, with time to explore and eat lunch there. It was a varied, scenic, interesting, and sometimes rough drive, potholes quite a feature once we'd left the main roads!

We left Underberg after another excellent breakfast, the weather continuing fine. As on most of our journeys, Southern Red Bishops, Fan-tailed Widowbirds, Red-collared Widowbirds, and Long-tailed Widowbirds, all in breeding plumage, punctuated the drive.

In the Kamberg reserve, many impressive tall pink flowered *Dierama latifolium* bloomed in the extensive grassland and there were many fine *Brunsvigia undulata*. Here we also found *Monsonia attenuata*, *Disa versicolor*, *Habenaria laevigata*, *Polygala gracilentia*, *Erica woodii*, *Linum thunbergii*, and *Monopsis decipiens*. Black Wildebeest grazed, Ichneumon Mongoose ran across the road, and a lone Amur Falcon was seen.

A wet depression in arable fields had South African Shelduck, Spur-winged Goose, Egyptian Goose, and Yellow-billed Duck.

An interesting drive took us along little driven roads, sprawling isolated settlements, and finally the road that led to Giant's Castle, now in fine habitat. *Gomphocarpus fruticosus* was in impressive fruit.

We arrived late afternoon at Giant's Castle, in the central part of Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. We settled into the fine spacious rooms which afforded superb views. We had the place almost to ourselves, there being few other visitors, the same having been the case on our last visit too.

The gardens support a great variety of trees and shrubs including *Greyia sutherlandii*, *Dais cotinifolia*, *Melianthus villosus*, *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 grillatus*, *Crassula vaginata*, and *Geranium wakkerstroemianum*. Bush Blackcap and African Dusky Flycatcher were seen.

We enjoyed a welcome dinner in the restaurant.

Day 7 Wednesday 15th January

Giant's Castle

A fascinating and eventful day, the perfect weather still with us. After breakfast we set out on foot across the grasslands, towards afromontane forest where caves boast impressive San rock art. The

caves were actually closed this year following an extensive fire. One of the guides told me he had been guiding a cave tour when the fire approached, and they had had to make a quick retreat. Once repaired the caves will likely be open again for our next visit.

Around the lodge, Rainforest Brown flew at the forest edge, Common Dotted Border was on the wing, and Garden Acraea was attracted to *Dais cotinifolia*. The attractive *Schizoglossum atropurpureum* had very dark flowers, and *Protea caffra* was in bloom.

The walk took us across extensive open grassland, the river below us, and dramatic scenery all around. *Haplocarpha scaposa*, a composite with basal rosettes, was a feature. Among ferns were *Mohria vestita* and *Pleopeltis macrocarpa*. In flower were *Polygala gracilentia*, *Helichrysum acutatum*, *Oxalis depressa*, *Stachys aethiopica*, *Aristea woodii*, *Otholobium polystichum*, *Berkheya rhapontica*, *Afrotysonia glochidiata*, *Pelargonium luridum*, *Plectranthus calycinus*, and *Zaluzianskya microsiphon*. *Monopsis stellarioides* was a pleasing find, a species we've seen here only a few times.

Speckled Mousebird and Southern Boubou were seen and Gaudy Commodore and Water Geranium Bronze were on the wing. Other lycaenids were *Anthene definita*, *Anthene livida*, and *Cacyreus lineus*. We watched dung beetles rolling dung along the trail, and Small Grey Mongoose was seen.

The parasitic *Harveya speciosa* was impressive. New plants came thick and fast with *Diclis reptans*, *Lobelia vanreenensis*, *Passerina montana*, *Valeriana capensis*, *Rhoicissus tridentata*, *Argyrobium marginatum*, *Rhynchosia cooperi*, *Helichrysum rugulosum*, *Berkheya rhapontica*, *Selago monticola*, *Crassula vaginata*, and many *Moraea inclinata* on one slope. The tree *Bowkeria verticillata* was in flower. The moth *Syntomis kuhlweinii* was admired. The robust orchid *Pterygodium magnum*, *Buchnera simplex*, and *Gazania krebsiana* were seen.

Cape White-eyes moved through the trees, and Rainforest Brown flew at the forest edge. Yellow Warbler was seen.

The habitat changed dramatically as we reached the afro-montane 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. The orchid *Stenoglottis fimbriata* flowered on shady boulders, with *Peperomia retusa*, and *Albuca fastigiata* in attractive flower. Along the forest path were many fine *Streptocarpus gardenii*. *Pteris cretica* was among the ferns, *Stachys grandifolia* was common, and *Euclea crispa*, *Polygala confusa*, *Dioscorea rupicola*, *Diascia cordata*, and *Satureja reptans* continued the variety. Attractive *Xerophyta viscosa* was in flower. *Harveya speciosa*, the ink plant, was turning black. African Olive Pigeons flew over the canopy and Bush Blackcap was seen again.

In the forest plants continued with *Thalictrum rhynchocarpum*, *Leonotis dubia*, *Impatiens hochstetteri*, *Plectranthus grallatus*, and *Chlorophytum krookianum*. Parsley-tree, *Heteromorpha arborescens*, had distinctive peeling bark. Ferns continued with *Asplenium monanthes* and *Asplenium theciferum*.

Returning to open grassland we saw *Hermannia woodii*, *Vernonia hirsuta*, *Nemesia caerulea*, and *Zaluzianskya microsiphon*. From the streamside path we saw *Gomphostigma virgatum*. Near the river *Calpurnia sericea* became dominant, *Satureja compacta* was in flower, and *Polygala virgata* was seen. *Moraea brevistyla* was in fine flower. At the riverside bloomed the endemic *Phygeliu aequalis*, a pleasing find as we had not seen it here for a few years. Drakensberg Prinia and Long-tailed Blue were seen.

Cape Grassbird sang. The skipper *Spialia spio* settled on the track and the attractive Golden-tail Damsel was here. Near the lodge we found the prosaic *Prunella vulgaris* and the satyrid Bush Beauty or Forest Beauty, *Paralethe dendrophilus*, was admired. African Olive Pigeons moved noisily through the trees and we again saw them well.

We enjoyed a welcome lunch, arriving back at the lodge at 1 pm on the dot. What timing! There followed that rare thing, a free afternoon allowing for walks around the lodge, catching up with notes, or simply relaxing in this beautiful location.

This also allowed us to meet early evening before dinner to catch up completely with the checklists. A meeting room next to the dining room is an ideal place to do checklists.

Day 8 Thursday 16th January

Spionkop, to Golden Gate

Having loaded the vehicle we left Giant's Castle in very fine weather. A pleasant varied drive as we again took minor roads. We soon made an impromptu stop for *Brunsvigia radulosa* in fine flower.

Low cliffs had fine *Galtonia candicans* in flower, and in wet flushes was *Hesperantha coccinea*. After some time driving quiet roads, reaching more and more habitation as we went, we joined the N3 and made a service station stop. Back on the road we turned towards the town of Winterton, and there I shopped for lunch supplies.

Amur Falcons were on the wires but there were considerably fewer than in the recent past. Terrible culling of vast numbers in Naga, especially, has greatly reduced the numbers reaching southern Africa. Even twelve years ago when we first led this tour, their numbers here were quite a phenomenon. Their fascinating migration from Central Asia follows the Indian Ocean crossing of the dragonfly Globe Skimmer.

Also along this road were Black-winged Kites and numerous Yellow-billed Kites.

Spionkop Dam Nature Reserve was ideally situated for us to break the journey in the middle of the day. Above the reservoir rises Spion Kop, the site of a famous battle in 1890.

As I paid the entrance fees Red-billed Queleas were active in the grass.

A track took us through savannah grassland, the drive punctuated by mammal sightings, with Burchell's Zebra, Blesbok, Impala, Kudu, and Red Hartebeest all here today. Few other visitors here, the track had not been driven for a while, and we regularly had to stop and break the spiny acacia branches to allow us to continue without scratching the vehicle. Warthog was seen and a great bonus was four graceful Giraffes, seen closely.

Always a productive birding site, we saw Helmeted Guineafowl, Zitting Cisticola, Hamerkop, Diederik Cuckoo, Red-backed Shrike, Fork-tailed Drongo, and Familiar Chat. Rufous-naped Lark sang from atop trees. Yellow Mongoose ran across the veld, and Yellow Pansy was on the wing. There were several large orthopterans here, and we managed to catch up with one for a closer look.

A wet section of the road had many mud puddling blues, *Anthene amarah*, *Azanus jesous*, *Azanus moriqua*, and *Zizula hylax*, and African Joker and Spotted Joker were both seen. The skipper Marbled Elf was a good find. Caper Whites were a feature of the habitat, and we saw one or more of *Belenois*

aurota, *Belenois zochalia*, and *Belenois gidica* at several sites during the tour. Two species of dung beetle worked the herbivore dung.

Attractive *Chironia purpurascens* was in flower, and we saw *Leucas martinicensis*, and white rather than mauve flowered *Blepharis obtusisepala*.

At our picnic site near the lake, Blesbok was seen closely, and Great Crested Grebe was on the lake.

Back on the road, we left KZN, and, now in Free State, we stopped to stretch our legs at Sterkfontein Dam, seeing more Burchell's Zebras and Blesbok.

Mid afternoon saw us arriving 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 yet more Blesbok and Burchell's Zebra grazed, and we saw Black Wildebeest.

Having checked into our comfortable lodge, there was time for a late afternoon stroll in the fine habitat all around us.

Day 9 Friday 17th January

Golden Gate National Park

A superb day was spent in Golden Gate National Park.

Red Hartebeest grazed near the hotel and Ground Woodpecker was seen as we drove out.

The morning saw us driving a circuitous road that took us to quiet parts of the park away from the main road (that also quiet though) that traverses it. At the first stop were *Aristea abyssinica*, *Selago albida* with chafers, a species of *Oenothera*, and beetles in a culvert.

In marshy grassland were fine *Gladiolus papilio*, as well as *Epilobium capense*, *Oenothera tetraptera*, *Pelargonium luridum*, *Rumex woodii*, and fine yellow *Cyperus sphaerocephalus*. White-throated Swallow and Zitting Cisticola were here. Among the butterflies were Pirate, African Clouded Yellow, Yellow Pansies, and Painted Lady.

By a small dam Yellow-billed Duck was on the water, Reed Cormorant in fringing vegetation, and *Zaluzianskya microsiphon* in flower.

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 territories. Blesbok featured too. Meadow White was on the wing.

In the vast empty landscape a surprise was the arrival of a large group of people, travelling in a series of ten similar vehicles, and they initially followed us from stop to stop, but once they'd moved on we again had the extensive landscape to ourselves.

Taking a hillside trail, the wind strong today, we found *Helichrysum chionosphaerum*, *Helichrysum herbaceum*, *Felicia muricata*, *Pellaea calomelanos*, *Haplocarpha scaposa*, *Cotyledon orbiculata*, *Cynoglossum austro-africanum*, *Striga bilabiata*, and *Delosperma hirtum*. *Gladiolus crassifolius* was a highlight. The satyrid False Silver-bottom Brown was on the wing and a red-winged grasshopper was seen. *Xerophyta viscosa* was in flower.

Among butterflies were the endemic lycaenids *Aloeides rileyi*, *Aloeides maluti*, and *Lepidochrysops variabilis*, Wichgraf's Hillside Brown, and *Spialia ferax*.

Cape Vulture, African Harrier Hawk, and Lanner Falcon were seen today.

Dierama cooperi was in attractive bloom and we saw *Jamesbrittenia pristisepala*, *Selago immersa*, *Helichrysum spiralepis*, and a pink flowered *Heliophila*.

Levaillant's Cisticola sang. A short walk from the cabins, shop, and filling station complex yielded the only *Phygeliu capensis* of the tour at a reliable site for this special endemic.

We returned to the hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon a different circuitous drive saw us again making several short stops. An attractive species of *Alepidea*, *Ajuga ophridis*, *Disa versicolor*, *Polygala amatymbica*, and *Pelargonium alchemilloides* were here. *Drosera burkeana* rosettes were identified.

A large green tinged antlion was a good find. Cliffs had *Xerophyta viscosa*, white flowered *Streptocarpus pusillus*, and *Dianthus basuticus*.

An unusual composite, gone over, but with distinctive leathery greyish clasping leaves, was *Aster perfoliatus*. Some thirty Black Wildebeest grazed on the slopes above.

We walked to a hide where food is put out to attract vultures, no bait today however. *Gladiolus permeabilis* was a great find in the grassland here. Several other visitors here today, keeping quiet, a bonus was a Black-backed Jackal approaching the hide. Greater Striped Swallows flew low over the grassland and Blesbok was again seen closely. Four Grey Rhebok was the last thing of note.

We enjoyed another good dinner in the hotel.

Day 10 Saturday 18th January Golden Gate, Clarens, to Witsieshoek

Black-throated Canary was seen before breakfast.

After breakfast we walked a circuit from the hotel, the weather again fine. The trail took us across the grassland, to a series of caves under the cliffs, from where we took a series of ladders, up and down, quite an adventure. Bokmakierie was seen, and Red-eyed Bulbuls fed on berries. Plants began with *Commelina africana*, *Pelargonium luridum*, and *Helichrysum tenax*. Rock Martins were in the air. Garden Acraea nectared on *Agapanthus*, Pirate landed on the path, and Meadow White was on the wing. The fern *Pleopeltis polypodioides ecklonii* grew in the shade of the cliffs. The deep purple flowered *Pelargonium sidoides* was a good addition to the list.

Two Ground Woodpeckers were seen closely. Plants continued with *Gladiolus papilio*, *Monopsis decipiens*, *Sutera floribunda*, *Lithospermum spelaum*, and a white flowered *Manulea*. A snake was seen all too briefly. The deep purple flowered *Pelargonium sidoides* was a good addition to the list. Cape Rock Thrush was seen. Back at the hotel Table Mountain Beauty was seen very closely.

Having loaded the vehicle, I drove us west, to the western boundary of the park, and thence to the characterful and attractive town of Clarens, in the shadow of Titanic Rock. There we visited the

bookshop, making some purchases, and enjoyed a good lunch in the garden of the adjacent restaurant, all very pleasant. The beautiful town centre was very busy with weekend visitors, but just a block or two away from the main square, here we got away from the crowds.

We then headed east, again through Golden Gate, and then reached the bustling sprawling settlement of Phuthaditjhaba. South of there we climbed slowly, and eventually reached fine habitat and the beautifully situated lodge at Witsieshoek, where the rooms afford fine views of the Sentinel.

Having checked in there followed a short break before meeting again for a walk across the fine grasslands, full of flowers. This was one of the floral highlights of the tour, on a tour full of such displays!

Things began with *Lotononis lotononoides*, *Lotononis eriantha*, perfect *Kniphofia porphyrantha*, *Zaluzianskya microsiphon*, *Cephalaria oblongifolia*, and *Dimorphotheca jucunda*. *Moraea brevistyla* was admired, and we saw *Ornithogalum graminifolium*, *Craterocapsa tarsodes*, *Helichrysum ecklonis*, and a spiked species of *Alepidea*. Among orchids were *Corycium nigrescens*, *Satyrium longicauda*, robust *Satyrium parviflorum*, and *Disa stachyodes*. There were impressive numbers of *Eucomis bicolor* and *Eucomis autumnalis*. The variety continued with *Sopubia cana*, *Afrotysonia glochidiata*, *Bupleurum mundii*, *Silene burchellii*, *Berkheya rhapontica*, *Berkheya cirsiifolia*, *Polygala ohlendorffiana*, and *Crassula setulosa*. Asclepiads were well represented by the distinctive *Pachycarpus campanulatus*, *Xysmolobium stockenstroemense*, *Xysmolobium involucreatum*, and *Aspidonepsis diploglossa*. We found *Gladiolus crassifolius* again, and *Gladiolus dalenii*. An amazing floral show.

Meadow White was found perched. Lanner had been seen today too.

Dinner was enjoyed at the lodge and we reflected on another remarkable day.

Day 11 Sunday 19th January

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 to it in one of the lodge vehicles. In the past we've driven to the upper car park in our own vehicles, but the track has become very rutted and uneven, driving ourselves is now impossible, and has been for many years. Having to wait for other passengers, and the driver himself to be ready, we set off 15 minutes late, but arrived at the top of the road on schedule! Mountain Pride landed on the track, and many of this impressive butterfly were seen today. Many *Cynium racemosum*, and *Berkheya rosulata*, were among the many flowers seen from the vehicle.

Setting out on foot we enjoyed a superbly productive walk. Immediately we were seeing *Kniphofia thodei*, *Crocasmia pearsii*, *Schizochilus angustifolius*, *Lobelia preslii*, *Sebaea thomasi*, *Hirpicium armerioides*, *Geranium magniflorum*, fine *Xerophyta viscosa*, and more *Cynium racemosum*. *Glumicalyx montanus* was the fifth species of the endemic genus we saw on the tour (the only species we did not see occurs in the Eastern Cape). Plants continued with *Crassula setulosa*, *Indigofera dimidiata*, more *Berkheya rosulata*, and beautiful *Dimorphotheca jucunda* in flower. Drakensberg Crag Lizards were numerous and active in the sunshine. Very close African Black Swifts sped past.

The genus *Helichrysum* really featured here, with many species, among them *Helichrysum krookii*, *Helichrysum marginatum*, *Helichrysum chionosphaerum*, *Helichrysum dasycephalum*, *Helichrysum*

monticola, *Helichrysum glomeratum*, *Helichrysum herbaceum*, and *Helichrysum spiralepis*. Indeed we saw some forty species of the genus during the tour.

Plants continued with *Wahlenbergia cuspidata*, a branched *Alepidea*, *Heliophila formosa*, *Cotula hispida*, *Dierama dracomontanum*, *Jamesbrittenia pristisepala*, *Bulbine favosa*, and *Ranunculus baurii* was in flower. Ground Woodpecker was again seen, rather a regular species on the tour.

A pleasing find was the fern *Woodsia burgesiana* and there was fine *Romulea thodei*. Many *Galtonia regalis* flowered on a cliff, very robust *Urginea macrocentra*, poison snake head, was in flower and fruit, and *Eucomis bicolor* and *Eucomis humilis* were in bloom. A highlight was the asclepiad *Schizoglossum montanum*, new for the tour, several in flower, a superb find. *Moraea alpina* was another fine find, as was *Wurmbea elatior*.

Black Harrier soared over the slopes. Among the butterflies were Eastern Hillside Brown, False Silver-bottom Brown, Cape Black-eye, Gaudy Commodore, Grassland Sylph, and Dismal Sylph. *Papilio nireus* was a surprise at this altitude.

At the furthest point of our walk the reward is usually a superb show of many flowering *Nerine bowdenii*, but they were already over this year. The diminutive white flowered monocot *Litanthus pusillus* was another great find as was *Alepidea amatymbica*.

Rock Hyrax scampered on boulders. The amazing floral variety continued with *Lobelia flaccida*, *Aristea woodii*, *Hesperantha baurii*, *Athrixia fontana*, *Berkheya multijuga*, *Bupleurum mundii*, *Rabdosiella calycinus*, *Polygala rhinostigma*. The genus *Lotononis* was very well represented with *Lotononis eriantha*, *Lotononis lotonoides*, *Lotononis pulchella*, and *Lotononis pulchra*.

Yet another highlight was the very unusual *Guthreia capensis* in flower. Last year I had first spotted its distinctive leaves, recognising them from the photo in 'Mountain Flowers'. I climbed up to the plant, and below the leaves found the hidden flowers. A superb addition to the list of this very special endemic, it was again in hidden flower this year.

Having returned to the car park we waited for our transport after a superb morning. Several others were waiting too but we managed to get in the first vehicle!

Lunch was at the hotel. In the afternoon we explored further on foot. Notable things seen were *Habenaria dives*, *Alchemilla woodii*, *Xysmalobium stockenstromense*, and the robust orchid *Pterygodium magnum* in leaf and bud. Also seen at Witsieshoek were *Cephalaria galpiniana simplicior*, *Brunsvigia natalensis*, *Chlorophytum cooperi*, *Aloe boylei*, *Leonotis intermedia*, and *Erica aestiva*.

I had paid one of the hotel staff to wash the vehicle whilst we were in the field, in preparation for returning it tomorrow.

At dinner we reflected on an extremely productive and enjoyable tour.

Day 12 Monday 20th January

To Johannesburg, Departure

There was time for packing, or to take 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 to Harrismith where we joined the N3 and motored all the way

north. A service station stop had Southern Masked Weavers and Yellow Mongoose and Cape Starling was seen.

Aloe greatheadii var. *davyana* was in flower in the savanna. Glossy Ibis was seen as we approached the city.

We arrived at Johannesburg airport in good time. Our flight was on time and we arrived at Heathrow the following morning, there saying our fond farewells.

Drakensberg Systematic Lists 2025

Compiled by Paul Cardy

The Itinerary

8th January. Departure London.

Day 1. 9th January. Arrival Durban. To Port Edward.

Day 2. 10th January. Port Edward. Red Desert.

Day 3. 11th January. Umtamvuna. To Underberg.

Day 4. 12th January. Sani. Lesotho.

Day 5. 13th January. Lesotho. Sani. Himeville. Underberg.

Day 6. 14th January. Howick, Rosetta, Kamberg, Giant's Castle.

Day 7. 15th January. Giant's Castle. 'Cave' and River Walk.

Day 8. 16th January. Giant's Castle. Spionkop. Golden Gate National Park.

Day 9. 17th January. Golden Gate National Park.

Day 10. 18th January. Golden Gate. Clarens. Witsieshoek.

Day 11. 19th January. Witsieshoek.

Day 12. 20th January. Witsieshoek. Harrismith. To Johannesburg. Departure.

21st January. Arrival London.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

Many books were used in the field, and later in compiling the list. The three books useful above all others are ‘Mountain Flowers’ by Elsa Pooley, 2003; ‘A Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Kwazulu-Natal’ by Elsa Pooley, 2nd impression 2005; and ‘Trees of Eastern South Africa. A Complete Guide’ by Richard Boon, Second Edition 2012. ‘Plants of the Free State, inventory and identification guide’ by E.Retief and N.L.Meyer, Sanbi 2017, Strelitzia 38, is the excellent flora of the province.

Many monographs were also used, such as ‘Gladiolus in Southern Africa’ by Goldblatt and Manning, and ‘The Moraeas of Southern Africa’ by Goldblatt. Others are listed at the relevant point in this systematic list.

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.

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 2025. 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

<i>Mohria nudiuscula</i>	Scattered records.
<i>Mohria rigida</i>	Sani, Giant’s Castle, Witsieshoek.
<i>Mohria vestita</i>	Giant’s Castle.

Aspleniaceae

<i>Asplenium aethiopicum</i>	African Spleenwort. Giant’s Castle, Sani.
<i>Asplenium monanthes</i>	Giant’s Castle.
<i>Asplenium splendens drakensbergense</i>	Sani.
<i>Asplenium stoloniferum</i>	Giant’s Castle, forest floor.
<i>Asplenium theciferum</i>	Giant’s Castle.
<i>Asplenium trichomanes ssp.quadrivalens</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort. Witsieshoek, Giant’s Castle.

Blechnaceae

<i>Blechnum punctulatum</i>	Skyline Nature Reserve (PGC) 2025.
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Cyathaceae

<i>Cyathea dregei</i>	Common Tree Fern. Sani and Giant’s Castle.
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Dennstaedtiaceae

<i>Pteridium aquilinum ssp.capense</i>	Bracken. Widespread and common.
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Dryopteridaceae

<i>Dryopteris athamantica</i>	Giant’s Castle.
<i>Dryopteris pentheri</i>	Giant’s Castle etc.
<i>Polystichum monticola</i>	Golden Gate.

Elaphoglossaceae

<i>Elaphoglossum acrostichoides</i>	Umtamvuna.
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Gleicheniaceae

<i>Gleichenia polypodioides</i>	Umtamvuna.
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Lycopodiaceae

<i>Lycopodiella cernua</i>	Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Giant’s Castle.

Nephrolepidaceae <i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	Naturalised in the Port Edward area.
Osmundaceae <i>Todea barbara</i>	Umtamvuna.
Polypodiaceae <i>Pleopeltis macrocarpa</i> <i>Pleopeltis polypodioides</i> ssp. <i>ecklonii</i>	Scaly Lance-fern. Giant's Castle. Golden Gate and Witsieshoek.
Pteridaceae <i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> <i>Adiantum poiretii</i> <i>Cheilanthes eckloniana</i> <i>Cheilanthes hirta</i> <i>Cheilanthes quadripinnata</i> <i>Cheilanthes viridis viridis</i> <i>Cheilanthes viridis glauca</i> <i>Pellaea calomelanos</i>	Maidenhair Fern. Golden Gate 2019. Fine Maidenhair Fern. Giant's Castle forest, locally common. Resurrection Fern. Sani, Golden Gate, Witsieshoek. Giant's Castle. Four-pinnate Lip-fern. Sani, Lesotho, Giant's Castle, Witsieshoek. Scattered records. Widespread, variable. Blue Rock Fern. Umtamvuna, Spionkop, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, Sani, and Witsieshoek. Avery Fern. Giant's Castle, 2018. Skyline NR (PGC) 2025.
<i>Pteris cretica</i>	
Schizaeaceae <i>Schizaea pectinata</i>	Port Edward area, 2023.
Selaginellaceae <i>Selaginella dregei</i> <i>Selaginella mittenii</i> <i>Selaginella nubigena</i>	Grey, mat-forming, and moss-like. Umtamvuna, locally very common. Umtamvuna. Fish-scale Clubmoss. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.
Thelypteridaceae <i>Cyclosorus interruptus</i> <i>Thelypteris confluent</i>	Marshes near Port Edward. Marshy grassland near the river at Giant's Castle, new in 2025.
Woodsiaceae <i>Cystopteris fragilis</i> <i>Woodsia burgessiana</i>	Sani. Witsieshoek.

Gymnosperms

Cupressaceae <i>Widdringtonia nodiflora</i>	Mountain Cypress. Giant's Castle, locally dominant on one slope.
Pinaceae <i>Pinus elliottii</i> <i>Pinus patula</i>	Slash Pine.
Podocarpaceae <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> <i>Podocarpus latifolius</i>	Small-leaved Yellowwood. Umtamvuna. Broad-leaved Yellowwood. Giant's Castle, Sani.
Stangeriaceae <i>Stangeria eriopus</i>	Stangeria. Port Edward.
Zamiaceae <i>Encephalartos ghellinckii</i>	Drakensberg Cycad. Port Edward.

Angiosperms Palaeodicotyledons

Lauraceae	
<i>Cassytha pondoensis</i>	Port Edward, Red Desert.
<i>Cryptocarya latifolia</i>	Broad-leaf Wild-quince.
<i>Cryptocarya wyliei</i>	Red Wild-quince. Red Desert.
Piperaceae	
<i>Peperomia retusa</i>	Flowers in thread-like terminal spikes. On boulders at Giant's Castle.
Monocotyledons	
Agapanthaceae	
<i>Agapanthus campanulatus</i>	Bell Agapanthus. Widespread.
Alliaceae	
<i>Tulbaghia acutiloba</i>	Wild Garlic. Green flowers, corona orange-brown. Umtamvuna and Port Edward in flower.
Amaryllidaceae	
'The Amaryllidaceae of Southern Africa' by Duncan, Jeppe, and Voigt, Umdaus Press, is the standard work. A superb more portable version 'Field Guide to the Amaryllis Family of Southern Africa and Surrounding Territories' was published in 2020 by Galley Press.	
<i>Boophone disticha</i>	Fan-leaved Boophone. Fans of leaves, Free State.
<i>Brunsvigia grandiflora</i>	Giant Candelabra Flower. Strap shaped erect leaves. Port Edward, in flower 2019, gone over in 2023.
<i>Brunsvigia natalensis</i>	Natal Candelabra Flower. Still just in flower at Witsieshoek.
<i>Brunsvigia radulosa</i>	Thick leaves flattened on the ground. In flower near Giant's Castle, and towards the N3.
<i>Brunsvigia undulata</i>	Leaf margins wavy. In fine flower at Kamberg.
<i>Clivia gardenii</i>	In leaf Port Edward.
<i>Cyrtanthus epiphyticus</i>	Hanging Cyrtanthus. Sani, in flower, although only from a distance this year.
<i>Cyrtanthus flanaganii</i>	In fine flower at Witsieshoek, 2023 and 2024.
<i>Haemanthus humilis hirsutus</i>	In leaf at Sani.
<i>Nerine appendiculata</i>	Leaves deeply channelled. 10-20 flowers. Stamens with conspicuous white appendages at base. In fine flower at Underberg.
<i>Nerine bowdenii</i>	Large Pink Nerine. Witsieshoek cliffs, not in flower this year.
<i>Scadoxus puniceus</i>	In fruit in Giant's Castle forest.
Anthericaceae	
<i>Chlorophytum</i> has linear leaves in a basal rosette. Pedicels jointed. Capsule prominently three angled.	
<i>Chlorophytum acutum</i>	Giant's Castle 2023.
<i>Chlorophytum cooperi</i>	Witsieshoek.
<i>Chlorophytum krookianum</i>	Giant Chlorophytum. Up to 2m tall. White flowers. Giant's Castle, Umuamvuna, <i>Galtonia candicans</i> site.
<i>Chlorophytum modestum</i>	Small Chlorophytum. In shade at Skyline NR (PGC), 2025.
Aponogetonaceae	
<i>Aponogeton junceus</i>	Lesotho, 2024.
Araceae	
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Calla Lily. Evergreen. Widespread.
<i>Zantedeschia albomaculata</i>	Arrow-leaved Arum. Deciduous. Leaves arrow-shaped with or without white spots. Scattered records. In flower Giant's Castle.
Arecaceae	
<i>Hyphaene coriacea</i>	Lala Palm. Red Desert.
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	Wild Date Palm.

<i>Asparagaceae</i>	
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Cladodes ovate. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Asparagus cooperi</i>	Cladodes threadlike. Sani.
<i>Asparagus microraphis</i>	Cladodes small, cylindrical, in dense clusters. Sani.
<i>Asparagus ramosissimus</i>	Cladodes in threes, flat above, keeled below. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Asparagus setaceus</i>	Cladodes in round clusters, soft and shiny. Umtamvuna.
<i>Asparagus sprengeri</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Asparagus</i> spp.	Others unidentified.
<i>Asphodelaceae</i>	
<i>Aloe arborescens</i>	Port Edward area.
<i>Aloe barberae</i>	Eastern Tree Aloe. Umtamvuna.
<i>Aloe boylei</i>	Broad leaves. In flower at Witsieshoek.
<i>Aloe greatheadii</i> var. <i>davyana</i>	Robust. Seen from the vehicle from the M3 near Johannesburg.
<i>Aloe maculata</i>	Common Soap Aloe. Scattered in leaf, e.g. Port Edward.
<i>Aloe</i> sp.	Umtamvuna.
<i>Bulbine</i> are usually yellow flowered, with densely bearded filaments. Fleshy basal leaves.	
<i>Bulbine abyssinica</i>	Witsieshoek.
<i>Bulbine asphodeloides</i>	Spreading Bulbine. Port Edward.
<i>Bulbine favosa</i>	Pale yellow flowers. Golden Gate.
<i>Bulbine narcissifolia</i>	Strap-leaved Bulbine. Leaves flat, hard, grey-green. Lesotho 2019.
<i>Bulbine</i> sp.nov.	Umtamvuna.
<i>Bulbine</i> sp.	Lesotho 2024.
<i>Caesia contorta</i>	Blue flowers. Umtamvuna, several in flower.
<i>Kniphofia caulescens</i>	Lesotho Red-hot Poker. Robust. Leaves 25 to 50mm wide, glaucous, fleshy, v-shaped, margins finely toothed. Stamens protruding. Numerous in Lesotho.
<i>Kniphofia evansii</i>	Evan's Poker. Grasslike leaves, orange to red flowers spreading to hanging. Golden Gate, small examples. 2019.
<i>Kniphofia fluviatilis</i>	River Poker. Probably this at Witsieshoek.
<i>Kniphofia ichopenensis</i>	Ixopo Red-hot Poker. Robust. Flowers cream, yellow-green, to salmon-pink. Sani 2019.
<i>Kniphofia laxiflora</i>	Slender Poker. Up to 1m. Leaves 6-10mm wide. Inflorescence elongate. Very variable. Sani 2024.
<i>Kniphofia linearifolia</i>	Common Marsh Poker. Robust, leaves 12-28mm wide, yellow-green, inflorescence large. Marshes at Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Kniphofia porphyrantha</i>	Dwarf Red-hot Poker. Bi-coloured inflorescence. Witsieshoek.
<i>Kniphofia ritualis</i>	Solitary. Leaves soft and deeply keeled. Flowers greenish-yellow. Sani.
<i>Kniphofia thodei</i>	Thode's Poker. Solitary. Leaves narrow, blue-green. Witsieshoek.
<i>Kniphofia triangularis</i>	Mandarin Poker. Leaves grasslike. Witsieshoek and Golden Gate.
<i>Kniphofia</i> sp.	Roadsides between Howick and Rosetta, 2025.
<i>Trachyandra asperata</i>	Port Edward and Sani.
<i>Trachyandra saltii</i>	Golden Gate.
<i>Cannaceae</i>	
<i>Canna indica</i>	Roadsides.
<i>Colchicaceae</i>	
<i>Androcymbium</i> have petal like floral bracts that enclose the small flowers. Sometimes included in <i>Colchicum</i> .	
<i>Androcymbium striatum</i>	Pyjama Flower. Bracts white striped green. Several on plateau on Lesotho side of Sani.
<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Flame Lily. Port Edward coast.
<i>Sandersonia aurantiaca</i>	Christmas Bells. Bright orange flowers with only tips of tepals free. Sani, in fine flower.

<i>Wurmbea elatior</i> <i>Wurmbea</i> sp.	2 at Witsieshoek. Sani Top, 2024.
Commelinaceae <i>Aneilema aequinoctiale</i> <i>Commelina africana</i> <i>Commelina erecta</i> <i>Cyanotis speciosa</i>	Clinging Aneilema. Yellow flowers. Munster, new in 2025. Yellow Commelina. Flowers yellow. Widespread, seen at many sites this year. Flowers blue. Port Edward. Stamens conspicuously hairy. Port Edward, Sani, and Underberg area.
Cyperaceae Sadly there has been little time to devote to sedges!	
<i>Ascolepis capensis</i> <i>Carex cognata</i> <i>Carex zuluensis</i> <i>Carex</i> spp. <i>Cyperus denudatus</i> <i>Cyperus obtusiflorus</i> <i>Cyperus prolifer</i> <i>Cyperus rupestris</i> <i>Cyperus semitrifidus</i> <i>Cyperus sphaerocephalus</i>	Tufted perennial herb with heads of white flowers. Port Edward. Nodding Sedge. Lower Sani. A few others unidentified, e.g. Giant's Castle forest. Winged Sedge. Port Edward. Port Edward, Red Desert, Umtamvuna. Locally very common. Dwarf Papyrus. Port Edward. Russet Rock Sedge. Widespread, e.g. Port Edward and Umtamvuna. Scattered records, e.g. Golden Gate. Yellow Sedge. Himeville, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, Underberg area, Sani. Locally numerous.
<i>Eleocharis dregeana</i> <i>Ficinia cinnamomea</i> <i>Ischyrolepis schoenoides</i> <i>Isoplepis</i> sp. <i>Kyllinga alba</i> <i>Mariscus congestus</i> <i>Pycneus polystachyos</i>	Finger Sedge. Sani. Sani White Button Sedge. Durban area 2023 (PGC). Munster 2025. Port Edward etc. Port Edward.
Dioscoreaceae <i>Dioscorea brownii</i> <i>Dioscorea cotinifolia</i> <i>Dioscorea dregeana</i> <i>Dioscorea rupicola</i> <i>Dioscorea sylvatica</i> <i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	In fruit, Weza, 2019. Port Edward area. Wild Yam. Umtamvuna. Climber with lobed wavy margined leaves. Giant's Castle. Forest Elephant's Foot. Climber with heart-shaped leaves and a large corky tuber. Sani, Golden Gate, and Giant's Castle. Another species at Umtamvuna.
Dracaenaceae <i>Dracaena aletiformis</i>	Large-leaf Dragon-tree.
Eriocaulaceae <i>Eriocaulon dregei</i>	Water Pom-pom. Umtamvuna.
Eriospermaceae <i>Eriospermum</i> , Cottonseed, are geophytes, leaves and flowers produced at different seasons, leaves often distinctive. <i>Eriospermum cooperi</i> <i>Eriospermum mackenii</i> <i>Eriospermum</i> spp.	Several in fruit at Kamberg, 2024. Yellow Fluffy-seed. In leaf at Umtamvuna. A few others seen in leaf, e.g. at Giant's Castle.
Hyacinthaceae <i>Albuca</i> are <i>Ornithogalum</i> like and sometimes included in that genus. They differ in erect inner tepals, with at least the inner filaments pinched below. <i>Albuca fastigiata</i> <i>Albuca humilis</i> <i>Albuca pachychlamys</i> <i>Albuca polyphylla</i>	 Large Spreading White Albuca. Giant's Castle. Flowers white, inner tepals tipped yellow. Sani Top 2023. Tepals white with green median stripe. Sani. White flowers. Witsieshoek.

<i>Albuca setosa</i>	Small White Albuca. Umtamvuna.
<i>Albuca shawii</i>	Small Yellow Albuca. Flowers nodding. Golden Gate NP, a few in fine flower, not seen 2024 or 2025.
<i>Albuca</i> sp.	Lesotho 2024.
<i>Eucomis autumnalis</i>	Common Pineapple Lily. Leaves with crisped margins. Witsieshoek, Umtamvuna, Red Desert, and near Giant's Castle.
<i>Eucomis bicolor</i>	Leaves purple spotted at base. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Eucomis humilis</i>	Dwarf Pineapple Lily. Small bracts edged purple, stem spotted purple. Witsieshoek and Kamberg.
<i>Eucomis schijffii</i>	Miniature Eucomis. Leaves prostrate, flowers purple. Sani.
<i>Galtonia candicans</i>	Common Berg Lily. Leaves erect, flowers pure white. Near Giant's Castle, a fine colony.
<i>Galtonia regalis</i>	Royal Berg Lily. Leaves lax and spreading, tepals creamy white. In leaf at Golden Gate, and several in flower at Witsieshoek.
<i>Ledebouria ovatifolia</i>	Purple spotted leaves flat on ground. Scattered in leaf.
<i>Ledebouria revoluta</i>	Leaves with dark spots. In leaf at Port Edward.
<i>Litanthus pusillus</i>	Very small with white flowers. On boulders at Witsieshoek, and Golden Gate (2024).
<i>Massonia echinata</i>	Many in fruit in Lesotho.
<i>Massonia</i> sp.nov.	In fruit in Lesotho.
<i>Ornithogalum graminifolium</i>	Dense spikes of white flowers, tepals with a green stripe. Witsieshoek.
<i>Scilla dracomontana</i>	Miniature Blue Scilla. In leaf and fruit at Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Scilla kraussii</i>	Dwarf Scilla. Umtamvuna.
<i>Scilla natalensis</i>	Large Blue Scilla. Widespread in leaf and fruit.
<i>Scilla nervosa</i>	White Scilla. In flower at Port Edward (many), Sani, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Urginea macrocentra</i>	Poison Snake-head. Up to 1.5m. Stem robust. Leaf solitary and cylindrical. Witsieshoek, many stalks, and some in fruit.
Hypoxidaceae	
<i>Hypoxis acuminata</i>	Leaves in a spiral tuft, v-shaped, ribbed, with long hairs. Red Desert and Umtamvuna.
<i>Hypoxis angustifolia</i>	Short, leaves parchment like, margins with white hairs. Umtamvuna, new in 2025.
<i>Hypoxis argentea</i>	Small Yellow Star-flower. Leaves narrow, v-shaped, covered in silky yellowish hairs. Flowers small, in pairs. Umtamvuna and lower Sani.
<i>Hypoxis colchicifolia</i>	Very robust. In fruit at Port Edward.
<i>Hypoxis costata</i>	Broad ribbed hairy or hairless leaves. In fruit at Golden Gate. In flower at Umtamvuna.
<i>Hypoxis filiformis</i>	Grass Star-flower. Leaves threadlike, u-shaped with fine white hairs. Port Edward., Umtamvuna, lower Sani.
<i>Hypoxis hemerocallidea</i>	Star-flower. Leaves in three ranks. In flower at Spionkop (2023) and Port Edward.
<i>Hypoxis iridifolia</i>	Leaves narrow, shiny, hairless, margins and keels with line of dense white hairs. Port Edward.
<i>Hypoxis parvula</i> var. <i>albiflora</i>	Delicate with solitary white flowers. Sani, not in flower this year.
<i>Hypoxis rigidula</i>	Silver-leaved Star-flower. Erect ribbed leaves covered in white hairs. Ntsikeni 2018.
<i>Rhodohypoxis baurii</i>	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. Also lower Sani this year.
<i>Rhodohypoxis deflexa</i>	Tiny. In marshy turf at the Lesotho border post, and further into Lesotho.

Rhodohypoxis rubella

Leaves wiry. A few at two sites in Lesotho, 2023.

Iridaceae

Added to my library in 2024 was the superb (and heavy!) new monograph, 'Iridaceae of Southern Africa' by Peter Goldblatt and John C. Manning, *Strelitzia* 42, 2020.

Aristea have actinomorphic blue flowers.

Aristea abyssinica

Blue-eyed Grass. Slender. Flowers in terminal cluster. Sani, Port Edward, and Golden Gate. (*Aristea cognata*).

Aristea grandis

Robust. Gone over at Giant's Castle.

Aristea torulosa

Port Edward.

Aristea woodii

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

Widespread, e.g. Witsieshoek, Sani, Giant's Castle.

Aristea sp.

Giant's Castle.

Crocasmia aurea

Falling Stars. Orange and red flowers with spreading tepals. Giant's Castle, not in flower.

Crocasmia paniculata

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

Underberg area roadsides, fewer than usual.

Crocasmia pearsii

Leaves pleated. Inflorescence held horizontally. Flowers hooded.

A few at Witsieshoek.

Crocasmia pottsii

Slender *Crocasmia*. Flowers short, orange-red. Giant's Castle approach road, 2024.

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

Dierama argyreum

Flowers white to ivory. Ntsikeni 2018.

Dierama cooperi

Golden Gate, a few in flower.

Dierama dracomontanum

Drakensberg Hairbell. Witsieshoek and Sani, locally numerous.

Dierama igneum

Fairy Bell. Umtamvuna 2019.

Dierama latifolium

Broad-leaved Hairbell. Many in fine flower at Kamberg.

Dierama robustum

Lesotho, 3 plants in fine flower.

Gladiolus has leaves usually with a definite 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. 2 at Witsieshoek, 1 at Golden Gate.

Gladiolus dalenii

African *Gladiolus*. Large hooded flowers, variously coloured. In fine flower lower Sani, Giant's Castle, and Witsieshoek.

Gladiolus ecklonii

Sheathed *Gladiolus*. Flowers 40 to 60mm greenish to silvery-white, densely speckled red-brown, grey, or mauve. 1 at Port Edward, 2024.

Gladiolus flanaganii

Suicide *Gladiolus*. In flower at Sani, on cliffs, hidden by the mist!

Gladiolus longicollis

Honey-flower. Pale yellow flowers with long tube. Single plants at Sani and in Lesotho, new in 2025.

Gladiolus papilio

Butterfly *Gladiolus*. Nodding flowers, pale creamy yellow with large purplish blotch on lower halves. Several at Golden Gate NP in fine flower.

Gladiolus permeabilis

Gap between upper and lower tepals. 2 at Golden Gate.

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, Umtamvuna, and Sani, and in Lesotho.

Hesperantha coccinea

Scarlet River Lily. Large scarlet flowers. Only at the *Galtonia candicans* site this year.

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. Witsieshoek

Moraea alpina

Small with purple flower, 1 upper Witsieshoek, new in 2025.

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, Sani, Giant's Castle.
<i>Moraea elliotii</i>	Blue Tulp. Solitary leaf. Blue-violet flowers with yellow-orange nectar guides. Umtamvuna, in bud.
<i>Moraea inclinata</i>	Nodding Wild Moraea. Solitary leaf much longer than flowering stem. Large blue flower on inclining stem. Locally common at Giant's Castle, also Witsieshoek.
<i>Moraea spathulata</i>	Leaf long, narrow and twisted. In leaf Port Edward.
<i>Moraea trifida</i>	Leaf solitary, stiff, small creamy yellow flower spotted brown to green. Upper Witsieshoek.
<i>Romulea macowanii</i>	Flowers yellow. Lesotho, c.5, 2024.
<i>Romulea thodei</i>	Flowers pink with yellow throat, outer tepals striped buff and purple outside. Lesotho and Witsieshoek.
<i>Romulea</i> sp.	A very small species found at Giant's Castle 2023.
<i>Sisyrinchium</i> sp.	Giant's Castle.
<i>Tritonia disticha</i>	Red Tritonia. Port Edward, Red Desert, Umtamvuna. Several in flower.
<i>Tritonia lineata</i>	Yellow Tritonia. 1 at Port Edward, new in 2025.
<i>Watsonia</i> have spikes of two-ranked numerous pink, orange, or red flowers. 'The Genus <i>Watsonia</i> ' by Peter Goldblatt, National Botanic gardens, 1989, is the standard work.	
<i>Watsonia bachmannii</i>	A few still in flower at Port Edward. Many leaves. A very local endemic.
<i>Watsonia lepida</i>	En route to Kamberg.
<i>Watsonia densiflora</i>	Port Edward, a few in flower, many leaves. Red Desert, several flowers.
<i>Watsonia pillansii</i>	Gone over at Port Edward. Some still in flower at Sani, 2023. (<i>W.socium</i>).
<i>Watsonia confusa</i>	Sani 2024.
Juncaceae	
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush.
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush.
<i>Juncus</i> spp.	
Liliaceae	
<i>Lilium formosanum</i>	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.	
<i>Aerangis mystacidii</i>	Lithophyte. In fine flower at Umtamvuna, 2024.
<i>Brachycorythis inhambanensis</i>	Purple spotted green flowers. Red Desert 2018.
<i>Brachycorythis ovata</i>	Flowers purple and white. Himeville 2018.
<i>Brownleea macroceras</i>	1, upper Witsieshoek. 2023.
<i>Bulbophyllum scaberulum</i>	Lithophytic with spikes of purplish flowers. Umtamvuna, in leaf.
<i>Corycium dracomontanum</i>	Lip appendage bright green, side arms face sideways. Sani.
<i>Corycium nigrescens</i>	Sepals pale green, soon turn black, petals purple brown to black. Widespread, e.g. Witsieshoek and Sani.
<i>Cyrtorchis arcuata</i>	Lithophytic. Flowers white turning orange. Umtamvuna, in leaf.
<i>Disa</i> has median sepal hooded and elongated into a spur, or pouch.	
<i>Disa brevicornis</i>	Lime-green and maroon flowers. Lower Sani, new in 2025.
<i>Disa cephalotes</i>	Dense inflorescence of white flowers. 1 at Sani.
<i>Disa chrysostachya</i>	Robust with orange flowers. Weza 2019.
<i>Disa cooperi</i>	Flowers white to pale pink, spurs point upwards. Himeville Nature Reserve.
<i>Disa crassicornis</i>	Large white to pink flowers. 2 at Sani, new in 2025.
<i>Disa fragrans</i>	Fragrant <i>Disa</i> . Dense inflorescence, small white to deep pink flowers, spur slender, pointing down. Witsieshoek, in bud.
<i>Disa patula</i>	Flowers horizontal, pink, spur round, pointed, horizontal. A few at Giant's Castle. 2023.

<i>Disa polygonoides</i>	Orange flowers in dense spikes. c.5 at Port Edward, 2024.
<i>Disa saxicola</i>	Flowers white marked pink. Streamside rocks Sani, 2018 and 2025.
<i>Disa scullyi</i>	Large pink flowers, spur to 4cm. Several at Ntsikeni, 2018.
<i>Disa stachyodes</i>	Slender with purple flowers. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Disa stricta</i>	Small purple flowers. Sani.
<i>Disa thodei</i>	Small pink flowers with darker blotches. Spur nearly horizontal. Sani, 2024.
<i>Disa versicolor</i>	Dense inflorescence, flowers small, usually facing downwards, vanilla scented. Himeville, Kamberg, Sani, Witsieshoek, and Golden Gate NP.
<i>Disperis</i> has median sepal and petals joined to form a helmet-shaped hood, side sepals pouched or spurred. Many fewer <i>Disperis</i> were seen than is usual this year, in a season that was otherwise very rich in orchids.	
<i>Disperis cardiophora</i>	Flowers small, white and green, magenta tipped. A few at Witsieshoek, 2024.
<i>Disperis fanniniae</i>	Giant's Castle forest. 2023.
<i>Disperis lindleyana</i>	Flowers white, suffused pale green, with pink spots inside. Leaf litter lower Sani Pass, several.
<i>Disperis renibractea</i>	Flowers resemble an owl's face, pungent odour. Witsieshoek 2024.
<i>Disperis stenoplectron</i>	White and pink flowers. Witsieshoek 2019.
<i>Disperis tysonii</i>	Witsieshoek 2023.
<i>Disperis wealii</i>	Flowers white, spotted green under hood margins. Witsieshoek 2023.
<i>Dracomonticola virginea</i>	Endemic genus. Gone over at Sani.
<i>Eulophia angolensis</i>	Robust with yellow flowers. Port Edward, in fine flower at 2 sites, also Mpenjati, and Skyline NR (PGC).
<i>Eulophia clavicornis</i>	Port Edward. (<i>Eulophia hians</i>).
<i>Eulophia horsfallii</i>	Very robust with pink and green flowers. This very impressive species was seen at Umtamvuna in 2019.
<i>Eulophia ovalis</i>	Giant's Castle, Himeville, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Eulophia parvilabris</i>	Weza 2019.
<i>Eulophia schnelliae</i>	Port Edward 2019.
<i>Eulophia tenella</i>	Port Edward 2018.
<i>Eulophia zeyheriana</i>	3+, lower Sani.
<i>Habenaria anguiceps</i>	Kamberg 2018.
<i>Habenaria clavata</i>	Robust with green flowers. Himeville, and over at Red Desert.
<i>Habenaria dives</i>	Small white flowers, midlobe of lip longer than side lobes. Scattered records, e.g. Umtamvuna, Red Desert, Witsieshoek, Sani, and Kamberg.
<i>Habenaria dregeana</i>	Small Green Hood. Yellowish green flowers. Witsieshoek 2018.
<i>Habenaria laevigata</i>	3 at Kamberg.
<i>Habenaria pseudociliosa</i>	Basal leaf sheaths marked with black bars. c.10 at Red Desert.
<i>Habenaria tysonii</i>	Giant's Castle 2023.
<i>Holothrix incurva</i>	A few at Sani, also Witsieshoek.
<i>Neobolusia tysonii</i>	Sani 2019.
<i>Orthochilus aculeatus</i>	Recorded 2024.
<i>Orthochilus ensatus</i>	Flowers yellow. Umtamvuna.
<i>Orthochilus foliosus</i>	Himeville Nature Reserve and roadside.
<i>Orthochilus leontoglossus</i>	Sani and Himeville, 2018.
<i>Orthochilus welwitschii</i>	Robust with purple centred pale yellow flowers. Himeville.
<i>Polystachya pubescens</i>	Umtamvuna, in flower.
<i>Pterygodium</i> has median sepal and petals joined to form very shallow hood. Lip with short or tall appendage. No spur.	
<i>Pterygodium cooperi</i>	Sani 2019.
<i>Pterygodium hastatum</i>	Sani.
<i>Pterygodium magnum</i>	Up to 1.5m. Petals fringed, yellowish with red dots and veins. Lip white to pale green to mauve with darker veins, fringed. 1 at Giant's Castle, 1 at Witsieshoek.

<i>Rangaeris muscicola</i>	In flower at Port Edward.
<i>Satyrium</i> flowers have two conspicuous spurs or pouches.	
<i>Satyrium cristatum</i>	Flowers whitish blotched red. Himeville.
<i>Satyrium hallackii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i>	Himeville marsh and Port Edward.
<i>Satyrium longicauda</i>	Leaves on separate shoot from flowering stem. Flowers white to red. Variable. Widespread, e.g. Umtamvuna, Sani, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Satyrium macrophyllum</i>	Large leaves, white to deep pink flowers. Witsieshoek.
<i>Satyrium neglectum</i>	Sterile shoot present. Pink flowers. Sani.
<i>Satyrium parviflorum</i>	Devil Orchid. Yellowish green to maroon flowers. Petals dry brown soon after opening. Witsieshoek.
<i>Satyrium sphaerocarpum</i>	Gone over at Umtamvuna.
<i>Satyrium trinerve</i>	White and yellow flowers. Umtamvuna.
<i>Schizochilus angustifolius</i>	Inflorescence dense, flowers white with yellow lip. Witsieshoek.
<i>Schizochilus flexuosus</i>	Flowers white with a yellow lip. Sani 2024.
<i>Schizochilus zeyheri</i>	Yellow flowers. Several at Umtamvuna.
<i>Stenoglottis fimbriata</i>	Fringed Stenoglottis. Small lilac-pink flowers, lip 3-lobed. On rocks in forest at Giant's Castle, in fine flower.
<i>Stenoglottis woodii</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Tridactyle bicaudata</i> ssp. <i>rupestris</i>	Lithophyte. In fine flower at Umtamvuna.
Poaceae	
'Identification Guide to Southern African Grasses' by Fish et al., Pretoria 2015, Strelitzia 36, is the standard work.	
<i>Aira cupaniana</i>	Alien.
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed. Alien.
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Alien.
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild Oat. Alien.
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild Oat. Alien.
<i>Brachypodium distachyon</i>	Alien.
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Great Brome. Alien.
<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	Compact Brome. Alien.
<i>Bromus rigidus</i>	Stiff Brome. Alien.
<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Barren Brome. Alien.
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Drooping Brome. Alien.
<i>Cenchrus incertus</i>	Alien.
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Alien.
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda Grass.
<i>Cymbopogon excavatus</i>	Giant's Castle.
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	Rough Dogstail. Alien.
<i>Ehrharta calycina</i>	
<i>Ehrharta longiflora</i>	
<i>Eragrostis capensis</i>	
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Weeping Love Grass
<i>Fingerhuthia africana</i>	
<i>Heteropogon contortus</i>	Spear Grass.
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley. Alien.
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	Widespread.
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian Ryegrass. Alien.
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass. Alien.
<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	Stiff Darnel. Alien.
<i>Lolium temulentum</i>	Darnel. Alien.
<i>Lophochloa cristata</i>	Alien.
<i>Loudetia simplex</i>	Dominant at Red Desert
<i>Melinis repens</i>	Alien.
<i>Merxmuellera drakensbergensis</i>	Sani.
<i>Monocymbium cerasiiforme</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Alien.
<i>Pentaschistus airoides</i>	
<i>Pentaschistus curvirostris</i>	
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Bulbous Canary-grass. Alien.

<i>Phalaris minor</i>	Lesser Canary-grass. Alien.
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed.
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass. Alien.
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass.
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass. Alien.
<i>Setaria</i> spp.	
<i>Thamnocalamus tessellatus</i>	Drakensberg Bamboo. Giant's Castle and Sani.
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Red Grass. e.g. Giant's Castle.
<i>Thinopyrum distichum</i>	
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Squirreltail Fescue. Alien.
Restionaceae	
<i>Restio</i> sp.	Port Edward, Red Desert. (<i>Calopsis paniculata</i> probably).
Smilacaceae	
<i>Smilax anceps</i>	Port Edward, locally common.
Strelitziaceae	
<i>Strelitzia nicolai</i>	Coast Strelitzia. Very common in the Port Edward area.
Typhaceae	
<i>Typha capensis</i>	Bulrush. Port Edward, Mpenjati, Himeville, Giant's Castle, etc.
<i>Typha</i> sp.	Scattered records.
Velloziaceae	
<i>Xerophyta viscosa</i>	Small Black Stick Lily. Flowers lilac to deep mauve. Sani, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.
Xyridaceae	
<i>Xyris</i> are herbaceous marsh plants.	
<i>Xyris capensis</i>	Common Xyris. Yellow flowers, bract margins entire. Port Edward.
<i>Xyris natalensis</i>	Port Edward.
Palaeodicotyledons	
Nymphaeaceae	
<i>Nymphaea nouchali</i>	Blue Waterlily. Umtamvuna pond.
Eudicotyledons	
Acanthaceae	
<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	Flowers white with purplish markings. Port Edward.
<i>Blepharis obtusisepala</i>	Mauve flowers. Spionkop (but flowers there white!).
<i>Crabbea acaulis</i>	White flowers. Golden Gate 2023.
<i>Dyschoriste depressa</i>	Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Isoglossa ovata</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Isoglossa woodii</i>	Shrub with white flowers. Umtamvuna.
<i>Thunbergia atriplicifolia</i>	Natal Primrose. Flowers creamy yellow. Port Edward, locally very common.
Achariaceae	
<i>Guthriea capensis</i>	Hidden Flower. Monotypic endemic genus. Stemless herb with distinctive leaf rosette. Creamy green flowers, male and female separate on same plant, hidden under leaves. In fine flower at Witsieshoek, new in 2024. 2 in fine flower at Witsieshoek 2025.
Aizoaceae	
<i>Carpobrotus dimidiatus</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Delosperma caespitosum</i>	Port Edward 2019.
<i>Delosperma hirtum</i>	Golden Gate.

<i>Delosperma lavisiae</i>	Mountain Vygie. Magenta flowers. Giant's Castle and Sani.
<i>Delosperma lineare</i>	White flowers. Umtamvuna.
<i>Delosperma subpetiolatum</i>	Trailing Vygie. White flowers. Port Edward 2024.
<i>Delosperma sutherlandii</i>	Flowers magenta fading to white at base, pink or white. Sani 2018.
Amaranthaceae (includes Chenopodiaceae)	
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Alien. Sani.
Anacardiaceae	
<i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>	Wild-plum. Umtamvuna.
<i>Loxostylis alata</i>	Tarwood. Umtamvuna.
<i>Protorhus longifolia</i>	Red-beech. Port Edward, Umtamvuna.
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian Pepper Tree. Port Edward. A noxious weed.
<i>Searsia</i> (formerly <i>Rhus</i>) are shrubs or small trees with trifoliate leaves.	
<i>Searsia acocksii</i>	Pondo Climbing Currant. Umtamvuna.
<i>Searsia carnosula</i>	Port Edward. Umtamvuna.
<i>Searsia dentata</i>	Golden Gate, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, and Sani.
<i>Searsia discolor</i>	Sani, Golden Gate, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.
<i>Searsia divaricata</i>	
<i>Searsia lancea</i>	
<i>Searsia lucida</i>	Spionkop, and Port Edward.
<i>Searsia pyroides</i>	Giant's Castle and Sani.
<i>Searsia tomentosa</i>	
<i>Searsia viminalis</i>	Giant's Castle. (<i>Rhus gerrardii</i>).
<i>Searsia</i> sp.	Small shrub with grey hairy leaves. Port Edward.
Possibly overlooked, also in range in range:- <i>chirindensis</i> , <i>crenata</i> (coast), <i>erosa</i> (Free State), <i>gueinzii</i> , <i>krebsiana</i> , <i>montana</i> , <i>natalensis</i> (coast), <i>nebulosa</i> (coast), <i>pallens</i> , <i>pentheri</i> , <i>rehmanniana</i> .	
Apiaceae	
<i>Alepidea</i> have conspicuous petal-like bracts.	
<i>Alepidea amatymbica</i>	Giant Alepidea. Witsieshoek.
<i>Alepidea natalensis</i>	Leaves in basal rosette. margins toothed, flowerheads c.15mm, bracts white. Widespread, e.g. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.
<i>Alepidea peduncularis</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Alepidea thodei</i>	Lesotho 2024.
<i>Alepidea</i> sp.	c.12 cm tall, very narrow leaves, white bracts.
<i>Alepidea</i> sp.	Taller species with spiny edged leaves.
<i>Alepidea</i> sp.	Flowers in spikes, Witsieshoek.
<i>Alepidea</i> sp.	Near Underberg 2023.
<i>Alepidea</i> sp.	Near Underberg 2023.
<i>Bupleurum mundii</i>	Perennial herb. Witsieshoek, Sani, and Lesotho.
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Marsh Pennywort. Port Edward.
<i>Centella glabrata</i> var. <i>natalensis</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Ciclospermum leptophyllum</i>	Naturalised.
<i>Heteromorpha arborescens</i>	Parsley-tree. Giant's Castle, Sani, and Golden Gate.
<i>Hydrocotyle bonariensis</i>	Naturalised in Port Edward area.
<i>Lichtensteinia interrupta</i>	In leaf at Red Desert.
<i>Peucedanum thodei</i>	Robust. Witsieshoek 2019.
<i>Pimpinella caffra</i>	Basal leaves entire, stem leaves finely divided.
<i>Sium repandum</i>	Water Parsnip. Golden Gate.
Apocynaceae (includes Asclepiadaceae)	
<i>Asclepias adscendens</i>	Pompom Cartwheels. Himeville 2019.
<i>Asclepias brevicuspis</i>	Cusped Turret-flower. Spionkop, new in 2024.
<i>Asclepias macropus</i>	Tailed Cartwheels. Himeville and Kamberg.
<i>Aspidoglossum gracile</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Aspidonepsis diploglossa</i>	Yellow flowers. 2 at Witsieshoek, new in 2025.
<i>Brachystelma australe</i>	Umtamvuna.

<i>Brachystelma rubella</i>	Pink Tenaris. Red Desert 2018. (<i>Tenaris rubella</i>).
<i>Carissa bispinosa</i>	Num-num. Thorny shrub with milky sap. Port Edward.
<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	Big Num-num. Port Edward.
<i>Ceropegia carnosa</i>	Port Edward 2019.
<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>	Shrub with nodding clusters of cream flowers. Fruits swollen with fleshy projections. Giant's Castle.
<i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i>	Stem solitary below. Fruits roundish and inflated. Red Desert, Sani, Golden Gate, etc.
<i>Miraglossum verticillare</i>	Wreathed Miracle-tongue. Witsieshoek 2018.
<i>Pachycarpus asperifolius</i>	Large Red Milkwort. Port Edward.
<i>Pachycarpus campanulatus</i>	Cluster Bells. 2 at Witsieshoek.
<i>Pachycarpus grandiflorus</i>	Grand Pachycarpus. Large hanging, round, yellow and purple flowers. Port Edward 2018.
<i>Periglossum angustifolium</i>	Round Head. Flowers yellow inside, reddish brown outside, inner corolla lobes threadlike. Himeville 2019.
<i>Rauvolfia caffra</i>	Quinine-tree
<i>Riocreuxia torulosa</i>	Candle-vine. Leaves heart-shaped, tubular flowers with inflated base and lobes joined at tips to form a cage. Giant's Castle.
<i>Schizoglossum atropurpureum</i>	Flowers almost black. Port Edward 2019 (ssp. <i>virens</i>), Giant's Castle 2023 and 2025.
<i>Schizoglossum bidens atrorubens</i>	Variable Schizoglossum. Giant's Castle 2024.
<i>Schizoglossum hillardiae</i>	Hilliard's Schizoglossum. Sani 2019.
<i>Schizoglossum montanum</i>	Several in one area at upper Witsieshoek, new in 2025.
<i>Secamone alpini</i>	Russet Secamone. Umtamvuna in flower and fruit.
<i>Sisyranthus virgatus</i>	Thin Grass-flower. Port Edward 2018. Lower Sani 2025.
<i>Tabernaemontana ventricosa</i>	Forest Toad-tree
<i>Voacanga thouarsii</i>	Large white flowers turn creamy yellow. Port Edward.
<i>Xysmalobium involucratum</i>	Scented Xysmalobium. Witsieshoek.
<i>Xysmalobium stockenstromense</i>	Mountain Uzura. Witsieshoek.
<i>Xysmalobium undulatum</i>	Large inflated fruits, Giant's Castle 2023.
Aquifoliaceae	
<i>Ilex mitis</i>	
Araliaceae	
<i>Cussonia paniculata</i>	Mountain Cabbage Tree. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Cussonia spicata</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Schefflera umbellifera</i>	False Cabbage-tree. Red Desert.
Asteraceae	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow. Alien.
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Alien. Port Edward.
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Alien. Port Edward.
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Alien. Port Edward.
<i>Arctotis</i> have 5 or 6 rows of bracts, outer often tailed, inner broad with large membranous tips.	
<i>Arctotis arctotoides</i>	Yellow flowers 25 to 40 mm, yellow, ray florets often purplish beneath. Lesotho, Sani.
<i>Artemisia afra</i>	Wormwood. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Aspilia natalensis</i>	Wild Creeping Sunflower. Port Edward.
<i>Aster bakerianus</i>	Flowers white to deep pink, bracts with long hairs at least on midline. Giant's Castle 2023.
<i>Aster erucifolius</i>	Prostrate, ray florets purple. Lesotho.
<i>Aster perfoliatus</i>	Grey-leaved Aster. Distinctive with leathery perfoliate grey-green leaves. Not in flower, Golden Gate.
<i>Athrixia angustissima</i>	Stem leaves slender. Ray florets white. Sani, locally common, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Athrixia fontana</i>	Long cobwebby bracts with recurved tips. A few at Witsieshoek.

<i>Athrixia phyllicoides</i>	Ray florets mauve. Red Desert.
<i>Athrixia pinifolia</i>	Shrub. Ray florets white, disc yellow. Giant's Castle 2024.
<i>Berkheya</i> are thistle-like usually with yellow flowers.	
<i>Berkheya bergiana</i>	Robust, day 3, 2019.
<i>Berkheya bipinnatifida</i>	1-3m, disc florets white to mauve. Port Edward.
<i>Berkheya cirsiiifolia</i>	Ray florets white. Lesotho and Witsieshoek.
<i>Berkheya echinacea</i>	Spionkop, 2019.
<i>Berkheya multijuga</i>	Leaves deeply lobed and spiny. Flowers yellow. Witsieshoek and Sani.
<i>Berkheya purpurea</i>	Purple Berkheya. Sani 2019.
<i>Berkheya rhapontica</i>	Basal leaves in rosette, harshly hairy, long narrow inflorescence of yellow flowers. Widespread.
<i>Berkheya rosulata</i>	Rosette Thistle. Leaves dark green above, white-felted below, solitary yellow flowers. Several at Witsieshoek.
<i>Berkheya setifera</i>	Upper surface of leaves with coarse bristles. Flowers yellow. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.
<i>Berkheya speciosa</i>	Leaves basal, green above, white-felted below. Flowers yellow. Port Edward and Golden Gate.
<i>Berkheya umbellata</i>	Leaves in basal rosette, deeply lobed. Locally common at Red Desert and Umtamvuna, over.
<i>Bidens bipinnata</i>	
<i>Bidens formosa</i>	Cosmos. Naturalised on roadsides, locally numerous, e.g. Himeville, and N3.
<i>Brachylaena discolor</i>	Coast Silver-oak. Red Desert.
<i>Callilepis laureola</i>	Ox-eye Daisy. 1 still in flower at Red Desert, and 1 at Port Edward.
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	An invasive weed.
<i>Chrysocoma ciliata</i>	Scattered records, e.g. Sani.
<i>Cineraria albicans</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Cineraria dieterlenii</i>	Herb with lobed kidney shaped leaves, flowers yellow with ray florets. Sani and Umtamvuna.
<i>Cineraria lyrata</i>	Golden Gate 2023.
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Alien. Widespread.
<i>Conyza</i> sp.	
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Numerous on roadsides, and in Himeville Nature Reserve.
<i>Cotula</i> have discoid heads, although sometimes with rays, 2 rows of bracts with narrow membranous margins.	
<i>Cotula hispida</i>	Witsieshoek.
<i>Cotula membranifolia</i>	Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Cotula paludosa</i>	Lesotho.
<i>Cotula socialis</i>	Lesotho.
<i>Dicoma anomala</i>	Perennial with narrow leaves. Umtamvuna 2024.
<i>Dimorphotheca jucunda</i>	Trailing Pink Daisy. Ray florets pink, coppery below, disc florets yellow tipped black. Witsieshoek.
<i>Eumorphia sericea</i>	Dwarf shrub white ray florets, bracts with large orange oil glands on the inner surface. Lesotho.
<i>Euryops</i> are shrubs with yellow flowers with one row of smooth oval bracts joined at the base.	
<i>Euryops acraeus</i>	Rounded shrub, leaves leathery. Lesotho.
<i>Euryops decumbens</i>	Dwarf shrublet. Lesotho.
<i>Euryops evansii</i>	Shrub with grey-green leaves, yellow flower in terminal clusters. Sani.
<i>Euryops leiocarpus</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Euryops tysonii</i>	Shrub with glossy green leaves, smaller yellow flowers than previous species, in crowded terminal clusters. Sani.
<i>Felicia</i> 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.	
<i>Felicia filifolia</i>	Fine-leaved Felicia. Aromatic shrub with mauve to blue flowers. Golden Gate, Witsieshoek, and Sani.

<i>Felicia muricata</i>	Low growing bushy herb. Golden Gate.
<i>Felicia uliginosa</i>	Herb with blue to mauve flowers. Lesotho.
<i>Galinsoga ciliata</i>	Alien.
<i>Gazania</i> are perennials or annuals with milky latex. Several rows of stiff bracts joined below into a smooth or hairy cup.	
<i>Gazania krebsiana</i>	Perennial. Leaves narrow, flowers yellow or orange. Scattered records, e.g. Umtamvuna, Sani, Lesotho, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate.
<i>Gazania rigens</i>	Trailing <i>Gazania</i> . Creeping perennial herb, flowers yellow. Munster coastal sands.
<i>Gerbera piloselloides</i>	Leaves in basal rosette, stem swollen below flowerhead. Golden Gate, over.
<i>Gnaphalium limicola</i>	Sani.
<i>Haplocarpha nervosa</i>	Lesotho.
<i>Haplocarpha scaposa</i>	Leaves in basal rosette, white-felted beneath. Yellow flowers. Giant's Castle and Golden Gate grasslands.
<i>Helichrysum</i> are usually woolly or felted, with disciform flowers with several rows of papery bracts. A very large genus in the region.	
<i>Helichrysum acutatum</i>	Silver leaves, yellow bracts. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Helichrysum adenocarpum</i>	Solitary flowerheads, bracts red or pink. Port Edward 2024.
<i>Helichrysum albo-brunneum</i>	White bracts tipped brown. Lesotho.
<i>Helichrysum album</i>	White bracts red at base inside. Sani.
<i>Helichrysum appendiculatum</i>	Upper stem leaves often tipped with a small coloured bract. Bracts dull white to yellowish to pink. Widespread.
<i>Helichrysum aureonitens</i>	Silvery grey perennial with compact heads of yellow flowers. Locally abundant, e.g. Golden Gate.
<i>Helichrysum aureum</i>	var. <i>monocephalum</i> . Solitary yellow flowerheads. Port Edward.
<i>Helichrysum auriceps</i>	Congested heads of bright yellow flowers. Sani and Golden Gate.
<i>Helichrysum bellum</i>	Basal leaves thin and soft. Bracts snow-white. Lesotho.
<i>Helichrysum cephaloideum</i>	Perennial, grey woolly. Inflorescence a compact round cluster of yellow flowers. Himeville.
<i>Helichrysum chionosphaerum</i>	Tiny Snowball Everlasting. Mat-forming, wool usually confined to 3 veins and margins. Bracts glossy white. Witsieshoek and Golden Gate.
<i>Helichrysum confertum</i>	Compact dwarf shrub. Sani 2024.
<i>Helichrysum cymosum</i>	Compact yellow inflorescences. Port Edward.
<i>Helichrysum dasycephalum</i>	Branches covered in grey tissue like felt. Flowers yellow. Witsieshoek.
<i>Helichrysum drakensbergense</i>	Tight heads of yellow flowers felted together at the base. Sani, 2019.
<i>Helichrysum ecklonis</i>	Large solitary flowers with glossy white to pink bracts. Umtamvuna 2024. Witsieshoek.
<i>Helichrysum flanaganii</i>	Forms large mats, narrow leaves woolly or not, bracts tawny yellow tipped golden brown. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Helichrysum glomeratum</i>	Perennial, silvery silky, densely leafy stem. Witsieshoek, Golden Gate.
<i>Helichrysum krookii</i>	Leaves mostly in basal rosette. Bracts bright yellow. Giant's Castle, Witsieshoek, and Sani.
<i>Helichrysum herbaceum</i>	Monkey-tail Everlasting. Bracts to 28mm across, outer golden brown, inner lemon-yellow. Red Desert, Golden Gate, Giant's Castle, Sani, Witsieshoek, Kamberg.
<i>Helichrysum hypoleucum</i>	Scrambling shrub with yellow flowers. Giant's Castle.
<i>Helichrysum lineatum</i>	Greyish rounded leaves in basal rosettes. Bracts light golden brown. Sani, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.
<i>Helichrysum marginatum</i>	Mat-forming dwarf shrub with solitary flowers with dull white bracts. Several at Witsieshoek.
<i>Helichrysum milfordiae</i>	Silvery subshrub with glossy white bracts red or brown tipped. Lesotho.
<i>Helichrysum mixtum</i>	Port Edward 2024.
<i>Helichrysum monticola</i>	Bracts glossy white. Witsieshoek.
<i>Helichrysum montanum</i>	Dwarf shrub, leaves thick grey woolly, bracts bright yellow. Sani.
<i>Helichrysum nudifolium</i>	Perennial, stem nearly leafless above. Umtamvuna.
<i>Helichrysum odoratissimum</i>	Aromatic perennial. Flowerheads matted together with wool at the base. Flowers yellow. Port Edward.
<i>Helichrysum oreophilum</i>	Leaves grey woolly, only main vein visible beneath. Bracts lemon-yellow.

<i>Helichrysum pagophyllum</i>	Golden Gate 2018.
<i>Helichrysum pallidum</i>	Very compact hard cushions in Lesotho, in fruit.
<i>Helichrysum panduratum</i>	Sani 2019.
<i>Helichrysum pilosellum</i>	Grey woolly subshrub, bracts white, disc florets yellow. Port Edward.
	Perennial. Dark green leaves white felted below. Terminal clusters of bright yellow flowers.
<i>Helichrysum populifolium</i>	Shrub with large leaves and branched inflorescences of small flowers, bracts brown and white. Port Edward, in leaf.
<i>Helichrysum praecurrens</i>	Dense mats, gone over at Sani, 2019.
<i>Helichrysum ruderale</i>	Leaves sticky. Inflorescence branches white woolly. Port Edward, Red Desert, Umtamvuna.
<i>Helichrysum rugulosum</i>	Tufted perennial to 30cm. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Helichrysum sessilioides</i>	Cushion-forming dwarf shrub. Sani.
<i>Helichrysum spiralepis</i>	Flowerheads in small congested clusters surrounded by leafy bracts. Scattered e.g. Witsieshoek, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, Sani.
<i>Helichrysum subglomeratum</i>	This at Sani?
<i>Helichrysum sutherlandii</i>	Shrublet. Woolly bracts. Golden Gate, over.
<i>Helichrysum tenax</i>	Sticky Everlasting. Subshrub with heads of attractive yellow flowers. Sani and Golden Gate.
<i>Helichrysum tenuifolium</i>	Shrub. Narrow leaves. Lesotho.
<i>Helichrysum trilineatum</i>	Aromatic shrublet, leaves with three parallel veins, bracts bright yellow. Lesotho, Sani, Witsieshoek.
<i>Helichrysum umbraculigerum</i>	Leaves very variable, greyish woolly, bracts golden yellow. Giant's Castle, Sani, Umtamvuna.
<i>Hirpicium armerioides</i>	Large white ray florets, yellow to purplish black beneath. Witsieshoek.
<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear. Alien.
<i>Inulanthera leucoclada</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Inulanthera thodei</i>	Lesotho.
<i>Lactuca inermis</i>	White flowers. Lower Sani.
<i>Macowania hamata</i>	A few plants at Sani, a very local endemic.
<i>Mikania natalensis</i>	Climber. Port Edward, 2018.
<i>Nidorella auriculata</i>	Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
<i>Nidorella undulata</i>	Golden Gate.
<i>Osteospermum</i> have 2 to 4 rows of narrow	bracts, and yellow flowers.
<i>Osteospermum imbricatum</i>	Leaves leathery. Red Desert.
<i>Osteospermum monilifera</i>	Scattered records. (<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>)
<i>Osteospermum thodei</i>	Witsieshoek.
<i>Pentzia cooperi</i>	Sani.
<i>Relhania pungens</i>	Leaves sharp tipped. Yellow flowers. Umtamvuna and Red Desert.
<i>Senecio</i> usually has one row of bracts, often with membranous edges. Usually a few small dark-tipped bracts occur on the peduncle below the involucre bracts.	
<i>Senecio asperulus</i>	Solitary bright yellow flowers. Sani.
<i>Senecio coronatus</i>	Perennial with yellow flowers.
<i>Senecio deltoideus</i>	Scrambler with zigzag stems. Giant's Castle 2024.
<i>Senecio discodregeanus</i>	Flowers deep violet. Scattered records.
<i>Senecio dissimulans</i>	Perennial. Sticky. Solitary or few yellow flowerheads.
<i>Senecio erubescens</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Senecio glaberrimus</i>	Umtamvuna and Witsieshoek.
<i>Senecio gramineus</i>	Perennial with narrow grey felted leaves. Lesotho.
<i>Senecio haygarthii</i>	Robust shrubby herb, leaves white felted beneath. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Senecio heliopsis</i>	Perennial. Leaves broad with stalklike clasping base. Showy flowers. Sani, new in 2025.
<i>Senecio hygrophilus</i>	Blue green with yellow flowers. Giant's Castle riverside.
<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	Sani.
<i>Senecio inornatus</i>	Widespread.
<i>Senecio isatideoides</i>	Perennial, stem leafy throughout, leaves decreasing in size upwards. Sani.
<i>Senecio isatideus</i>	Leaves decrease in size upwards. Locally common.
<i>Senecio macrocephalus</i>	Pink flowers. Sani, Lesotho.

<i>Senecio macrospermus</i>	Large grey-woolly herb with large yellow flowers. Sani.
<i>Senecio oxyriifolius</i>	False Nasturtium. Very distinctive bluish-green leaves, resembling the genus <i>Oxyria</i> . In leaf Port Edward and Kamberg, 2023.
<i>Senecio polyodon</i>	Sticky with pink flowers.
<i>Senecio rhomboideus</i>	Fleshy perennial with blue-green leaves. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Senecio rhyncholaenus</i>	Herb with yellow flowers, bracts sticky. Port Edward, in leaf.
<i>Senecio seminiveus</i>	Dwarf shrub, young leaves densely white woolly, large yellow flowers. Sani.
<i>Senecio subrubriflorus</i>	Sticky aromatic herb with pale mauve to white flowers. Golden Gate 2024.
<i>Senecio tamoides</i>	Climber with lobed triangular leaves. In leaf.
<i>Stoebe vulgaris</i>	Zigzag Bush. Intricately branched shrub. Red Desert and Umtamvuna.
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion. Scattered records.
<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	Lesotho.
<i>Tarchonanthus trilobus</i>	Umtamvuna and Red Desert.
<i>Tenrhynea phyllicifolia</i>	Leaf base winged onto stem. Umtamvuna 2024.
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Upper Witsieshoek.
<i>Ursinia montana</i>	Sani.
<i>Ursinia</i> sp.	Ray florets yellow above, reddish below. Golden Gate.
<i>Vernonia corymbosa</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Vernonia dregeanum</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Vernonia hirsuta</i>	Giant's Castle.
<i>Vernonia natalensis</i>	Silver Vernonia. Covered in silvery silky hairs. Golden Gate, Giant's Castle, Himeville, Sani.
<i>Vernonia tigna</i>	Umtamvuna, new in 2025.
<i>Zinnia peruviana</i>	Alien. Spionkop.
Balsaminaceae	
<i>Impatiens hochstetteri</i>	Locally common in Giant's Castle forest, not in flower.
Begoniaceae	
<i>Begonia sutherlandii</i>	
Bignoniaceae	
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	African Tulip Tree. Naturalised in Durban and Port Edward areas.
Boraginaceae	
<i>Afrotysonia glochidiata</i>	Tall herb, widely branched inflorescence of white flowers flushed mauve. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.
<i>Cynoglossum austro-africanum</i>	Blue flowers. Witsieshoek, Sani, Golden Gate.
<i>Cynoglossum geometricum</i>	
<i>Cynoglossum spelaeum</i>	White flowers. Golden Gate cave.
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss. Naturalised on Witsieshoek upper roadsides. Not seen 2025.
<i>Lithospermum afromontanum</i>	Flowers pale yellow to white. Giant's Castle 2024.
<i>Lithospermum papillosum</i>	Flowers white to blue. Sani 2024.
<i>Myosotis semiamplexicaulis</i>	Forget-me-not. Sani, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Myosotis</i> sp.	Presumably an alien species? Sani Top.
Brassicaceae	
<i>Heliophila</i> are annual or perennial, sometimes slightly woody. Flowers blue, pink, white, or occasionally yellow.	
<i>Heliophila elongata</i>	White flowers. Several at Red Desert.
<i>Heliophila formosa</i>	Several in fine flower upper Witsieshoek, new in 2025.
<i>Heliophila rigidiuscula</i>	Flower colour variable. Umtamvuna, Sani and Witsieshoek. Not seen 2025.
<i>Heliophila</i> spp.	A few others seen, e.g. Umtamvuna (very small white flowers, growing with <i>Utricularia livida</i>), and Golden Gate.

<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Recorded.
<i>Lepidium</i> sp.	
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Water Cress. Kamberg, 2019.
<i>Rorippa nudiuscula</i>	Witsieshoek upper car park 2023.
Buddlejaceae	
<i>Buddleja salviifolia</i>	Quilted Sagewood. Locally numerous, e.g. Sani, Giant's Castle. Not in flower this year.
Cactaceae	
<i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i>	Mistletoe Cactus. Straggling, pendulous, epiphytic succulent. Port Edward area.
Campanulaceae	
<i>Craterocapsa congesta</i>	Prostrate perennial herb. Blue stalkless flowers, crowded at tips. Lesotho.
<i>Craterocapsa tarsodes</i>	Carpet Bell Flower. Stems end in rosettes of leaves. Blue flowers solitary. Witsieshoek.
<i>Cyphia</i> are erect or twining herbs with white to purple flowers, equally five lobed or two lipped, and split down the side.	
<i>Cyphia elata</i>	Erect herb, flowers creamy white with mauve markings. Witsieshoek and Red Desert.
<i>Cyphia oblongifolia</i>	Erect herb. Possibly this at Golden Gate, 2023.
<i>Cyphia tysonii</i>	Twining herb. Sani.
<i>Lobelia</i> has the corolla two-lipped and split to the base at the back, the front lip with three lobes.	
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	Swamp Lobelia. Umtamvuna.
<i>Lobelia coronopifolia</i>	Wild Lobelia. Perennial shrublet. Port Edward.
<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	Annual. Marshes at Ntsikeni, 2018.
<i>Lobelia flaccida</i>	Annual herb, two crests in mouth of flower tube. Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.
<i>Lobelia galpinii</i>	Creeping herb. Common at Sani Top.
<i>Lobelia preslii</i>	Perennial herb, flowers bright deep blue, stems up to 240mm long. Giant's Castle, Sani, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Lobelia pteropoda</i>	Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
<i>Lobelia tomentosa</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Lobelia vanreenensis</i>	Flowers whitish, yellow on palate. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Lobelia</i> sp.	Munster coast.
<i>Monopsis decipiens</i>	Butterfly Monopsis. Flowers violet and blue with a yellow palate. Fine at Golden Gate. Also at Witsieshoek.
<i>Monopsis stellarioides</i>	Sticky-leaved Monopsis. Giant's Castle, river circuit and near the rooms.
<i>Monopsis unidentata</i>	Wild Brown Violet. Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
<i>Roella glomerata</i>	Bell shaped white to blue flowers. Red Desert and Umtamvuna.
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> has campanulate flowers with broad petals.	
<i>Wahlenbergia cuspidata</i>	Large violet-blue flowers. Widespread and locally common.
<i>Wahlenbergia grandiflora</i>	Giant Bell Flower. This species at Ntsikeni? 2018.
<i>Wahlenbergia huttonii</i>	Flowers in small terminal clusters, lobes long and narrow. Himeville.
<i>Wahlenbergia madagascariensis</i>	Very small flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Wahlenbergia krebsii</i>	Fairy Bell-flower. Leaves crowded towards base of stems. Violet-blue flowers. Sani, Kamberg, Giant's Castle, Witsieshoek.
<i>Wahlenbergia pallidiflora</i>	Chalky blue flowers. Marsh at Ntsikeni 2018.
<i>Wahlenbergia polytrichifolia</i> ssp. <i>dracomontana</i>	Mat forming on rock sheets at Sani Top.
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> sp.	A species with short pointed leaves. Golden Gate, 2019.
Caryophyllaceae	
<i>Cerastium arabis</i>	Snow Flower. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Dianthus mooiensis</i>	Filly Dianthus. Umtamvuna.

<i>Dianthus basuticus</i>	Lesotho Dianthus. Pink or white flowers. Witsieshoek, Golden Gate, and Sani.
<i>Dianthus zeyheri</i>	Wild Dianthus. Red Desert.
<i>Silene bellidioides</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Silene burchellii</i>	Witsieshoek.
<i>Silene undulata</i>	20 to 40mm white to pink flowers. Leafy flower stem from side of rosette. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed.
Celastraceae	
<i>Gymnosporia buxifolia</i>	Common Spikethorn. Giant's Castle.
<i>Maytenus acuminata</i>	Silky-bark.
<i>Maytenus peduncularis</i>	Cape-blackwood. Giant's Castle.
<i>Pseudosalacia polyantha</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Putterlickia retrospinosa</i>	Pondo False-spikethorn. Umtamvuna.
<i>Robsonodendron eucleiforme</i>	False Silky-bark. When leaf broken, connected by silvery threads. Umtamvuna.
Celtidaceae	
<i>Celtis africana</i>	White-stinkwood.
<i>Trema orientalis</i>	Umtamvuna.
Convolvulariaceae	
<i>Convolvulus</i> sp.	Golden Gate.
<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	Dodder. Alien. Golden Gate.
<i>Hewittia malabarica</i>	Hewitt's Dwarf Morning Glory. Flowers pale yellow with deep red centre. Port Edward.
<i>Ipomoea cairica</i>	Leaves with 5 to 7 lobes. Port Edward, locally common.
<i>Ipomoea crassipes</i>	Leaves hairy. Port Edward and Golden Gate.
<i>Ipomoea mauritiana</i>	Pinkish mauve flowers in clusters. Red Desert.
<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	Dune Morning Glory. Port Edward coast, in leaf.
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Naturalised weed. Port Edward.
Cornaceae	
<i>Curtisia dentata</i>	Assegai.
Crassulaceae	
<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i>	Large succulent leaves, clusters of nodding tubular red flowers, which are stalked. Lesotho and Golden Gate.
<i>Crassula alba</i>	Red flowers. Port Edward, Sani, Kamberg, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Crassula brachypetala</i>	Herb with starry white flowers. Port Edward and Sani.
<i>Crassula dependens</i>	Sharp-tipped leaves at right angles to stems. White flowers. Witsieshoek and Sani.
<i>Crassula ericoides</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Crassula natalensis</i>	Leaves in basal rosette. Flowers small, petals recurved, white or pink. Golden Gate 2019.
<i>Crassula natans</i>	Aquatic herb. Sani.
<i>Crassula nudicaulis</i>	Leaves in a basal rosette. Golden Gate 2019.
<i>Crassula obovata</i> ssp. <i>obovata</i>	Perennial white white or cream flowers. Umtamvuna.
<i>Crassula pellucida</i>	Leaves sharp tipped, flowers in terminal inflorescence, white tinged pink. Witsieshoek.
<i>Crassula peploides</i>	Prostrate perennial. Sani.
<i>Crassula perfoliata</i> ssp. <i>heterotricha</i>	Pointed-leaved Crassula. In leaf at Umtamvuna.
<i>Crassula sarcocaulis</i> ssp. <i>rupicola</i>	Shrublet. White flowers. Sani, Witsieshoek, and Golden Gate.
<i>Crassula setulosa</i>	Mats of leaf rosettes, terminal clusters of white flowers. Witsieshoek and Sani (var. <i>rubra</i>).
<i>Crassula vaginata</i>	Stems leafy, yellow flowers. Kamberg, Witsieshoek, and Giant's Castle.
<i>Kalanchoe thyrsiflora</i>	Sani.
Cucurbitaceae	

<i>Zehneria scabra</i>	Trailing herb, leaves with rough white dots, small white flowers, hairy yellow to red or brown fruits. Golden Gate.
Cunoniaceae	
<i>Cunonia capensis</i>	Butterspoon Tree.
Dipsacaceae	
<i>Cephalaria galpiniana</i> ssp. <i>simplicior</i>	Basal leaves with small lobes. Witsieshoek.
<i>Cephalaria natalensis</i>	Robust herb with large compound leaves.
<i>Cephalaria oblongifolia</i>	To 1m, leaves in basal rosettes, margins entire. Port Edward, Sani, Witsieshoek.
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious. Native here as well as in Europe. Scattered records, e.g. Umtamvuna, Witsieshoek, Lesotho, Sani, Golden Gate.
<i>Scabiosa drakensbergensis</i>	Drakensberg Scabious. Large perennial herb, leaves deeply divided. Giant's Castle.
Droseraceae	
<i>Drosera burkeana</i>	Rosettes at Golden Gate, new in 2025.
<i>Drosera natalensis</i>	Port Edward, Umtamvuna and Sani.
Ebenaceae	
<i>Diospyros austro-africana</i>	Fire-sticks Star Apple. Giant's Castle, not seen 2025.
<i>Diospyros scabrida</i>	Coast Bladder-nut. Port Edward.
<i>Diospyros whyteana</i>	Bladder-nut. Scattered records e.g. Giant's Castle and Golden Gate.
<i>Euclea crispa</i>	Blue Guarri. Giant's Castle.
Ericaceae	
<i>Erica aestiva</i>	Sticky pink flowers. Golden Gate, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.
<i>Erica albospicata</i>	Terminal spikes of white flowers. Giant's Castle 2024.
<i>Erica alopecuroides</i>	Foxtail Erica. Spikes of pink flowers. Lesotho and Golden Gate 2024.
<i>Erica caffrorum</i>	Mountain Heath. Up to 2m. Widespread, not in flower.
<i>Erica cerinthoides</i>	Red Hairy Heath. Large red flowers. Sani, over this year.
<i>Erica cubica</i>	Pink flowers in dense clusters. Red Desert in leaf. Umtamvuna in flower.
<i>Erica frigida</i>	Sticky white flowers. Golden Gate 2024.
<i>Erica oatesii</i>	Shrublet to 40cm, red flowers. Giant's Castle 2018.
<i>Erica straussiana</i>	Sepals as long or longer than corolla. Sani 2018.
<i>Erica thodei</i>	Dwarf shrublet with white to pink flowers. Sani Top.
<i>Erica woodii</i>	Flowers pink. Witsieshoek and Kamberg.
<i>Erica</i> spp.	Other species, most not in flower, unidentified.
Erythroxylaceae	
<i>Erythroxylum pictum</i>	Forest Coca-tree. Umtamvuna.
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>Acalypha peduncularis</i>	Male and female plants separate. Ntsikeni 2018.
<i>Acalypha punctata</i>	Male and female plants separate. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek, locally very common.
<i>Antidesma venosum</i>	Tassel-berry. Skyline NR (PGC).
<i>Bridelia micrantha</i>	Mitzeeri Sweetberry. Umtamvuna.
<i>Clutia floribunda</i>	Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Clutia rosea</i>	Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Clutia</i> spp.	Golden Gate.
<i>Dalechampia capensis</i>	Conspicuous petal-like bracts. Port Edward 2018.
<i>Euphorbia clavarioides</i>	Lion's Spoor. Cushionlike succulent. Bracts bright yellow. Lesotho and Golden Gate.
<i>Euphorbia epicyparissias</i>	Subshrub, bracts large and yellowish green tinged red. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Euphorbia ericoides</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Euphorbia natalensis</i>	Leaves closely packed and erica-like. Umtamvuna.

<i>Euphorbia striata</i>	Herb with red leaf margins. Port Edward and Golden Gate.
<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>	Durban area.
<i>Euphorbia woodii</i>	Dwarf succulent. Cyathia yellow. Port Edward 2024.
<i>Phyllanthus meyerianus</i>	Port Edward 2024.
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil Plant.
<i>Shirakiopsis elliptica</i>	Jumping-seed Tree. Red Desert.
Fabaceae	
<i>Abrus laevigatus</i>	Mauve to cream flowers clustered towards tips of terminal inflorescence. Port Edward.
<i>Acacia caffra</i>	Common Hook Thorn.
<i>Acacia karoo</i>	Sweet Thorn. Spionkop etc.
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Australian Blackwood. Widespread.
<i>Acacia natalitia</i>	Pale-bark Sweet Thorn.
<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Scented-pod Thorn. Spionkop.
<i>Acacia sieberana</i>	Paperbark Thorn. Spionkop etc.
<i>Acacia tortilis</i> ssp. <i>heteracantha</i>	Umbrella Thorn.
<i>Albizia adianthifolia</i>	Flat-crown Albizia.
<i>Argyrobium amplexicaule</i>	Port Edward 2018.
<i>Argyrobium harveyanum</i>	Slender herb, flowers c.10mm. Port Edward.
<i>Argyrobium marginatum</i>	Silvery hairy herb, leaf margins golden, yellow flowers 10-15mm. Giant's Castle and Sani.
<i>Aspalathus chortophyla</i>	Shrublet with yellow flowers. Port Edward, numerous at Red Desert.
<i>Calpurnia sericea</i>	Mountain Calpurnia. Small yellow flowers in erect terminal bunches. Giant's Castle, locally common. A few Golden Gate.
<i>Chamaecrista comosa</i>	Trailing Dwarf Cassia. Perennial with large golden yellow flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i>	Fishbone Dwarf Cassia. Annual with sensitive leaves and yellow flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Chamaecrista plumosa</i>	Perennial, stems annual. Port Edward.
<i>Crotalaria globifera</i>	Round Pod Rattle Bush. Bright yellow flowers coppery when old. Umtamvuna.
<i>Crotalaria lanceolata</i>	Twin-leaved Rattle Bush. Small yellow flowers. Red Desert and Port Edward.
<i>Crotalaria pallida</i>	Broad-leaved Rattle-pod. Port Edward 2024.
<i>Dalbergia</i> sp.	Red Desert.
<i>Desmodium dregeanum</i>	Marsh Desmodium. Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
<i>Desmodium incanum</i>	Leaflets lighter in centre along the midvein. Port Edward.
<i>Desmodium repandum</i>	Orange Desmodium.
<i>Dichilus reflexus</i>	Sani.
<i>Dichilus strictus</i>	Sani.
<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	Sickle-bush. Port Edward 2018.
<i>Dolichos falciformis</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Eriosema distinctum</i>	Scarlet Eriosema. Ntsikeni 2018.
<i>Eriosema dregei</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Eriosema parviflorum</i>	Port Edward 2019.
<i>Eriosema salignum</i>	Umtamvuna and Giant's Castle.
<i>Eriosema umtamvunense</i>	Large red and yellow flowers. Umtamvuna.
<i>Erythrina humeana</i>	Dwarf Coral-tree. Port Edward, in fine flower.
<i>Erythrina lysistemon</i>	Coral-tree.
<i>Indigastrum fastigiatum</i>	Slender Indigo. Small pink flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Indigofera</i> are herbs or shrubs with pink flowers, the keel petals with a sac or spur.	
<i>Indigofera abbotti</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Indigofera dimidiata</i>	Witsieshoek.

<i>Indigofera dregeana</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Indigofera foliosa</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Indigofera grata</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Indigofera hedyantha</i>	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, Port Edward.
<i>Indigofera herrstreyi</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Indigofera longebarbata</i>	Golden Gate 2023.
<i>Indigofera natalensis</i>	Forest Indigo. Small tree with white flowers. Umtamvuna.
<i>Indigofera shiluwanensis</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Lessertia perennans</i>	Shrublet with large inflorescence of pink flowers. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Lotononis corymbosa</i>	Perennial, flowers yellow turning orange-red. Near Underberg.
<i>Lotononis eriantha</i>	Russet Lotononis. Shrublet, flowers yellow turning reddish brown, densely hairy. Golden Gate and Witsieshoek.
<i>Lotononis galpinii</i>	Solitary blue flowers with white eye. Sani.
<i>Lotononis laxa</i>	Mat forming herb with silvery leaves and yellow flowers. Sani, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Lotononis lotononoides</i>	Shrublet with long inflorescence of blue flowers. Scattered records, e.g. Witsieshoek, Giant's Castle, Sani.
<i>Lotononis pulchella</i>	Silvery grey with pale blue-violet flowers. Witsieshoek and Sani.
<i>Lotononis pulchra</i>	Herb with yellow flowers turning orange. Golden Gate and Witsieshoek.
<i>Lotononis sericophylla</i>	Silky with blue and yellow flowers. Sani.
<i>Lotononis viminea</i>	White Lotononis. Shrublet with mauve veined white flowers. Umtamvuna 2019. This lower Sani roadsides 2025?
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White Melilot. Kokstad roadsides and lower Giant's Castle road.
<i>Millettia grandis</i>	Umzimbeet. Tree with purple flowers in erect racemes. Mpenjati, new in 2025.
<i>Ophrestia oblongifolia</i>	Creeping herb with white to lilac flowers, calyx densely golden hairy. Port Edward and Umtamvuna, locally common.
<i>Otholobium polystictum</i>	Shrub with pale blue flowers. Giant's Castle riverside.
<i>Pseudarthria hookeri</i>	Bug-catcher. Robust shrub with pink flowers. Mpenjati.
<i>Psoralea glabra</i>	Narrow-leaf Fountain-bush. Shrub with linear leaflets and blue flowers. Umtamvuna Nature Reserve.
<i>Psoralea</i> sp.	Subshrub with fine leaflets and bright blue flowers. Riverside at Giant's Castle. An undescribed species (still undescribed?). This species also at Kamberg and Sani?
<i>Rafnia elliptica</i>	Hairless shrub. Red Desert, very locally common, in flower.
<i>Rhynchosia cooperi</i>	Trailing herb. Leaves held erect, inflorescence erect. Giant's Castle.
<i>Senna didymobotra</i>	Giant's Castle roadside.
<i>Sphenostylis marginata</i>	A wild sweetpea bush. Large magenta flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Sutherlandia montana</i>	Mountain Balloon Pea. Sani, in fruit.
<i>Tephrosia capensis</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Tephrosia gnidioides</i>	Large magenta flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Tephrosia grandiflora</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Tephrosia kraussii</i>	Creeping Tephrosia. Pink flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Tephrosia macropoda</i>	Pioneer Tephrosia. Umtamvuna.
<i>Tephrosia polystachya</i>	Silver Tephrosia. Spionkop.
<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Tephrosia shiluwanensis</i>	Wild Clover. Pink flowers. Widespread, e.g. Sani, Lesotho.
<i>Trifolium burchellianum</i>	White Clover. Naturalised at Giant's Castle etc.
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Trailing herb, white to purple flowers on erect stems. Ntsikeni 2018.
<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	Trailing creeper with lilac to purple flowers. Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
<i>Vigna vexillata</i>	

<i>Zornia capensis</i>	Caterpillar Bean. Umtamvuna and Port Edward.
<i>Zornia linearis</i>	Umtamvuna and Port Edward.
Fagaceae	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak. Alien.
Flacourtiaceae	
<i>Gerrardina foliosa</i>	Krantz-berry. Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Kiggelaria africana</i>	Wild-peach. Sani South Africa border post.
<i>Pseudoscolopia polyantha</i>	False Red-pear. Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Scolopia mundii</i>	Red Thorn-pear.
<i>Trimeria grandiflora</i>	Wild-mulberry. Giant's Castle.
Fumariaceae	
<i>Cysticapnos pruinosa</i>	Climbing annual with small pink flowers and inflated fruits. Sani, locally common.
<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	Scattered records.
Gentianaceae	
<i>Chironia albiflora</i>	Small White Chironia. Several at Umtamvuna. A very local endemic.
<i>Chironia krebsii</i>	Showy deep pink flowers. Kamberg, 2019.
<i>Chironia purpurascens</i>	Spionkop.
<i>Chironia</i> sp.	A pink flowered species at Giant's Castle, 2024.
<i>Sebaea</i> are herbs often with angled or winged stems. Flowers usually yellow, sometimes white.	
<i>Sebaea grandis</i>	Large white flowers. Umtamvuna.
<i>Sebaea natalensis</i>	Anthers tipped with small round gland.
<i>Sebaea sedoides</i>	Small yellow flowers. Scattered records.
<i>Sebaea thomasi</i>	Showy yellow flowers. Witsieshoek.
<i>Sebaea</i> sp.nov	White flowers. A very local endemic. Port Edward.
<i>Sebaea</i> spp.	Several were unidentified.
Geraniaceae	
<i>Geranium drakensbergensis</i>	Blue-purple flowers in pairs. Sani.
<i>Geranium flanaganii</i>	Flowers pink with darker veins. Probably this, Munster coast, 2025.
<i>Geranium magniflorum</i>	Leaves less divided than following species, large pink to purple flowers. Witsieshoek.
<i>Geranium multisectum</i>	Leaves finely divided, flowers violet to magenta. Lesotho and Sani.
<i>Geranium pulchrum</i>	Leaves large and deeply lobed, large pink flowers. Sani, locally common.
<i>Geranium schlechteri</i>	Leaves lobed, small pink or white veined pink flowers. Sani, Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle.
<i>Geranium wakkerstroomianum</i>	White Geranium. White flowers veined pink or red. Sani, Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.
<i>Monsonia angustifolia</i>	Pink Monsonia. Leaves irregularly toothed. Golden Gate.
<i>Monsonia attenuata</i>	Large whitish flowers. Kamberg, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, near Underberg, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Monsonia grandifolia</i>	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.	
<i>Pelargonium alchemilloides</i>	Leaves sometimes with purplish mark in centre. Witsieshoek, Sani, Golden Gate, Giant's Castle.
<i>Pelargonium capitatum</i>	Rose-scented Pelargonium. Small flowers in compact inflorescences. Port Edward coast 2025.
<i>Pelargonium capituliforme</i>	Very small flowers in crowded heads. Golden Gate 2019.
<i>Pelargonium dispar</i>	Sani, 2024
<i>Pelargonium luridum</i>	Waving Pelargonium. Leaves deeply lobed. Sani, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Pelargonium ranunculophyllum</i>	On shaded rocks, Sani.

<i>Pelargonium sidoides</i>	Flowers very dark reddish purple. Golden Gate.
<i>Pelargonium</i> sp.	Sani.
<i>Pelargonium</i> sp.	Near the hotel at Golden Gate.
Gesneriaceae	
<i>Streptocarpus gardenii</i>	Lower lip of flower pale violet with deep violet broken lines. Several in forest at Giant's Castle.
<i>Streptocarpus porphyrostachys</i>	Rocks by forested stream at Umtamvuna, in leaf (PGC). Local endemic.
<i>Streptocarpus pusillus</i>	White flowers. Golden Gate, in rock crevices.
Goodeniaceae	
<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	Port Edward coast. New in 2025.
Greyiaceae	
<i>Greyia sutherlandii</i>	Natal Bottlebrush Tree. Giant's Castle.
Gunneraceae	
<i>Gunnera perpensa</i>	Wild Rhubarb. Leaves large, spikes of tiny brown flowers. Sani, Giant's Castle, Witsieshoek.
Hypericaceae	
<i>Hypericum aethiopicum</i>	Perennial. Giant's Castle.
<i>Hypericum forrestii</i>	Alien shrub. Naturalised at Giant's Castle and lower Sani.
<i>Hypericum lalandii</i>	Erect herb. Golden Gate.
Icacinaceae	
<i>Apodytes abbottii</i>	Pondo White-pear. Port Edward, common at Umtamvuna.
<i>Cassinopsis tinifolia</i>	False Lemon-thorn. Umtamvuna.
Lamiaceae	
<i>Aeollanthus parvifolius</i>	Pink Spur Bush. Shrublet, pink to white flowers in much branched inflorescence. Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
<i>Ajuga ophrydis</i>	Bugle Plant. Blue flowers. Sani.
<i>Becium obovatum</i>	Port Edward 2018.
<i>Clerodendrum glabrum</i>	Tinderwood.
<i>Leonotis dubia</i>	Leaf stalks long. Giant's Castle.
<i>Leonotis intermedia</i>	Broad-leaved Leonotis. Leaf stalks short. Witsieshoek and Sani.
<i>Leonotis leonurus</i>	Narrow-leaved Leonotis. Whorls of orange tubular flowers. Red Desert.
<i>Leucas martinicensis</i>	Tumble Weed. Small white flowers in well spaced crowded clusters. Spionkop.
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint. Himeville and Golden Gate.
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse Mint. Golden Gate.
<i>Plectranthus calycinus</i>	Upland Fly Bush. Coarse herb with dense leafy spikes of cream flowers tipped purple. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek.
<i>Plectranthus grallatus</i>	Tuberous Spur-flower. Shrub with flowers white flushed pink. Common in forest at Giant's Castle.
<i>Plectranthus hadiensis</i>	Flowers mauve to purple. Port Edward 2018.
<i>Plectranthus saccatus pondoanus</i>	Umtamvuna 2018.
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal. Giant's Castle, 2024.
<i>Pycnostachys reticulata</i>	Slender Pycnostachys. Mauve flowers in dense terminal spikes. Himeville.
<i>Satureja compacta</i>	Giant's Castle.
<i>Satureja reptans</i>	Flowers white to pale blue, flushed pink in throat with a yellow stripe. Giant's Castle.
<i>Stachys aethiopica</i>	White to pink flowers. Giant's Castle and Sani.
<i>Stachys grandifolia</i>	White flowers with mauve spots on lower lip. Giant's Castle forest.
<i>Stachys kuntzei</i>	Upper leaves stalkless. Sani.
<i>Stachys nigricans</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Stachys sessilis</i>	Ntsikeni and Himeville 2018.

<i>Syncolostemon parviflorus</i>	Small-flowered White Plume. To 1m, white to pinkish flowers. Red Desert.
<i>Syncolostemon ramulosus</i>	Umtamvuna, in leaf, 2018. A very local endemic.
<i>Syncolostemon rotundifolius</i>	Round-leaved Pink Plume. Umtamvuna, locally common in fine flower.
<i>Tinnea galpinii</i>	Black lip-flower. Several at Umtamvuna.
Lecythidaceae	
<i>Barringtonia racemosa</i>	Powder-puff Tree.
Lentibulariaceae	
<i>Genlisea hispidula</i>	A bladderwort. Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Utricularia livida</i>	Flowers mauve or white. Port Edward, locally common, and Umtamvuna, locally very common.
Linaceae	
<i>Linum thunbergii</i>	Yellow flowers. Scattered records e.g. Port Edward, Umtamvuna, Sani, Witsieshoek, Golden Gate, Kamberg, Giant's Castle.
Loranthaceae	
<i>Erianthemum dregei</i>	Hairy Mistletoe. Clusters of white to pale pink hairy flowers. Umtamvuna, 2019.
Malvaceae	
<i>Anisodonteia julii</i>	Shrub with showy pink flowers. Sani.
<i>Hermannia</i> spp.	<i>Hermannia</i> are shrublets or perennials with small yellow, red, pink, or white flowers with spirally twisted petals and globular to bell-shaped calyces. A very complex genus with many recently discovered and undescribed species, although only a few species in this area. Fewer than usual were seen this year.
<i>Hermannia coccocarpa</i>	Purplish-blue flowers. Lesotho 2018.
<i>Hermannia cristata</i>	Crested <i>Hermannia</i> . Bright red-orange flowers. Sani, 2024.
<i>Hermannia geniculata</i>	White flowers. This species at Golden Gate 2023?
<i>Hermannia gerrardii</i>	Gerrard's Yellow <i>Hermannia</i> . Golden Gate, locally common.
<i>Hermannia grandistipula</i>	Yellow Granny Bonnets. Calyx large and inflated. Port Edward, 2024.
<i>Hermannia malvifolia</i>	Yellow flowers hidden among the rounded leaves. Sani.
<i>Hermannia woodii</i>	Flowers few on long stalks, pink, red, or creamy yellow. Witsieshoek, Kamberg, Giant's Castle, and Sani.
<i>Hermannia</i> sp.	A species with small red flowers. Giant's Castle and Golden Gate, 2024.
<i>Hibiscus aethiopicus</i>	Common Dwarf Wild Hibiscus. Himeville roadsides 2024.
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	Lagoon Hibiscus. Small tree with large yellow flowers. Coast.
<i>Hibiscus trionum</i>	Bladder Hibiscus. Flowers cream-yellow with red centre. Golden Gate NP, Umtamvuna, Port Edward, Mpenjati.
<i>Hibiscus</i> sp.	A species with large yellow flowers, coastal.
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Recorded 2019.
<i>Modiola carolinianum</i>	Annual herb with red flowers.
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Spionkop.
<i>Sida</i> sp.	Another species with narrow leaves seen.
Melastomataceae	
<i>Dissotis canescens</i>	Pink Marsh Dissotis. Shrub with striking magenta flowers. Marshes at Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
Meliaceae	
<i>Ekebergia pterophylla</i>	Rock Cape-ash. Umtamvuna.
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Persian Lilac.
<i>Trichilia dregeana</i>	Forest Natal Mahogany. Port Edward area.
Melanthaceae	
<i>Melanthus villosus</i>	Trees or shrubs. Racemes of green, brown or red flowers. Sepals 5, petals 4 or 5. Maroon Honey-flower. Densely hairy leaves, fruit inflated and 4-angled. Giant's Castle.

Menyanthaceae <i>Nymphoides thunbergiana</i>	Small Yellow Waterlily. In the pool at Umtamvuna.
Molluginaceae <i>Psammotropha mucronata</i> <i>Psammotropha obtusa</i> <i>Psammotropha</i> sp.	Himeville and Giant's Castle. Small mats with leaves crowded in rosettes at branch tips. Witsieshoek and Golden Gate. Another species at Golden Gate.
Moraceae <i>Ficus burkei</i> <i>Ficus glumosa</i> <i>Ficus ingens</i> <i>Ficus natalensis</i> <i>Ficus trichopoda</i>	Common Wild Fig. Durban. Hairy Rock Fig. Red Desert, new in 2025. Red-leaf Rock Fig. Port Edward, Umtamvuna, and Sani. Coast Strangler Fig. Swamp Fig.
Myricaceae <i>Morella serrata</i>	Lance-leaved Waxberry. Shrub with narrow leaves with entire to deeply serrate margins, yellow gland dots beneath, aromatic. Port Edward, Umtamvuna, and Giant's Castle.
Myrsinaceae <i>Maesa lanceolata</i> <i>Myrsine africana</i> <i>Rapanea melanophloeos</i>	False-assegai. Umtamvuna. Cape Myrtle. Golden Gate and Giant's Castle. Cape Beech. Giant's Castle etc.
Myrtaceae <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> <i>Eugenia albanensis</i> <i>Eugenia capensis</i> ssp. <i>capensis</i> <i>Eugenia erythrophylla</i> <i>Eugenia verdoorniae</i> <i>Psidium guajava</i> <i>Syzygium cordatum</i>	Saligna Gum. Invasive alien. Dwarf Grassland Eugenia. Red Desert. Dune Myrtle. Port Edward area. Large-leaf Myrtle. Umtamvuna. Small-leaf Myrtle. Umtamvuna 2019. Guava. Waterberry. Umtamvuna and Red Desert.
Oleaceae <i>Olea capensis</i> ssp. <i>enervis</i> <i>Olea europaea</i> ssp. <i>africana</i> <i>Olea woodiana</i>	Ironwood. Umtamvuna. Wild Olive. Forest Ironwood. Skyline NR (PGC).
Oliniaceae <i>Olinia emarginata</i>	Mountain Hard Pear. Giant's Castle, dominant in forest.
Onagraceae <i>Epilobium capense</i> <i>Epilobium salignum</i> <i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i> <i>Oenothera biennis</i> <i>Oenothera glazioviana</i> <i>Oenothera indecora</i> <i>Oenothera parodiana</i> <i>Oenothera rosea</i> <i>Oenothera stricta</i> <i>Oenothera tetraptera</i>	Flowers white, stigma 4-lobed. Sani, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, etc. Flowers white turning pink after pollination. Stigma entire. Scattered records, e.g. Witsieshoek and Giant's Castle riverside. Shrubby Ludwigia. Port Edward. Rose Evening Primrose. Small pink flowers. Alien. Widespread. Flowers white, fade purplish. Golden Gate.
Orobanchaceae <i>Harveya pulchra</i> <i>Harveya scarlatina</i>	Parasitic herb. Pink flowers. Sani, in fine flower. 2 at Sani 2018.

<i>Harveya speciosa</i>	Tall White Ink-flower. Parasitic herb. White flowers. Giant's Castle, 1 at Port Edward.
Oxalidaceae	
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Creeping Yellow Sorrel
<i>Oxalis depressa</i>	Hairless, leaflets often purple below, flowers pink or white. Giant's Castle, and Golden Gate.
<i>Oxalis obliquifolia</i>	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.
<i>Oxalis semiloba</i>	Folded-leaved Sorrel. Recorded 2025.
<i>Oxalis smithiana</i>	Narrow-leaved Sorrel. Deeply divided leaves with narrow lobes. In leaf Sani and near Underberg.
Papaveraceae	
<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Alien. Sentinal car park.
<i>Papaver aculeatum</i>	Orange Poppy. Scattered records, e.g. Sani, Lesotho, Giant's Castle forest, Witsieshoek.
Passifloraceae	
<i>Adenia gummifera</i>	Green-stem. Skyline NR (PGC).
Phytolaccaceae	
<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>	Pokeweed. A few records.
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Scattered records.
<i>Plantago major</i>	Munster.
Polygalaceae	
<i>Muraltia flanaganii</i>	Probably this species at Golden Gate, 2018.
<i>Polygala amatymbica</i>	Dwarf Polygala. Golden Gate.
<i>Polygala confusa</i>	Forest at Giant's Castle.
<i>Polygala gracilentia</i>	Himeville, Kamberg, Giant's Castle, Sani.
<i>Polygala hispida</i>	Golden Gate.
<i>Polygala hottentotta</i>	Small Purple Broom. Perennial with pink flowers. Sani, Kamberg, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate.
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Polygala ohlendorffiana</i>	Slender herb with deep pink flowers. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Polygala refracta</i>	Narrow-leaved Polygala. Port Edward.
<i>Polygala rehmannii</i>	Spionkop.
<i>Polygala rhinostigma</i>	Witsieshoek and Sani.
<i>Polygala serpentaria</i>	Trailing herb. Recorded 2025.
<i>Polygala virgata</i>	Purple Broom. Shrub with large pink flowers. Port Edward, Giant's Castle, and Sani.
<i>Polygala</i> sp.	Very small white flowers, Port Edward.
Polygonaceae	
<i>Persicaria attenuata</i>	Ntsikeni 2018.
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	Scattered records.
<i>Persicaria serrulata</i>	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> spp. <i>angiocarpus</i>	Scattered, naturalised.
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock.
<i>Rumex lanceolatus</i>	Sani.
<i>Rumex sagittatus</i>	Climbing Dock. Giant's Castle.
<i>Rumex woodii</i>	Scattered records, e.g. Giant's Castle and Golden Gate.
Primulaceae	
<i>Anagallis huttonii</i>	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.

<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	Scarlet Silky Oak. Alien. Invasive at Red Desert.
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Australian Silky Oak. Alien.
<i>Hakea sericea</i>	Silky Hakea. Alien. Red Desert.
<i>Leucadendron spissifolium</i> ssp. <i>oribinum</i>	Oribi Spear-leaved Conebush. Umtamvuna, several plants very locally (PGC).

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

<i>Protea caffra</i>	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.
<i>Protea dracomontana</i>	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.
<i>Protea roupelliae</i>	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, Red Desert.
<i>Protea simplex</i>	Dwarf Grassland Protea. Many in fine flower at Red Desert.
<i>Protea subvestita</i>	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

<i>Anemone fanninii</i>	Giant Wild Anemone. In leaf Witsieshoek. Still in flower at Sani 2024.
<i>Clematis brachiata</i>	Golden Gate, Giant's Castle, and Sani. In leaf.
<i>Ranunculus baurii</i>	Large-leaved Ranunculus. In impressive flower at Witsieshoek, in leaf Giant's Castle.
<i>Ranunculus meyeri</i>	Dwarf mat-forming herb with cordate leaves. Lesotho and Witsieshoek.
<i>Ranunculus multifidus</i>	Leaves deeply divided. Sani and Witsieshoek.
<i>Thalictrum rhynchocarpum</i>	Herbaceous shrub. Giant's Castle and Sani.

Rhamnaceae

<i>Phylica</i> are shrubs or small trees. Leaves ericoid, flowers often grouped in heads, calyx woolly or hairy outside.	
<i>Phylica natalensis</i>	Red Desert and Umtamvuna. Local endemic, vulnerable.
<i>Phylica thodei</i>	Rigid small shrub, sepals densely covered in white woolly hairs. Witsieshoek.
<i>Rhamnus prinoides</i>	Glossy-leaf. Giant's Castle.

Rhizophoraceae

<i>Bruguiera gymnorhiza</i>	Black Mangrove. Coast.
<i>Cassipourea gummiflua</i>	Large-leaf Onionwood. Skyline NR (PGC).

Rhynchocalycaceae

<i>Rhynchocalyx lawsonioides</i>	False Waterberry. Umtamvuna.
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Rosaceae

<i>Agrimonia procera</i>	Kamberg and Clarens.
<i>Alchemilla woodii</i>	Witsieshoek.
<i>Alchemilla</i> sp.	Giant's Castle.
<i>Cliffortia nitidula pilosa</i>	Needlelike leaves in tufts of three. Sani, locally dominant.
<i>Cliffortia paucistaminea</i>	Possibly this species at Port Edward.
<i>Cliffortia</i> sp.	Witsieshoek, locally common.
<i>Cliffortia</i> sp.	Giant's Castle.
<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	Lower Sani. <i>C. franchetii</i> and <i>C. pannosus</i> occur.
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Giant's Castle forest.
<i>Geum capensis</i>	Noted in fruit Sani and Lesotho.

<i>Leucosidea sericea</i>	Oldwood. Small tree, flaking bark, greyish white leaves. Widespread and often dominant in scrub 1800-2500m
<i>Rubus cuneifolius</i>	American Bramble. Alien. Widespread.
<i>Rubus ludwigii</i>	Silver Bramble. Underside of leaves white-woolly. In flower at Giant's Castle.
<i>Rubus rigidus</i>	
Rubiaceae	
<i>Alberta magna</i>	Krantz Flame-tree. Umtamvuna.
<i>Anthospermum</i>	are shrubs or herbs with narrow often whorled leaves. Flowers small.
<i>Anthospermum galpinii</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Anthospermum herbaceum</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Anthospermum hispidulum</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Anthospermum</i> spp.	Several others seen, e.g. at Giant's Castle.
<i>Burchellia bubalina</i>	Shrub. Umtamvuna, on rocks, in fruit.
<i>Canthium inerme</i>	Turkey-berry. Port Edward.
<i>Canthium vanwykii</i>	Pondo Turkey-berry. Umtamvuna.
<i>Conostomium natalense</i>	Wild Pentas. Red Desert and Umtamvuna.
<i>Eriosemopsis subanisophylla</i>	Erect herb with woody rootstock. Rare. Umtamvuna, in flower and fruit, three plants, 2024.
<i>Galium capense</i>	Scrambling glabrescent perennial. Leaves in whorls of 6 to 10. A few records, e.g. Sani, Giant's Castle, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Galium scabrelloides</i>	Perennial shrublet.
<i>Galium</i> sp.	Broad leaves in whorls of 4. Giant's Castle forest.
<i>Galium</i> sp.	Small, leaves in whorls of 3 and 4, off white flowers. In shade at Golden Gate.
<i>Galium</i> sp.	Giant's Castle riverside.
<i>Galium</i> sp.	A second species in Giant's Castle forest.
<i>Galium</i> sp.	Giant's Castle rocks.
<i>Gardenia thunbergia</i>	White Gardenia. Skyline NR (PGC).
<i>Keetia gueinzii</i>	Climbing Turkey-berry. Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Kohautia amatymbica</i>	Tremble Tops. Himeville, new in 2025.
<i>Kraussia floribunda</i>	Rhino-coffee.
<i>Oldenlandia herbacea</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Pavetta bowkeri</i>	Hairy Coast Brides-bush. Umtamvuna.
<i>Pavetta natalensis</i>	Coast Brides-bush. Skyline NR (PGC).
<i>Pavetta revoluta</i>	Dune Brides-bush. Probably this species in dunes at Port Edward, 2023.
<i>Pentanisia angustifolia</i>	Almost hairless, narrow leaves. Port Edward.
<i>Pentanisia prunelloides</i>	Broad-leaved Pentanisia. Leaves hairy to hairless. Dense inflorescence of purplish flowers. Widespread.
<i>Psychotria capensis</i>	Black Bird-berry. Umtamvuna.
<i>Psydrax obovata</i>	Quar. Umtamvuna.
<i>Rothmannia globosa</i>	September Bells. Umtamvuna 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.	
<i>Agathosma ovata</i>	Oval-leaved Buchu. Crushed leaves citrus scented. Red Desert, in flower.
<i>Calodendrum capense</i>	Cape-chestnut. Lower Ntsikeni, 2018.
<i>Clausena anisata</i>	Horsewood.
<i>Zanthoxylum davyi</i>	Forest Knobwood.
Salicaceae	
<i>Populus x canescens</i>	Grey Poplar. Alien. Golden Gate.
<i>Populus nigra italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar. Alien.
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow. Alien. Giant's Castle etc.

<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow. Alien.
<i>Salix mucronata</i>	Small-leaf Willow. Native. Giant's Castle.
Santalaceae	
<i>Colpoon compressum</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	Hemiparasitic shrub. Giant's Castle and Sani.
<i>Thesium</i> are hemiparasites with perianth lobes and stamens 5.	
<i>Thesium natalense</i>	Umtamvuna.
<i>Thesium pallidum</i>	Port Edward.
<i>Thesium</i> spp.	Other species unidentified.
Sapindaceae	
<i>Deinbollia oblongifolia</i>	Dune Soap-berry.
<i>Englerophytum natalense</i>	Natal Milkplum. Skyline NR (PGC).
Sapotaceae	
<i>Mimusops caffra</i>	Coast Red-milkwood. Port Edward coast.
<i>Sideroxylon inerme</i>	White-milkwood.
Scrophulariaceae	
<i>Alectra sessiliflora</i>	Hemiparasitic herb with yellow flowers. Toothed leaflike bracts. Port Edward.
<i>Anastrabe integerrima</i>	Pambati-tree. Umtamvuna 2019.
<i>Bowkeria verticillata</i>	Southern Shell-flower. Small tree. Giant's Castle, in flower.
<i>Buchnera</i> are perennials, often parasitic, with regular flowers.	
<i>Buchnera dura</i>	Flower tube softly hairy. Red Desert.
<i>Buchnera simplex</i>	Leaves basal, heads of small blue to lilac flowers. Flower tube +/- hairless. Giant's Castle.
<i>Craterostigma nanum</i>	Mole's Spectacles. Dried out plants reabsorb water and recover within 24 hours. Umtamvuna 2023.
<i>Cynium</i> are perennial parasitic herbs with large nearly regular flowers.	
<i>Cynium racemosum</i>	Large Pink Ink Plant. Large pink flowers turn black when bruised. Port Edward, Golden Gate, Sani, and many at Witsieshoek.
<i>Cynium tubulosum</i>	In marshy ground, less robust than the previous species. Mpenjati, Port Edward, and Munster. New in 2025.
<i>Diascia</i> have mostly purple flowers with bright yellow windows, lower petal with pouches or spurs.	
<i>Diascia anastrepta</i>	Upturned Twinspur. Conspicuous spreading upturned spurs. Sani.
<i>Diascia barberae</i>	Spurs incurved. Witsieshoek and Lesotho.
<i>Diascia cordata</i>	Pink flowers with diverging blunt spurs. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Diascia integerrima</i>	Flowers pale pink. Spurs incurved at tips, pointing downwards. Sani.
<i>Diascia purpurea</i>	Flowers nodding, spurs very short. Witsieshoek, in fine flower, c.10 plants, 2024.
<i>Diclis reptans</i>	Dwarf Snapdragon. Sprawling herb with white flowers with violet spots, palate yellow, spur slender, violet. Giant's Castle.
<i>Diclis rotundifolia</i>	Has shorter and broader spur than previous species, less toothed leaves. Golden Gate.
<i>Glumicalyx</i> are perennial herbs or shrublets with cylindrical flowers in nodding inflorescence. Genus endemic to Eastern Mountain Region. The genus comprises six species, five of which were seen on the tour. The sixth is <i>Glumicalyx apiculatus</i> , which occurs outside the area of the tour, very locally in the Witteberg and Cape Drakensberg.	
<i>Glumicalyx flanaganii</i>	Flower tube up to 17mm, leaves finely hairy. Sani, locally very common.
<i>Glumicalyx goseloides</i>	Flower tube 20 to 29mm. Sani, in fine flower.

<i>Glumicalyx lesuticus</i>	Flower tube 7 to 11.5mm. Lesotho, where endemic. New in 2023. Also seen 2024, 2 plants. In 2025 several seen.
<i>Glumicalyx montanus</i>	Flower tube 4 to 6mm. Cream flowers. Upper Witsieshoek, 3+.
<i>Glumicalyx nutans</i>	Flower tube 12 to 16mm. Sani.
<i>Gomphostigma virgatum</i>	River Stars. Giant's Castle, growing in the river. Previously included in Buddlejaceae or Loganiaceae.
<i>Halleria lucida</i>	Tree Fuchsia. Small tree with orange flowers. Giant's Castle, Sani, and Golden Gate. Not in flower.
<i>Hebenstretia</i> have sessile flowers in dense spikes, white usually with orange fleck at the base of petals.	
<i>Hebenstretia comosa</i>	Golden Gate.
<i>Hebenstretia cooperi</i>	Soft wooded shrub. Sani.
<i>Hebenstretia dura</i>	Perennial herb. Sani.
<i>Hebenstretia</i> sp.	Witsieshoek.
<i>Jamesbrittenia</i> are shrubs or herbs with glands. Corolla regular.	
<i>Jamesbrittenia aurantiaca</i>	Red or orange flowers. Golden Gate vulture hide site.
<i>Jamesbrittenia breviflora</i>	Large brick-red flowers. Sani, locally common.
<i>Jamesbrittenia pristisepala</i>	Dwarf shrublet with lilac flowers. Sani, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Limosella</i> are aquatic herbs, flowers among leaves.	
<i>Limosella inflata</i>	Lesotho.
<i>Limosella longiflora</i>	Leaves needle-shaped, calyx five-veined. Sani.
<i>Limosella vesiculosa</i>	Leaves roundish, flowers white, calyx tube wrinkled from bladdery swellings. Lesotho and Sani.
<i>Limosella</i> sp.	Port Edward.
<i>Manulea crassifolia</i>	Tall perennial, long spike of yellow flowers. Witsieshoek.
<i>Manulea platystigma</i>	Dwarf perennial, long inflorescence of yellow flowers in clusters of 2 or 3. Witsieshoek.
<i>Melasma scabrum</i>	Hemiparasite with large yellow flowers with red centre. Himeville marsh, 2023.
<i>Nemesia</i> have strongly 2-lipped flowers, rather snapdragon like.	
<i>Nemesia caerulea</i>	Violet-blue flowers with two raised yellow bosses in mouth. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Nemesia rupicola</i>	Clustered white to mauve flowers, palate yellow. Sani and Witsieshoek, 2024.
<i>Nemesia sylvatica</i>	White Forest-Nemesia. Large white flowers. Giant's Castle and Witsieshoek, 2024.
<i>Nemesia</i> sp.	Golden Gate.
<i>Phygeliu aequalis</i>	River Bells. Shrub, tubular red flowers with equal mouth. Giant's Castle riverside, a few in flower.
<i>Phygeliu capensis</i>	Southern Phygeliu. Shrub, scarlet flowers, tube curved, mouth oblique. Golden Gate, and 1 plant at Witsieshoek.
<i>Selago</i> are shrubs or herbs with small flowers often in many flowered heads.	
<i>Selago albida</i>	Spikes of mauve flowers. Golden Gate.
<i>Selago densiflora</i>	Clusters of white flowers. Giant's Castle.
<i>Selago flanaganii</i>	Large inflorescence of white to mauve flowers. Sani, Lesotho, Golden Gate, and Witsieshoek.
<i>Selago galpinii</i>	Heads of blue-violet flowers. Sani etc.
<i>Selago immersa</i>	White flowers. Golden Gate.
<i>Selago monticola</i>	Flowers white. Giant's Castle.
<i>Selago tarachodes</i>	Compact inflorescence of white flowers. Port Edward.
<i>Selago trinervia</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Sopubia cana</i>	Silvery Sopubia. Parasitic herb. Silvery grey with pink flowers. Sani, Witsieshoek, Kamberg, and Giant's Castle.

<i>Sopubia simplex</i>	Nearly hairless. Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
<i>Striga</i> are parasitic herbs.	
<i>Striga asiatica</i>	Red flowers. Several at Red Desert.
<i>Striga bilabiata</i>	Lilac 2-lipped flowers. Umtamvuna, Kamberg, Witsieshoek.
<i>Striga elegans</i>	Large red flowers. Spionkop 2020.
<i>Striga gesnerioides</i>	Possibly this at Golden Gate 2023.
<i>Sutera floribunda</i>	Aromatic perennial herb with many white flowers. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Sutera patriotica</i>	Pink flowers with yellow-orange tube. Sani and Giant's Castle.
<i>Verbascum</i> sp.	Golden Gate. (There are no <i>Verbascum</i> species in the Free State Flora). Also Lesotho.
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell.
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Blue Water-speedwell. Naturalised at Sani.
<i>Veronica</i> sp.	Golden Gate.
<i>Zaluzianskya</i> , Drumstick Flowers, have flowers with 5 more or less similar lobes, the lobes often notched or forked.	
<i>Zaluzianskya microsiphon</i>	Short-tubed Drumsticks. Flower has two upward facing lobes and three downward, pink outside, white inside. Sani, Giant's Castle, Golden Gate, Witsieshoek.
<i>Zaluzianskya natalensis</i>	Flower tube horizontal, mouth with thick hairs. Umtamvuna.
<i>Zaluzianskya ovata</i>	Corolla limb held horizontally. White inside, pink outside. Sani.
<i>Zaluzianskya pulvinata</i>	Leaves in small rosettes. Corolla limb held horizontally. Sani.
<i>Zaluzianskya rubrostellata</i>	Flowers brown below, bright yellow above with red markings at base. Flowers open at night. A superb addition to the list in 2023, although the flowers were closed, found at Sani. Found again in 2024, and several in 2025.
Solanaceae	
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Common Thorn Apple. Spionkop.
<i>Physalis viscosa</i>	Wild Gooseberry. Alien. Spionkop.
<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Bugweed. Alien.
<i>Solanum panduriforme</i>	Mauve flowers. Spionkop and Sterkfontein Dam.
<i>Solanum retroflexum</i>	White flowers. Port Edward, Golden Gate, and Sani.
Strychnaceae	
<i>Strychnos</i> sp.	Red Desert.
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.	
<i>Dais cotinifolia</i>	Pompom Tree. Giant's Castle, in flower.
<i>Gnidia</i> are often ericoid, flowers usually in heads, usually white or yellow, membranous or fleshy petal scales in the mouth of the fused sepal tube. (<i>Lasiosiphon</i>).	
<i>Gnidia anthylloides</i>	Flowers bright lemon yellow. Red Desert and Port Edward.
<i>Gnidia baurii</i>	Umtamvuna and Red Desert.
<i>Gnidia caffra</i>	Softly silvery hairy shrublet, flowers shiny lemon yellow. Golden Gate.
<i>Gnidia kraussiana</i>	Robust shrublet. Umtamvuna and Red Desert.
<i>Gnidia nodiflora</i>	Red Desert.
<i>Gnidia polyantha</i>	Silky subshrub with crowded heads of bright yellow flowers. Giant's Castle and Sani.
<i>Gnidia triplinervis</i>	Flowers yellow, calyx tube silky. Red Desert and Umtamvuna.
<i>Passerina</i> has small cream or reddish flowers.	
<i>Passerina montana</i>	Small creamy flowers in profusion in terminal clusters. Lesotho and Giant's Castle.
<i>Passerina montivaga</i>	Shrub with leaves spreading at c.45 degrees. Umtamvuna, new in 2025.

<i>Passerina rigida</i>	Dune Gonna. Port Edward and Red Desert.
<i>Peddiea africana</i>	Poison-olive.
Tiliaceae <i>Grewia occidentalis</i>	Cross-berry Raisin. Umtamvuna and Giants' Castle.
Urticaceae <i>Urtica lobulata</i> <i>Urtica urens</i>	Golden Gate undercliffs. Annual Nettle. Lesotho.
Valerianaceae <i>Valeriana capensis</i>	Cape Valerian. Giant's Castle.
Verbenaceae <i>Lantana camara</i> <i>Phyla nodiflora</i> <i>Verbena aristigera</i> <i>Verbena bonariensis</i> <i>Verbena brasiliensis</i>	Alien. Port Edward. Alien. Port Edward. Fine-leaved Verbena. Alien. Widespread. Numerous at Spionkop and near Clarens. Tall Verbena. Alien. Very common and widespread.
Violaceae <i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i>	Lady's Slipper. Pink flowers with lowest petal pouched at base. Port Edward, Umtamvuna, and Red Desert.
Viscaceae <i>Viscum</i> sp.	Umtamvuna.
Vitaceae <i>Rhoicissus rhomboidea</i> <i>Rhoicissus tridentata</i>	Glossy Forest Grape. Umtamvuna. Bushman's Grape. Port Edward, Red Desert, Umtamvuna, and Golden Gate.

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

‘Birds of Greater South Africa’ by Barnes, Stevenson, and Fanshawe, Helm, 2024, is an excellent addition to the many bird field guides and handbooks for the region.

Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Spionkop and beside the N3.
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>	Sani Top.
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>	Umtamvuna.
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Sani Top.
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	Widespread.
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Scattered records, e.g. Kamberg.
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	Several near Kamberg.
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	Scattered records, e.g. near Kamberg, and Golden Gate.
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Spionkop.
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1 in Lesotho.
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Between Durban and Munster (PGC).
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Mainly Underberg area.
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	Widespread and common.
Southern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>	Lesotho, and many at Himeville.
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	Common and widespread.
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	3, Johannesburg.
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Widespread and reasonably common.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Between Kokstad and Underberg.
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	Port Edward.
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Scattered records.
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Scattered records.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Scattered records.
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	Day 3 and Spionkop.
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	Scattered records.
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Sterkfontein.
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	Widespread.
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	Durban (PGC).
Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Lesotho.
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Day 3, Lesotho, and Golden Gate.
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>	Upper Witsieshoek.
African Harrier-hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	Golden Gate.
Common (Steppe) Buzzard	<i>Buteo [buteo] vulpinus</i>	Scattered records.
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	Widespread.
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	Scattered records.
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	On a nest at Munster.
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Many more seen than on recent visits, although many fewer in number than on our first tours here.
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Golden Gate and Witsieshoek.
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Scattered records.
Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	2 at Himeville.
Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradiseus</i>	Between Kokstad and Underberg, and at Himeville.
Wattled Crane	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>	2 at Himeville.
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>	Port Edward.

Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	7 near Munster.
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	Day 8.
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	Durban.
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Munster coast.
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Between Kokstad and Underberg.
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Towns.
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	Widespread, seen most days.
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	Afromontane forest, Giant's Castle.
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	Widespread and common.
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	Widespread and common.
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Scattered records.
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>	Heard at Skyline NR (PGC).
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>	Skyline NR (PGC).
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Durban.
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>	Widespread in the Port Edward area.
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	2 + at Spionkop. Heard at various sites.
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	Heard at various sites.
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	2 seen closely at the SA border post, Sani.
		Heard at various sites.
Swamp Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>	1 at Port Edward.
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	On the coast.
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Scattered records.
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>	Widespread.
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Scattered records.
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>	Munster.
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	Munster.
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	Scattered records.
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	Munster.
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	Heard at various sites.
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	Skyline NR and Red Desert before the tour (PGC).
		Umtamvuna.
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>	Skyline NR (PGC).
White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>	Heard often in Port Edward area.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>	Umtamvuna.
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>	2 at Port Edward before the tour (PGC).
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>	Sani and Golden Gate. Seen on 4 days.
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>	Skyline NR (PGC).
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>	Golden Gate and Day 6.
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	Giant's Castle and lower Sani.
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	1 at Spionkop.
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Widespread.
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	Scattered records.
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Lower Sani.
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	Widespread and reasonably common.
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	Widespread.
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Widespread.
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	Seen very well at Sani.
Drakensberg Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>	Spionkop.
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>	Lesotho.
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>	

African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	Golden Gate.
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	Widespread and common.
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psolidoprocne pristopectera</i>	Umtamvuna and Himeville.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Golden Gate.
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread and common.
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	Golden Gate.
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	Widespread.
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>	Widespread and common.
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>	Scattered records.
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>	Kamberg.
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>	Giant's Castle.
Dark-capped Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>	Single birds at Sani and Giant's Castle.
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>	2 at Sani.
Lazy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>	Scattered records.
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	Port Edward and Umtamvuna.
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>	Common and widespread.
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	Widespread in wetter vegetation.
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>	Port Edward.
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapill</i>	Scattered records.
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Widespread.
Wing-snapping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola ayresii</i>	Widespread, displaying high.
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	Port Edward.
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>	Sani and Golden Gate.
Drakensberg Prinia	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>	Scattered records.
Bush Blackcap	<i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>	Seen well at Giant's Castle, also Sani.
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops capensis</i>	Scattered records.
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>	Red Desert.
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Around habitation.
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Scattered records.
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corrusca</i>	Umtamvuna.
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	N3 services stop on the departure day.
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	Widespread and common.
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	A small group at Umtamvuna.
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	Widespread and very common.
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	Scattered records.
Cape Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	Widespread and reasonably common.
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Widespread.
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	Sani.
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Cercomela sinuata</i>	Lesotho and Sani.
Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	Spionkop.
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	Himeville etc.
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>	Umtamvuna.
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>	Golden Gate.
Sentinel Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>	Sani and Witsieshoek.
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>	Munster.
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>	Giant's Castle.
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	Giant's Castle.
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	Munster.
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>	Port Edward area.
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>	A few records.

Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>	Sani, Giant's Castle, etc.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Widespread around habitation.
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	Widespread.
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	Scattered records.
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	Skyline NR (PGC).
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	Port Edward.
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	Widespread.
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	Common.
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	West of Durban.
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Spionkop.
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	Widespread and reasonably common.
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	Scattered records.
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	Scattered records.
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>	Giant's Castle.
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>	Widespread and common.
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccothraupis melanotis</i>	Sani.
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	Scattered records.
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	Scattered records.
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	Scattered records.
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	Widespread.
Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	Scattered records.
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	Scattered records.
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>	Port Edward and Day 8.
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	Lesotho and Golden Gate.
Mountain Pipit	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>	Lesotho.
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>	Scattered records.
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>	Underberg.
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	Golden Gate.
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	Scattered records.
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	Scattered records.
Drakensberg Siskin	<i>Crithagra symonsi</i>	Sani.
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	Lower Sani.
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	Scattered records.
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	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	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>	Many seen very closely at Sani Pass.
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>	Lower Sani 2023.
Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys irroratus</i>	Sani
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Sani, Giant’s Castle, and Witsieshoek.
Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	Quills found.
Burchell’s Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>	Spionkop and Sterkfontein Dam.
Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	Spionkop.
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	4 at Spionkop.
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	Many seen well at Golden Gate and Kamberg.
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Spionkop 2019.
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	Golden Gate and Spionkop.
Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	Spionkop 2024.
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi</i>	Widespread and often numerous. Giant’s Castle, Spionkop, Golden Gate, Himeville. Underberg 2019.
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Port Edward area before the tour started (PGC).
Blue Duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>	Golden Gate 2023.
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Spionkop.
Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	Spionkop.
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Day 8, 2019.
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Golden Gate.
Grey Rhebuck	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>	Umtamvuna 2023.
Common Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	Golden Gate.
Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Golden Gate.
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Near Kamberg, 2025.
Ichneumon Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	Giant’s Castle.
Small Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulenta</i>	Spionkop and at the Ultra City stop en route to Johannesburg.
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	Sign, Sani. 2023.
Water Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	Scattered records, e.g. Golden Gate, Sani, Witsieshoek.
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus ursinus</i>	Munster and Day 3.
Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Several seen but unidentified.
Bat spp.		

Systematic List Number 4

Amphibians and Reptiles

Painted Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i>	Umtamvuna 2019.
Common Platanna	<i>Xenopus laevis</i>	Sani.
Common River Frog	<i>Amietia angolensis</i>	Himeville.
Drakensberg River Frog	<i>Amietia dracomontana</i>	Lesotho.
Maluti River Frog	<i>Amietia umbraculata</i>	Lesotho.
Toad sp.		Larvae in Lesotho. Luminous spot!
Variable Skink	<i>Trachylepis varia</i>	Scattered records.
Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>	Scattered records, e.g. Witsieshoek lodge and Sani.
Drakensberg Crag Lizard	<i>Pseudocordylus melanotus</i>	Common at Witsieshoek, also Sani Top.
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>	Sani.
Delalande's Sandveld Lizard	<i>Nucras lalalandii</i>	Lower Sani.

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, Second Edition 2020 was used in the field. I have included foodplant (FP) details. Species added to the list in 2025 are annotated 2025. Species seen in the past but not in 2025 are annotated with the year in which they were last seen. Of course all species with no year annotation were also seen in 2025.

Papilionidae

<i>Papilio demodocus</i>	Citrus Swallowtail	Red Desert. FP: citrus, <i>Toddalia asiatica</i> , <i>Calodendrum capense</i> , <i>Zanthoxylum capense</i> , <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> , etc. etc.
<i>Papilio dardanus cenea</i>	Mocker Swallowtail	Skyline Nature Reserve, before the tour (PGC), 2025. FP: <i>Xymolos monospora</i> , <i>Oricia bachmanni</i> , <i>Toddalia asiatica</i> , <i>Teclea</i> spp., <i>Vepris lanceolata</i> .
<i>Papilio echerioides</i>	White-banded Swallowtail	Giant’s Castle Forest, 2024. FP: <i>Clausena anisata</i> , <i>Vepris lanceolata</i> , <i>Zanthoxylum capense</i>
<i>Papilio euphranor</i>	Bush Kite	Skyline Nature Reserve, before the tour (PGC), 2025. FP: <i>Cryptocarya latifolia</i> , <i>Cryptocarya woodii</i> .
<i>Papilio nireus lyaeus</i>	Green-banded Swallowtail	Seen north of Port Edward, and at upper Witsieshoek. FP: citrus, <i>Calodendrum capense</i> , <i>Clausena anisata</i> , <i>Toddalia asiatica</i> , <i>Zanthoxylum capense</i> , etc.
<i>Papilio ophidocephalus</i>	Emperor Swallowtail	North of Port Edward, new in 2025. FP: <i>Clausena anisata</i> , <i>Zanthoxylum</i> spp., <i>Calodendrum capense</i> .

Pieridae

<i>Pontia helice</i>	Meadow White	Scattered records, locally common, e.g. Witsieshoek and Golden Gate. FP: <i>Heliophila</i> spp. and other crucifers.
<i>Mylothris agathina</i>	Common Dotted Border	Several at Giant’s Castle. Also Munster. FP: <i>Tapinanthus oleifolius</i> , <i>Ximenia caffra</i> , <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> , <i>Colpoon compressum</i> etc.
<i>Belenois zochalia</i>	Forest Caper White	Scattered records. FP: <i>Boscia oleoides</i> , <i>Maerua racemulosa</i> , <i>Maerua cafra</i> , <i>Capparis</i> sp.
<i>Belenois aurota</i>	Pioneer Caper White	Widespread. FP: <i>Capparidaceae</i> .
<i>Belenois gidica abyssinica</i>	African Veined White	Scattered records. FP: <i>Capparis sepiaria</i> , <i>Capparis tomentosa</i> , <i>Maerua cafra</i> .
<i>Colias electo</i>	African Clouded Yellow	Golden Gate. FP: legumes.

<i>Catopsilia florella</i>	African Migrant	Widespread. FP: <i>Senna</i> spp.
<i>Eurema hecabe solifera</i>	Common Grass Yellow	A few records. FP: <i>Hypericum aethiopicum</i> and <i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i> .
<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	Broad-bordered or Small Grass Yellow	Scattered records. FP: <i>Hypericum aethiopicum</i> and <i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i> .
<i>Eurema desjardinsii marshalli</i>	Angled Grass Yellow	Port Edward. FP: <i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i> .
Lycaenidae		
Poritiinae		
<i>Alaena amazoula</i>	Yellow Zulu	1 at Umtamvuna, new in 2025. Larval food: Cyanobacteria.
Miletinae		
<i>Lachnocnema durhani</i>	a woolly legs	A female at Spionkop, 2019. Larval food: Homoptera.
Theclinae		
<i>Iolas silas</i>	Southern Sapphire	1 at Umtamvuna (PGC). FP: <i>Moquinella rubra</i> , <i>Erianthemum dregei</i> .
<i>Hypolycaena philippus</i>	Purple-brown Hairstreak	Skyline NR (PGC), 2025. FP: Polyphagous.
<i>Leptomyrina lara</i>	Cape Black-eye	Witsieshoek. FP: <i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> .
<i>Leptomyrina gorgias</i>	Lilac-breasted Black-eye	2 at Port Edward (PGC), new in 2025. FP: <i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> , <i>Kalanchoe</i> spp., <i>Crassula</i> spp.
Aphnaeinae		
<i>Axiocerses tjoane tjoane</i>	Eastern Scarlet	Spionkop, 2024. FP: <i>Acacia</i> spp.
<i>Aloeides rileyi</i>	Lesotho Russet	Golden Gate. A Drakensberg endemic.
<i>Aloeides penningtoni</i>	Natal Russet	Sani, 2019.
<i>Aloeides oreas</i>	Small Mountain Russet	Sani, 2024.
<i>Aloeides aranda</i>	Yellow Russet	Red Desert and Golden Gate, 2019. FP: <i>Aspalathus</i> .
<i>Aloeides maluti</i>	Maluti Russet	Golden Gate. A Drakensberg endemic.
<i>Aloeides swanepoeli</i>	Grassveld Russet	Spionkop, 2019.
<i>Chrysoritis chrysaor</i>	Burnished Opal	Witsieshoek, 2024. FP: <i>Tylecodon paniculatus</i> , <i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> , <i>Acacia karoo</i> , <i>Searsia</i> spp.
<i>Chrysoritis natalensis</i>	Natal Opal	Umtamvuna, 2024. FP: <i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> , <i>Ostium incanum</i> , <i>Osteospermum moniliferum</i> .
Lycaeninae		
<i>Lycaena clarki</i>	Eastern Sorrel Copper	1 at Golden Gate, 2024. FP: <i>Rumex lanceolatus</i> .
Polyommatainae		
<i>Anthene definita</i>	Steel-blue Ciliate Blue	Giant's Castle. Polyphagous.
<i>Anthene amarah</i>	Black-striped Ciliate Blue	Several at Spionkop. FP: <i>Acacia</i> spp.
<i>Anthene livida</i>	Pale Ciliate Blue	Giant's Castle, new in 2025, (TW photo). FP: <i>Cotyledon</i> spp., <i>Kalanchoe</i> spp. (<i>Anthene butleri livida</i>)
<i>Leptotes pirithous/brevidentatus/</i>	Common/Short-toothed Zebra	Only distinguishable by dissection.

<i>jeanneli/babaulti</i>	Blue/Jeannel's Zebra Blue/ Babault's Zebra Blue	FP: Polyphagous.
<i>Cacyreus lingeus</i>	Bush Bronze	Giant's Castle 2025, TW photo. FP: various Lamiaceae, flowers.
<i>Cacyreus fracta</i>	Water Geranium Bronze	Giant's Castle riverside. FP: <i>Geranium</i> spp. and <i>Pelargonium</i> spp. (<i>Cacyreus tespis</i>)
<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	Common Geranium Bronze	Witsieshoek 2024. FP: <i>Geranium</i> spp. and <i>Pelargonium</i> spp.
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Blue	Widespread. FP: Fabaceae.
<i>Harpenderis noquasa</i>	Marsh Mountain Blue	Giant's Castle 2024. FP: <i>Alchemilla capensis</i> .
<i>Lepidochrysops variabilis</i>	Variable Giant Cupid	Golden Gate. FP: <i>Selago</i> spp., <i>Becium</i> spp., <i>Salvia</i> spp.
<i>Lepidochrysops ketsi</i> <i>leucomacula</i>	Ketsi Giant Cupid	Several at Umtamvuna. FP: <i>Selago</i> spp. A very local endemic.
<i>Lepidochrysops patricia</i>	Patrician Giant Cupid	This at Umtamvuna, 2025? FP: <i>Salvia repens</i> , <i>Lantana</i> spp.
<i>Euchrysops osiris</i>	Osiris Smoky Blue	Port Edward. FP: <i>Rhynchosia totta</i> , <i>Vigna</i> <i>unguiculata</i> .
<i>Euchrysops malathana</i>	Grey Smoky Blue	Port Edward. FP: <i>Sphenostylis angustifolia</i> , <i>Canavalia</i> spp., <i>Vigna</i> spp.
<i>Eicochrysops hippocrates</i> <i>Cupidopsis cissus</i>	White-tipped Ash Blue Meadow Blue	Durban area (PGC), 2024. FP: Polygonaceae. Port Edward area. FP: <i>Eriosema</i> spp. and <i>Vigna</i> spp.
<i>Actizera lucida</i>	Rayed Blue	Port Edward. FP: <i>Oxalis</i> spp., <i>Argyrolobium</i> sp., <i>Rhynchosia</i> spp., <i>Crotalaria lanceolata</i> .
<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>	African Grass Blue	A few records. FP: <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> , <i>Oxalis</i> spp., <i>Amaranthus deflexus</i> , <i>A. viridis</i> , <i>Medicago sativa</i> , <i>Zornia</i> spp.
<i>Zizina otis antanossa</i>	African Clover Blue	Port Edward. FP: <i>Desmodium incanum</i> , <i>Indigofera</i> spp.
<i>Azanus ubaldus</i>	Velvet-spotted Babul Blue	A few records. FP: <i>Vachellia</i> sp.
<i>Azanus jesous</i>	Topaz Babul Blue	Spionkop. FP: <i>Acacia</i> spp.
<i>Azanus natalensis</i>	Natal Babul Blue	Port Edward. FP: <i>Acacia</i> spp.
<i>Azanus moriqua</i>	Black-bordered Babul Blue	Spionkop. FP: <i>Acacia</i> sp.
<i>Zizula hylax</i>	Tiny Grass Blue	Scattered records. FP: <i>Phaulopsis imbricata</i> , <i>Ruellia</i> spp., <i>Justicia</i> spp., <i>Oxalis</i> , <i>corniculata</i> , etc.
<i>Nymphalidae</i>		
<i>Danainae</i>		
<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	African Monarch	Widespread and locally common. FP: Asclepiadaceae.
<i>Amauris echeria</i>	Chief	Giant's Castle forest 2024. Skyline NR (PGC). FP: Asclepiadaceae.
<i>Satyrinae</i>		
<i>Bicyclus safitza</i>	Black-haired Bush Brown	Port Edward. FP: Grasses.
<i>Aeropetes tulbaghia</i>	Table Mountain Beauty or Mountain Pride	Sani, Golden Gate, and many at Witsieshoek. FP: Grasses.
<i>Paralethe dendrophilus</i>	Bush Beauty or Forest Beauty	Giant's Castle. FP: Grasses.
<i>Cassionympha cassius</i>	Rainforest Brown	Several at Giant's Castle. FP: Grasses.

<i>Serradinga bowkeri</i>	Dark Speckled Widow	Lesotho 2024. FP: Grasses.
<i>Pseudonympha gaika</i>	Gaika Brown	Sani Top 2024. FP: Grasses.
<i>Pseudonympha magoides</i>	False Silver-bottom Brown	Golden Gate and Witsieshoek. FP: Grasses.
<i>Pseudonympha varii</i>	Vari's Brown	Golden Gate 2024.
<i>Pseudonympha machacha</i>	Machacha Brown	A few high altitude records, e.g. Sani. FP: Grasses.
<i>Stygionympha scotina</i>	Eastern Hillside Brown	Several at Witsieshoek. FP: Grasses.
<i>Stygionympha wichgrafi</i>	Wichgraf's Hillside Brown	Golden Gate. Very local endemic subspecies.
Heliconiinae		
<i>Acraea horta</i>	Garden Acraea	Common at Giant's Castle. Larvae at Sani South African border post. Golden Gate. FP: <i>Kiggelaria africana</i> and <i>Passiflora</i> spp.
<i>Telchinia serena</i>	Dancing Telchinia	Port Edward 2024. FP: <i>Hermannia</i> spp., <i>Triumfetta</i> spp.
<i>Telchinia cabira</i>	Yellow-banded Telchinia	Port Edward 2024. FP: <i>Hermannia</i> spp.
<i>Pardopsis punctatissima</i>	Polka Dot	Umtamvuna and Port Edward, locally common. FP: <i>Hybanthus capensis</i> .
Charaxinae		
<i>Charaxes brutus natalensis</i>	White-barred Charaxes	Durban area (PGC) 2024. FP: <i>Melia azederach</i> , <i>Trichilia</i> spp., <i>Turraea floribunda</i> , <i>Ekebergia capensis</i> .
<i>Charaxes pondoensis</i>	Pondo Charaxes	Umtamvuna 2024. FP: <i>Philenoptera sutherlandii</i> , <i>Millettia grandis</i> .
Biblidinae		
<i>Sevenia morantii</i>	Morant's Tree Nymph	Durban area (PGC) 2024.
<i>Byblia anvatarea acheloia</i>	African Joker	Spionkop. FP: <i>Tragia glabrata</i> and <i>Dalechamps capensis</i> .
<i>Byblia ilithyia</i>	Spotted Joker	Spionkop. FP: <i>Tragia glabrata</i> and <i>Dalechamps capensis</i> .
Nymphalinae		
<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>	Common Diadem	Port Edward, new in 2025. FP: <i>Asystasia gangetica</i> , <i>Portulaca</i> spp., <i>Talinum</i> spp., <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> .
<i>Hypolimnas anthedon wahlbergi</i>	Variable Diadem	Durban area (PGC) 2024. FP: <i>Laportea peduncularis</i> , <i>Urera</i> spp.
<i>Catacroptera cloanthe</i>	Pirate	Several at Golden Gate. FP: Acanthaceae.
<i>Precis octavia sesamus</i>	Gaudy Commodore	f. <i>natalensis</i> , Giant's Castle. Umtamvuna, Witsieshoek. FP: <i>Plectranthus</i> spp., <i>Rabdosiella calycina</i> , <i>Pycnostachys</i> spp.
<i>Junonia terea elgiva</i>	Soldier Pansy	Skyline NR (PGC), 2025. FP: Acanthaceae.

<i>Junonia natalica</i>	Brown Pansy	Munster. FP: <i>Barleria</i> spp., <i>Dychoriste depressa</i> , <i>Asystasia</i> <i>gangetica</i> , <i>Phalopsis imbricata</i> .
<i>Junonia hierta cebrene</i>	Yellow Pansy	Scattered records, e.g. Spionkop and Golden Gate. FP: Acanthaceae.
<i>Junonia oenone</i>	Dark Blue Pansy	Port Edward. FP: Acanthaceae.
<i>Junonia orithya</i>	African Blue Pansy	Himeville, new in 2025.
<i>madagascariensis</i>		FP: Polyphagous.
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady	A few records. FP: Asteraceae, etc.
<i>Hesperiidae</i>		
<i>Coeliadinae</i>		
<i>Coeliades forestan</i>	Striped Policeman	Durban (PGC), 2024. FP: <i>Acridocarpus natalitius</i> , <i>Combretum</i> <i>bracteosum</i> , <i>Triaspis glaucophylla</i> , <i>Sphedamnocarpus pruriens</i> .
<i>Pyrginae</i>		
<i>Eretris djaelaetae</i>	Marbled Elf	1 at Spionkop, new in 2025. FP: <i>Phaulopsis imbricata</i> , <i>Dyschoriste</i> <i>setigera</i> , <i>Justicia protracta</i> , <i>Asystasia</i> <i>schimperi</i> .
<i>Sarangesa motozi</i>	Forest Elfin	Durban area (PGC), 2024. FP: <i>Dicliptera</i> <i>hensii</i> .
<i>Spialia ferax</i>	Striped Sandman	Golden Gate. FP: <i>Hermannia</i> spp., <i>Hibiscus aethiopicus</i> , <i>Pavonia burchellii</i> , <i>Sida</i> spp.
<i>Spialia spio</i>	Mountain Sandman	Umtamvuna and Giant's Castle. FP: <i>Hermannia</i> spp., <i>Hibiscus</i> spp., <i>Lavatera arborea</i> , <i>Sida</i> spp., <i>Triumfetta</i> spp.
<i>Hetropterinae</i>		
<i>Metisella malgacha</i>	Grassveld Sylph	Common at Witsieshoek, also Sani and Giant's Castle. FP: <i>Ehrharta erecta</i> .
<i>Metisella syrinx</i>	Bamboo Sylph	1 lower Sani, 2024. A rare species. FP: <i>Themnocalamus tessellatus</i> .
<i>Hesperiinae</i>		
<i>Tsitana tsita</i>	Dismal Sylph	Witsieshoek. FP: <i>Stipa dregeana</i> .
<i>Kedestes mohozutza</i>	Fulvous Ranger or Harlequin Skipper	Umtamvuna. A fine species..
<i>Kedestes chaca</i>	Shaka's Ranger or Shaka's Skipper	This fine species was seen at Himeville Nature Reserve 2019.
<i>Kedestes wallengrenii</i>	White-streaked Ranger	Giant's Castle 2024.
<i>Borbo</i> sp.	a swift	Port Edward 2024.
<i>Gegenes niso niso</i>	Common Hottentot Skipper	A few records. FP: Grasses.
<i>Afrogegenes</i> sp.	Dodger species	