



The Drakensberg

19-31 January 2025

Led by Frank Gaude & Rupert Koopman



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Day 1

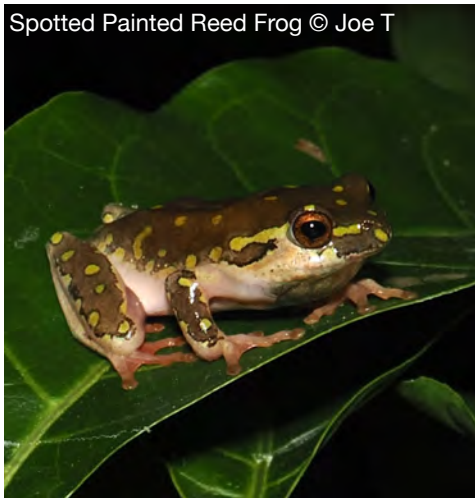
Once everyone had arrived at Durban's King Shaka Airport, we were on our way down the South Coast, also known as the Hibiscus Coast. Since we needed some sustenance on our trip, we soon made a stop at the 'Waffle House' in Ramsgate where we could already make our first observations, as the restaurant is located next to a little wetland and near the beach.

We saw African Golden Weavers in the reeds and our first Red-winged Starlings and Pied African Wagtails in close proximity to our lunch table. The view of the sea was only obscured by dense stands of *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, which is so typical for the tropical coastal strip of KwaZulu-Natal.

After eating, the group went for a short stroll in the vicinity, where some of our group were fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of a juvenile Nile Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) and a variety of red-pink coralline algae and seaweed on the beach.

We continued our journey to the first accommodation of the trip, the Umtamvuna River Lodge in Port Edward, conveniently located at the shores of the Umtamvuna River. During dinner at the lodge, we were able to observe Tropical House Geckos (*Hemidactylus mabouia*), which are abundant here.

After dinner we embarked on an exploratory walk around the lodge's grounds. Apart from *Asystasia intrusa*, most of the lodge's plants are either cultivated exotics or invasive weeds, and yet the ground held many interesting animal species. Armed with torches, we were able to see a plethora of fascinating spiders such as Nursery Web Spiders (*Nilus* sp.), Boxkite Spiders (*Isoxya tabulata*), Shorthorn Kitespiders (*Gasteracantha sanguinolenta*), Greenpea Spider (*Araneus apricus*) and Common Bark Spiders (*Caerostris sexcupidata*).



Spotted Painted Reed Frog © Joe T

We first heard and then saw some frogs, which were probably all different colour morphs of the Spotted Painted Reed Frog (*Hyperolius marmoratus verrucosus*) and Guttural Toads (*Sclerophrys gutturalis*). Amongst the Reed Frogs we saw a hopeful Brown Water Snake (*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*), our first snake of the trip.

Day 2

Before breakfast we embarked on a brief outing to a little nature reserve on Port Edward's coast. Here we started to gather impressions of the biodiversity hotspot, Pondoland. On a 2-hour walk we encountered many species indigenous/endemic to the area, amongst them the first orchid of the trip, *Satyrium sphaerocarpum*. Another plant that stood out were the white plumes of *Schizocarpus nervosus*, a member of the Asparagaceae that we would find again later on this trip, but never as opulent-looking as at this location.

It was also wonderful to see the Dwarf Coral Tree (*Erythrina humeana*) with its conspicuous bright-red flowers. We were lucky to see a Bibron's Blind



Dwarf Coral Tree © Frank Gaude

Snake, a harmless, fossorial species, superficially not unlike a large Earthworm, and Joe found one of the special endemic reptiles of the area, The Pondo Rock Gecko (*Afroedura pondolia*). Rupert discovered and identified a local endemic shrub, the Pondo White Pear (*Apodytes abbottii*).

Before heading back to the lodge for breakfast, we took a look at one of the few Proteaceae of the area, the potentially endemic *Leucadendron spissifolium* (part of a species complex which includes subspecies *oribinum* and *natalensis*) and also saw one of the many Orobanchaceae of this trip, *Alectra sessiliflora* with its yellow flowers.



Habenaria dives © Gary YG

After a late breakfast we headed out again, this time to Umtamvuna Nature Reserve, where we went for a walk to explore the plateau above the wooded ravines. Due to the area's biodiversity, this turned out to be a short walk extended over a long period during which many species were observed.

We saw more orchid species when entering the reserve, one being *Satyrium trinerve* and the other the 'Death Orchid' (*Habenaria dives*), a species that we probably saw most frequently on this trip. We also saw our first *Agapanthus campanulatus* at this reserve. Everyone knows *Agapanthus* in cultivation, but seeing them in their native habitat was a totally different experience.

Some quick, snake-like movement in the grass turned out to be a beautiful *Chamaesaura anguina*, the Cape Grass Lizard. These lizards, resembling snakes but for their tiny remnants of legs, 'swim' through the high grass fast and efficiently.

A very striking member of the Geraniaceae is *Pelargonium luridum*, of which we saw a beautiful specimen on this walk. Further on we saw several good specimens of the tall, yellow orchid *Eulophia ensata* and, much less conspicuous, the green-flowering orchid *Habenaria pseudociliosa*. Trees included the red-flowering *Alberta magna*.

Following the path towards the gorge we found several 'rock gardens' with interesting plants. Very striking is *Tinnea galpinii*, a member of the mint family with maroon, almost black flowers. Alice found two diminutive yellow-flowering plants, one of which turned out to be a Bladderwort (*Utricularia firmula*) and the other one a tiny orchid, *Schizochilus zeyheri*, the Golden Splitlip Orchid. Furthermore we saw our first flowering Protea, *Protea afra*.

On the way back to our vehicle we took a detour via some bizarre Sandstone outcrops to have a look at xerophytic plants there and did eventually find some very nice examples of *Tridactyle bicaudata* ssp. *rupestris* in flower to round off our outing to this reserve.



Tridactyle bicaudata ssp. *rupestris* © Frank Gaudé

Day 3

In the morning we again went on an excursion before breakfast, this time to Mpenjati Nature Reserve on the coast north of Port Edward.

Before this morning's outing we had the opportunity to photograph a Dwarf Chameleon which Frank had found, commonly known to be the 'Umtamvuna Dwarf'. The taxonomic status is not

quite clear yet, but seems to be closely related, if not just one of the forms of the Black-headed Dwarf Chameleon (*Bradypodion melanocephalum*).



Eulophia angolensis © Alice H

The main reason for visiting Mpenjati Nature were the large stands of *Eulophia angolensis*, probably one of the showiest orchids seen on this trip. After admiring their large, yellow inflorescences, we took a short stroll to the nearby beach, passing some dune forest with a variety of small trees such as *Dracaena alectrifomis*, 'Wild Frangipani' *Voacanga thouarsii*, *Psychotria capensis*, *Strelitzia nicolai* and the Dune Aloe, *Aloe thraskii*. On the path we encountered a Giant Pill Milipede (*Spaerothorium giganteum*).

At the beach we spread out in different directions depending on everyone's priorities. We all got to see the last showy flowers of the Flame Lily (*Gloriosa superba*) and the typical dune vegetation of this area consisting of *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, the daisies *Gazania rigens* and *Dimorphotheca fruticosa* and the bright magenta flowers of *Carpobrotus dimidiatus*. We only saw one specimen of the ground orchid *Eulophia speciosa*, and unfortunately this specimen had been badly ravaged by South African Orchid Leaf Beetles (*Lema jolofa*).

Some of our group walked along the shore, enthralled by the colourful algae washed up on the beach. On exiting the reserve, the razor edged Palmiet (*Prionium serratum*) in the wetland drew attention as we had found its net-like fibres on the beach earlier.

We returned to the lodge for breakfast and subsequently loaded our luggage to prepare for the longish drive to the Drakensberg.

Once we left the lodge we paid a last visit to a location in Pondoland, mainly to have another look at *Eulophia angolensis*. Even though we made more discoveries here than anticipated, our visit was somewhat hurried along by the presence of territorial ants and the pesky seedpods of the invasive *Desmodium incanum*.

We then carried on with our drive to the foot of the Drakensberg, noting a few birds en route such as Yellow-billed Kite, Sacred Ibis and White-necked Raven. We arrived in the late afternoon at Sani Lodge outside Himeville.

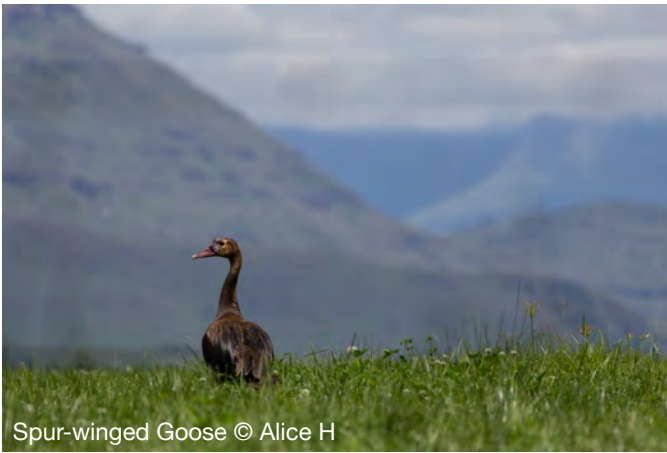
Day 4

This day was reserved for exploring the lower reaches of the Southern Drakensberg around Himeville and Underberg. First we drove to Himeville Nature Reserve, where we found some remarkable orchids, the tallest and most conspicuous being *Disa cooperi* with its long inflorescences consisting of mauve flowers with long spurs that get pollinated by hawkmoths. Other orchids were the robust green spikes of *Orthochilus foliosus*, several *Disa versicolor* with its purple buds changing to brown when opening, and some specimens of dainty *Eulophia zeyheriana*. Easily confused with orchids is *Striga bilabiata*, one of the species-rich family of Orobanchaceae.

Furthermore there were a few Blesbok to be seen, which seemed well-accustomed to the presence of visitors. A male Southern Red Bishop was also displaying in the reed bed by



Disa versicolor © Gary YG



the dam and a variety of other birds and insects were noted during our time there.

On our way to the next location, the nature reserve Garden Castle, we were able to observe some birds along the road, amongst them White Stork, Spur-winged Goose, Sacred Ibis and even a Crowned Crane. Furthermore, some Grey Rhebok and a troop of rather shy Chacma Baboons.

At Garden Castle we first stopped next to a stream and found many specimens of the orchids *Habenaria laevigata*, *Satyrium*

longicauda and *Satyrium neglectum*, a few small *Satyrium parviflora*, more *Habenaria dives* and *Eulophia zeyheriana*, all along interspersed with *Oxalis obliquifolium*.

Next to streams we found the bright magenta flowers of *Chironia krebsii* and also the conspicuous yellow corymbs of *Crassula vaginata*. We saw one Raucous Toad and both Greater Double-collared Sunbird and Malachite Sunbird.

A little bit further into the reserve we soon saw a Cape Skink (*Trachylepis capensis*) and a Southern Rock Agama (*Agama atra*). The only 'new' orchid was first found by Joy and it was good spotting, since it was a small, green species of *Habenaria* (*Habenaria lithophila*) which only shows her intricate beauty when viewed up close.

A plant that at first caused a mystery and mistakenly was assumed to be a member of the Caryophyllaceae, turned out to be yet another member of Orobanchaceae, namely *Melasma scabrum*.

Day 5

This surely was one of the most exciting days, when we left our tour vehicle behind and instead mounted 4x4 vehicles to start our day excursion into Lesotho via the famous Sani Pass. Soon we stopped at 'Yellowwood Corner', and below the name-giving conifer (*Podocarpus latifolius*) we saw one of the flagship species of the Sani Pass area, the Christmas Bells (*Sandersonia aurantiaca*).

Some further investigation showed some *Pterygodium cooperi* and a *Pterygodium dracomontanum*. The third orchid at this location was a lovely specimen of *Satyrium cristatum*. Proteas were only flowering sparsely, but we did spot some *Protea roupelliae* and *Protea subvestita* in bloom.

The South African side of Sani Pass has been 'tamed' with tarred roads, gabions and plastered cliffs. The 'wild' part of Sani Pass starts after the South African border post and this is where we made most of our floral observations.

We stopped for a showy *Gladiolus dalenii* and, once outside our vehicles we noticed many other interesting plants, such as yellow *Euryops tysonii*, often covered by metallic green Grooving Flower Beetles (*Meyris* sp.), lots of *Lotononis lotononoides*, and several Scrophulariaceae, such as *Hebenstretia dura*, *Jamesbrittenia pristisepala* and *Diascia integerrima*.

Sandersonia aurantiaca © Joe T





Disa cephalotes © Frank Gaude

The next stop was to explore along a stream, where we found several beautiful species. The most noteworthy orchid here was *Disa cephalotes* with its clusters of white/pink flowers, mimicking the flowerheads of *Scabiosa columbaria* and *Cephalaria galpiniana*. Here we also saw our first African poppies, *Afropapaver aculeatum*.

Three species of Pineapple Flowers were to be seen, *Eucomis bicolor*, *Eucomis autumnalis* and *Eucomis schiffii* (leaf only).

At our lunch spot we were hoping to find *Disa nervosa*, unfortunately we were early and only found one in bud. We did, however, find our first *Disperis cardiophora* and other plants in flower such as *Dierama dracomontanum*, *Diascia anastrepta* and *Zaluzianskya microsiphon*.

The last stop before the Lesotho border post was just before the famous switchbacks of the Sani Pass Road began. Here we saw lots of *Satyrium longicauda* and *Satyrium neglectum*, several *Pterygodium leucanthum* with wonderful scent and we also managed to see the last *Disa thodei* of the season. Some Drakensberg Crag Lizards were around and also a Jackal Buzzard posed obligingly for pictures.

Once we crossed the border to Lesotho, the sky had darkened and rumblings of a thunderstorm were getting undeniably louder. We yet managed some interesting observations, such as Sloggett's Ice Rat, Bald Ibis and Drakensberg Rockjumper.

Driving up the Black Mountain Pass, *Cotyledon orbiculata* was spotted and once we reached the summit at 3242m asl, we took the opportunity for a short walk where we could see alpine plants such as *Crassula natalensis*, cushions of *Helichrysum praecurrens* (not flowering), *Jamesbrittenia jurassica*, the flat daisy *Afroaster erucifolius* and another unidentified Scrophulariaceae.



Jackal Buzzard © Alice H

It took us a bit over an hour to get back to our accommodation where we met for dinner after a long day on the pass.

Day 6



Disperis lindleyana © Frank Gaude

After breakfast we met for a short walk on the grounds of our lodge, where we could see the last of many *Disperis lindleyana* which grow happily under pine trees.

Soon after this we were on our way to our next accommodation place, the guest farm Dalmore. Since this was to be a long drive anyway, we took the backroads, hoping to have some nice sightings along the way.

Soon we saw the first Long-tailed Widowbirds, Pin-striped Whydah and African Stonechat.

A first stop revealed blue *Moraea inclinata* and pink *Oxalis bowiei* and soon we were rewarded with the sight of bright pink *Satyrium hallackii*.

As we continued on unmade roads, we crossed a stream with red *Hesperantha coccinea*, but settled for photos from the bridge rather than scramble into the stream

bed to take pictures! We did, however, take a break to admire the huge inflorescences of *Brunsvigia undulata* and the nearby spikes of *Watsonia densiflora* and *Satyrium longicauda*.

We found a beautiful place for lunch in Kamberg Nature Reserve amongst lots of flowers, birds and some Black Wildebeest. There were quite a few orchid species around, even though most were old acquaintances to us, such as *Disa versicolor* and *Satyrium longicauda*, but we also found *Disa brevicornis* for the first time on this trip. Very impressive were stands of a yet to be identified, very large *Dierama*.

We continued our way to Highmoor Nature Reserve for a short visit. When crossing a stream, we saw beautiful *Xerophyta viscosa* and *Chironia krebsii*.

Two plants in particular caught our sight on the drive out of the reserve, the one was *Bowkeria verticillata*, a shrub with white flowers, the other a little cliff dweller, which caught Rupert's eye, *Hesperantha scopulosa*.



Hesperantha scopulosa © Joe T

We continued the long drive to our comfortable accommodation at Dalmore Guest Farm, during which we could catch glimpses of birds perching on the electricity lines, amongst them tiny Amur Falcons.

Day 7

After all the driving of the last two days, this day's program consisted of a more contained outing, a visit to Didima or Cathedral Peak Nature Reserve.

We started the day with a bit of a delay, because two of our group did not feel their best and needed to see a doctor in nearby Winterton. The rest of the group made the most of their beautiful surroundings and enjoyed some of the bird life to be found on the farm including Fan-tailed Widowbird, plus African Spoonbill and Blacksmith Lapwing on the shores of the dam.



Satyrium cristatum © Gary YG

On the way to the reserve we found the first of three Flap-necked Chameleons. This one was crossing the road in between cars, but we did not want to rely on its good fortune and helped him across. In exchange, we treated ourselves to a photoshoot of this endearing animal. Of course, this further delayed our arrival at Didima, but we could not rely on seeing another Chameleon and arrived at lunch time.

The reserve is chiefly known for its scenery and hiking routes, but we took it at a slow pace and only walked for about a mile on the 'Rainbow Gorge' Hiking Trail and back again. On the way up we noticed several orchids, most of them being *Satyrium cristatum*, but one very large specimen stood out and, although we still cannot come up with a definitive identification, probably is an early specimen of *Satyrium macrophyllum*.

The group members' walking pace was very individual that day and so were the sightings. The tail end of the group was treated to another chameleon sighting of the same species very close to the start of the trail, whilst the fastest walkers had already reached the furthest point on this walk and enjoyed views further into the gorge.

Once we reached the contour path, we were able to better enjoy views of the environment, as the clouds started to lift and reveal the shape of the surrounding mountains. We encountered mostly very mature vegetation that had not seen a fire in quite a few years and will probably benefit from such in the next few years. A fire may also take care of the abundant ticks of the genus *Rhipicephalus* (Pepper Ticks), which were ominously perched on the long grass along the path but luckily did not parasitise any member of our group.

We saw many dwarf shrubs of the species *Searsia discolor*, with conspicuous berries at the end of their branches, beautiful tree ferns (*Cyathea dregei*) and a very interesting-looking Coral Fern (*Sticherus umbraculifer*). Eduardo and Joe found a Zigzag Fruitchafer (*Anisorrhina flavomaculata*), and Joy made us aware of a pretty, but foul-smelling *Stachys aethiopica*. Penny pointed out the branched inflorescence of a Highlands Cabbage Tree (*Cussonia paniculata*) which we had not seen before. Of the Geraniaceae we saw *Geranium wakkerstroomianum* and *Monsonia attenuata*.

On our way back we saw a very obliging Eastern Ground Agama (*Agama aculeata* ssp. *distanti*) and a few colourful Koppie Foam Grasshoppers (*Dityophorus spumans*).



Koppie Foam Grasshopper © Joe T

Back at Dalmore Guest Farm we searched after dark for interesting insects that gathered at light sources on the property and found interesting moths, particularly those of the genus *Ceromitia*, with antenna about four times their own body length.

Day 8



Liparis bowkeri © Gary YG

We left Dalmore in the morning, heading first for Royal Natal National Park. This is one of the most famous sections of the Drakensberg, particularly due to its 'Amphitheatre', an almost vertical wall of basalt columns.

On our drive into the park, we were greeted by a troop of Baboons, which provided some entertainment before we started on the 'Tugela Gorge Walk', one of the easier trails in the park, which combines a variety of habitats.

The trail started in a wooded section with Yellowwoods and Wild Pomegranate (*Burchellia bubalina*) where we soon saw the orchid *Liparis bowkeri* in the shady areas next to streams, accompanied by *Begonia sutherlandii*, *Plectranthus*

grallatus, the bright, coral-red *Hylodesmum repandum* and, in the sunny parts, the 'Wild Fuchsia', *Phygellus aequalis*.

In the Grasslands we saw quite a few interesting plants, such as the Tiered Pelargonium (*Pelargonium schlechteri*), *Ornithogalum candicans*, False Gerbera (*Haplocarpa scaposa*), *Schizoglossum atropurpureum* and many *Alepidia setifera*. Unfortunately, the spectacular scarlet flowers of the glossy bottlebrush (*Greyia sutherlandii*) are a winter phenomenon but there were many trees along the way.



Pelargonium schlechteri © Frank Gaude

The high temperatures on this day quickly drained us of energy and we soon turned around to walk back to our vehicle. Just before doing so we had wonderful views of a male Malachite Sunbird which posed for us for several minutes giving everyone a great chance to see him. On the way back we saw the African Wormwood (*Artemisia afra*) and just before the end of the trail the beautiful *Gloriosa modesta*.



We continued our way to our next lodge, Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, situated just above Royal Natal National Park, but to be reached by a 2,5-hour drive or 5 hour walk. We chose the drive.

We drove past the Sterkfontein Dam and the adjoining nature reserve, where we could spot Blesbok, Springbok and Burchell's Zebra from a distance. Far in the distance we were able to make out a Blue Crane, the national bird of South Africa.

We were glad when we arrived at Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge and enjoyed the sunset and fantastic view over the mountains and beyond.

Day 9

We started the day with a sighting of the endemic Drakensberg Dwarf Chameleon (*Bradypodion dracomontanum*), one of the 22 described Chameleon species of South Africa.

Since the forecast for this day was fantastic, it was clear that we would tackle the part of the trip with the most spectacular views and mountainscapes. We again changed into 4x4 vehicles, but this time only for a short trip to the trailhead of the Sentinel Trail.

Already at arrival we saw many new plant species, starting with *Kniphofia thodei*, a small *Kniphofia* with very light colouration. Later we saw more *Kniphofia* which were predominantly yellow, possibly *Kniphofia ritualis*. All *Kniphofia* seem to be popular with *Aeropetes tulbaghia*, the Table Mountain Beauty butterfly. Another fascinating insect was the Common Tanglevein Fly, feeding on the nectar of *Scabiosa columbaria*.

Quite soon we saw several orchid species, starting with a nice specimen of *Pterygodium cooperi*, several small *Satyrium longicauda*, a few *Disperis renibracteata* and then lots of tiny *Schizochilus angustifolius*. Later on, we saw a particularly large *Satyrium neglectum* and also, out of reach, just two *Holothrix incurva*.



Throughout our visit we were accompanied by lizards, both the Speckled Rock Skink (*Trachylepis punctatissima*) and the Drakensberg Crag Lizard, the pollinator of *Guthriea capensis*. The nectar of this plant only seems to be palatable to lizards. Alice was even treated to a brief sighting of a Berg Adder! These adders are known for protesting loudly when approached, but unfortunately this specimen did not stand its ground and quickly disappeared into the safety of a gabion before anybody else could see it.



© Rick B

Again, we saw the three species of Pineapple Flowers, this time all three in flower. From the daisy family we were treated to copious sightings of *Dimorphotheca jucunda*, *Berkheya multijuga* and *B. rosulata*, *Cotula hispida* and a few 'Mountain Gerberas', *Roessleria armerioides*.

Everyone went right up to the viewpoint over the Royal Natal Nationalpark and enjoyed the extraordinary panorama.

We returned to the lodge in the early afternoon and had ample time to further take in its unrivalled views.

Day 10

This was an easy day exploring the vicinity of the lodge. In the morning, we were hoping for vulture sightings after the lodge management had put out some bones to attract these large birds of prey.

The vultures did not come very close, but eventually both Bearded and Cape Vultures circled around us, probably attracted by the 'bait'. Whilst waiting for the vultures, we explored the meadows for flowering plants and found some *Disa versicolor*, one complete with a Grasshopper of the species *Taphronota stali*. Rick had also found a *Disperis renibracteata* the previous day, which he found again so that everyone could admire it.

Close to the *Disperis* were some 'normal' *Satyrium longicauda* and some pink ones of the subspecies *Satyrium longicauda* ssp. *jacottetianum*. Other flowering plants found in the meadows were *Helichrysum monticola*, *Polygala rhynostigma*, *Hermannia woodii* and *Gladiolus crassifolius*.

Cape Vulture © Joe T



Disperis cardiophora © Alice H



As we continued our walk we saw another *Disperis cardiophora* and soon one of the last *Disa stachyoides* of the season. We continued the walk up to a mountain stream with a little waterfall, and we saw the intriguing *Diascia purpurea*, more *Eucomis* and *Berkheya leucaugeta* and *B. multijuga*.

On our way back to the lodge we noticed a grass aloe (*Aloe boylei*) and Rupert showed us one of the showiest orchids on this trip, a *Disa crassicornis* that was just on the cusp of going over.

After lunch we went for another walk in the vicinity of the lodge and started with two new orchid species. The one was *Eulophia ovata*, whose flowers were unfortunately eaten or not yet open and had to be revisited on the day of our departure in the hope of a perfect, newly opened bloom. The other orchid which we found in abundance was *Pterygodium magnum*, with impressive flower spikes approximately 70cm tall.

We continued on our walk over the grassy hills around Witiseshoek, not finding many new species, but lots of beautiful *Moraea inclinata*, a *Eulophia zeyheriana* and a few cushions of *Helichrysum spiralepis*.

Day 11

This day was used for an excursion to Golden Gate Highlands National Park a park known for its plains game in wide, open landscape and stunning sandstone formations.

Already on our way to reception we could make our first observations, when Alice had spotted two Black-backed Jackals close to the road. At the office where we obtained the permits, we were able to observe very trusting Pied Starlings.

Eduardo and Joe remained at a site promising for Lepidoptera and also saw a couple of plant species that we (the rest) didn't encounter, amongst them *Crassula lanceolata* and *Selago densiflora*.

We drove on to walk the Holkrans Hiking Trail where we were greeted by several butterfly species along the path, amongst them Pirates, Plain Tigers, Table Mountain Beauties, Yellow Pansies, Painted Ladies and Garden Acraea. We continued with the trail and found the flowers of *Monopsis decipiens*, *Commelina africana* and *Haplocarpa scaposa*.

The group then chose to brave some tall ladders and were rewarded with more spectacular views and a series of caves as well as species such as the African boxwood (*Myrsine africana*), persimmon relative *Diospyros austro-africana* and yellow flowered *Albuca shawii*. There were also several Cape Buntings seen, particularly near a viewpoint overlooking the valley below.



Cape Bunting © Alice H

Some members of the group were able to observe a young Spotted Skaapsteker, a mildly venomous snake that used to be falsely accused of killing the European settlers' sheep, even though its venom would never be able to do harm to sheep (or people). It is also one of the few snake species that will guard their clutch of eggs after they have been laid.

We had lunch at the Golden Gate Hotel and enjoyed the exquisite views of iconic Brandwag Buttress and Mushroom Rock.



Gladiolus papilio © Joe T

After lunch we drove onto the two loops that are available for visitors to explore. Generally, it was a fairly grassy affair with relatively few blooms to be seen, but we managed to see some special flowers.

On a first stop above a dam, we saw some pink *Nemesia fruticans* and later we came to a sudden stop because Frank had spotted some wonderful *Gladiolus papilio*.

At a rocky outcrop we got out to admire cushions of *Euphorbia clavarioides*. Once out of the car, we spread out and saw several *Pelargonium sidoides*, *Tulbaghia acutiloba*, *Hermannia coccocarpa* and one *Gazania linearis*. Amongst the plant we found a little Yellow Lines moth, *Grammodes euclidioides*.

As we drove on, we met a large herd of Red Hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus caama*) which made a change from seeing Black Wildbeest and Blesbok, both of which were frequently seen that day.

We drove another loop to get to the vulture hide, which was fairly uneventful (but presented another view of the gorgeous landscape), apart from seeing a beautiful dark pink specimen of *Gladiolus crassifolius*.

On our way out of the park, Alice spotted a single Burchell's Zebra with its foal high on top of a rocky outcrop as if posing for photographs (although unfortunately a little far away). We also saw quite a few Springbok in the afternoon sun.



Day 12

Today meant saying goodbye to the Drakensberg and we headed down into the Natal Midlands for our last night of the trip outside Howick at The Old Halliwell Country Inn, an historic trading post. Obviously we still stopped for orchids and *Eulophia ovalis* and *Satyrium parviflorum* were our last 'Berg orchids.



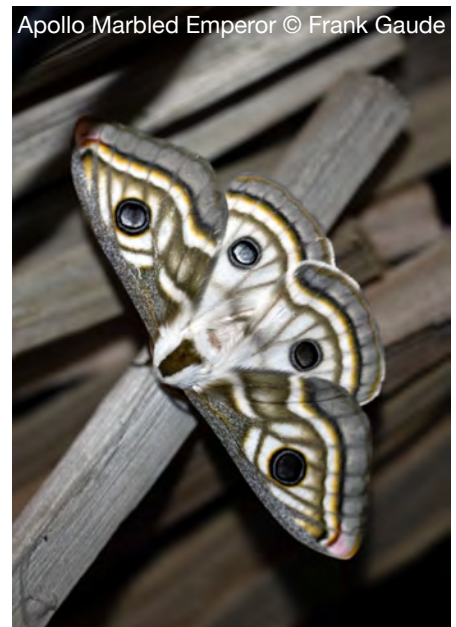
Once we got settled at the hotel and after some lunch, we headed for a short outing to the Umngeni Nature Reserve on the other side of town. Unfortunately, the weather did not play along so very well, and our walk in the reserve was cut short by thunder and rain. We did, however, manage to see some interesting plants

on the walk, such as the unusual white *Kniphofia buchananii* and the spent inflorescences of *Brunsvigia radulosa*.

We took a short drive on the wet, untarred roads in the reserve which seemed a slightly risky undertaking with the tour bus, so this activity equally did not last very long. We did, however, manage to see quite a few Burchell's Zebras reasonably close to the vehicle, furthermore some Amethyst and Malachite Sunbirds, and Penny's sharp eyes spotted a gorgeous Leprous Milkweed Locust (*Phymateus leprosus*) and Rupert then spotted a pristine Blue Pansy butterfly.

On the way back to the lodge we stopped to admire a stand of *Kniphofia laxiflora* and soon discovered some *Disa patula*, as well as some very large Satyriums which may be the largest *Satyrium longicauda* we have come across on this trip. We also saw another grass aloe, this time *Aloe cooperi*.

After dinner some of the group had a look at what would be attracted by the light sources around the estate and were rewarded with sightings of beautiful moths, some of them quite large, like the Wahlberg's Emperor and the Apollo Marbled Emperor.



Day 13

On the way to the airport we stopped over at the Botanical Gardens in Pietermaritzburg. The heat was rather oppressive and only the most determined butterflies were to be seen, by the most determined group members. Amongst the Butterflies was the Narrow green-banded Swallowtail



Portia Widow © Alice H

(*Papilio nireus*) and the large black and white Variable Diadem (*Hypolimnas anthedon*). There were several attractive dragonflies too, such as the Portia Widow and Maasai Sprite.

The magnificent 117 year old avenue of London Plane trees were a (non indigenous) highlight although it is sad that these trees are likely to be affected by the invasive Polyphagous Shothole Borer Beetle. A raptor in the crown of the plane trees turned out to be a Crested Eagle while Woolly-necked Storks were spotted soaring on a thermal overhead and other birds

were noted in the gardens too.

After lunch we were headed straight to the airport where we parted ways and our Drakensberg Trip came to an end.

Systematic Species Lists

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Ferns & Monocotyledons			
Ferns		Goldblotch Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus papilio</i>
Grassveld Tree Fern	<i>Cyathia dregei</i>	Grassveld Eveninglily	<i>Hesperantha baurii</i>
Umbrella Coral Fern	<i>Sticherus umbraculifer</i>	Scarlet River Lily	<i>Hesperantha coccinea</i>
Hard Fern	<i>Pellaea calomelanos</i>	Rock Eveninglily	<i>Hesperantha scopulosa</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Shortstyle Moraea	<i>Moraea brevistyla</i>
Alliaceae		Nodding Moraea	<i>Moraea inclinata</i>
Pungent Wild Garlic	<i>Tulbaghia acutiloba</i>	Trifid Moraea	<i>Moraea trifida</i>
Amaryllidaceae			<i>Moraea vigilans</i>
Bell Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus campanulatus</i>		<i>Romulea camerooniana</i>
Eastern Candelabra	<i>Brunsvigia radulosa</i>	Red Triton	<i>Tritonia disticha</i>
Ruby Candelabra	<i>Brunsvigia undulata</i>	Dense Watsonia	<i>Watsonia densiflora</i>
Araceae		Orchidaceae	
Spotted Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia albomaculata</i>	Tropical Monodisa	<i>Disa brevicornis</i>
Asparagaceae		Head Disa	<i>Disa cephalotes</i>
	<i>Albuca setosa</i>	Long Pink Disa	<i>Disa crassicornis</i>
	<i>Albuca shawii</i>	Fragrant Disa	<i>Disa fragrans</i>
Giant Grasslily	<i>Chlorophytum krookarianum</i>		<i>Disa nivea</i> (in bud only)

Large-leaved Dragon Tree	<i>Dracaena aletriformis</i>	Tailsup Disa	<i>Disa cooperi</i>
Autumn Pineapple Lily	<i>Eucomis autumnalis</i>	Lurelip Disa	<i>Disa patula</i>
Variegated Pineapple Lily	<i>Eucomis bicolor</i>	Wormwood Disa	<i>Disa stachyoides</i>
Miniature Pineapple Lily	<i>Eucomis schijffii</i>	Short Pink Disa	<i>Disa thodei</i>
Summer Hyacinth	<i>Ornithogalum candicans</i>	Browning Disa	<i>Disa versicolor</i>
Grass Chink	<i>Ornithogalum graminifolium</i>	Heart-bract Kappie	<i>Disperis cardiophora</i>
Royal Chink	<i>Ornithogalum regale</i>	Forest Kappie	<i>Disperis lindleyana</i>
Sand Lily	<i>Schizocarpus nervosus</i>	Kidney-bract Kappie	<i>Disperis renibracteata</i>
Asphodelaceae		Vlei Harlequin	<i>Eulophia angolensis</i>
Boyle's Grass Aloe	<i>Aloe boylei</i>	Sword Harlequin	<i>Eulophia ensata</i>
Cooper's Aloe	<i>Aloe cooperi</i>	Courting Harlequin	<i>Eulophia ovata</i>
Dune Aloe	<i>Aloe thraskii</i>	Golden Harlequin	<i>Eulophia speciosa</i>
Copaiba	<i>Bulbine asphodeloides</i>	Capebell Harlequin	<i>Eulophia zeyheriana</i>
Waterglass Kopieva	<i>Bulbine latifolia</i>	Death Orchid	<i>Habenaria dives</i>
Small White Poker	<i>Kniphofia buchananii</i>	Smooth Ghost Orchid	<i>Habenaria laevigata</i>
Slender Poker	<i>Kniphofia laxiflora</i>	Rock Ghost Orchid	<i>Habenaria lithophila</i>
Dwarf Poker	<i>Kniphofia pophyrantha</i>	Blackbarred Ghost Orchid	<i>Habenaria pseudociliosa</i>
Pale Poker	<i>Kniphofia thodei</i>	Litter Fly Orchid	<i>Liparis bowkeri</i>
Colchicaceae		Leafy Harlequin	<i>Orthochilus foliosus</i>
Yellow Flame Lily	<i>Gloriosa modesta</i>	Cliff Bonnet	<i>Pterygodium cooperi</i>
Flame Lily	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Drakensberg Bonnet	<i>Pterygodium dracomontanum</i>
Christmas Bells	<i>Sandersonia aurantiaca</i>	Milk Bonnet	<i>Pterygodium leucathum</i>
	<i>Wurmbea</i> sp.		
Commelinaceae		Big Bonnet	<i>Pterygodium magnum</i>
African Yellow Dayflower	<i>Commelina africana</i>	Black Bonnet	<i>Pterygodium nigrescens</i>
Tropical Spiderwort	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	Tassel Satyre	<i>Satyrium cristatum</i>
Doll's Powderpuff	<i>Cyanotis speciosa</i>	Tall Satyre	<i>Satyrium hallackii</i>
Cyperaceae		Longtail Satyre	<i>Satyrium longicauda</i>
Snow White Sedge	<i>Cyperus niveus</i>		<i>Satyrium longicauda</i> ssp. <i>jocettianum</i>
Hypoxidaceae		Largeleaf Satyre	<i>Satyrium macrophyllum</i>

African Stargrass	<i>Hypoxis hemerocallidea</i>	Pink Candle Satyre	<i>Satyrium neglectum</i>
Red Stargrass	<i>Rhodohypoxis baurii</i>	Devil Satyre	<i>Satyrium parviflorum</i>
Iridaceae		Whitebract Satyre	<i>Satyrium trinerve</i>
	<i>Aristea compressa</i>	Red-inner Satyre	<i>Satyrium sphaerocarpum</i>
Zig-zag Crocosmia	<i>Crocosmia paniculata</i>	Alpine Splitlip Orchid	<i>Schizochilus angustifolius</i>
	<i>Crocosmia pearsei</i>	Golden Splitlip Orchid	<i>Schizochilus zeyheri</i>
Drakensberg Hairbell	<i>Dierama dracomontanum</i>	Two Tails - Three Fingers	<i>Tridactyle bicaudata</i> ssp. <i>rupestris</i>
Thick-leaved Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus crassifolius</i>	Thurniaceae	
Dragon's-head Lily	<i>Gladiolus dalenii</i>	Palmiet	<i>Pronium serratum</i>
Dicotyledons			
Acanthaceae			<i>Ophrestia oblongifolia</i>
African Coromandel	<i>Asystasia intrusa</i>	Spadeflower	<i>Pigea enneaspermum</i>
Natal Primrose	<i>Thunbergia atriplicifolia</i>	Naked Fountainbush	<i>Psoralea glabra</i>
Achariaceae		Hoary Pea	<i>Tephrosia grandiflora</i>
Lizard Plant	<i>Guthriea capensis</i>	African Clover	<i>Trifolium burchellianum</i>
Aizoaceae		Francoaceae	
Eastern Sourfig	<i>Carpobrotus dimidiatus</i>	Glossy Bottlebrush	<i>Greyia sutherlandii</i>
Anacardiaceae		Gentianaceae	
Grassveld Currant	<i>Searsia discolor</i>	Grassveld Chiron	<i>Chironia krebsii</i>
Apiaceae		Stonecrop Yellowwort	<i>Sebaea sedoides</i>
Fivefive Ministar	<i>Alepidea peduncularis</i>	Geraniaceae	
Saw,eaf Ministar	<i>Alepidea serrata</i>		<i>Geranium pulchrum</i>
Brittlestalk Ministar	<i>Alepidea setifera</i>		<i>Geranium schlechteri</i>
	<i>Stenosemis angustifolia</i>	White Cranesbill	<i>Geranium wakkerstroomianum</i>
Apocynaceae		Tattooed Dysentry-Herb	<i>Monsonia attenuata</i>
Tailed Cartwheel	<i>Asclepias macropus</i>	Lurid Storksbill	<i>Pelargonium luridum</i>
Num-num	<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	Two-tiered Pelargonium	<i>Pelargonium schlechteri</i>
Old Man's Balls	<i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i>	Black Pelargonium	<i>Pelargonium sidoides</i>
	<i>Pachycarpus campanulatus</i>	Gunneraceae	
	<i>Riocreuxia torulosa</i>	River Pumpkin	<i>Gunnera perpensa</i>
	<i>Schizoglossum atropurpureum</i>	Lamiaceae	

African Frangipane	<i>Voacanga thouarsii</i>	Littleleaf Rocksage	<i>Aeollanthus parviflorus</i>
Araliaceae		Rock Lionspaw	<i>Leonotis ocymifolia</i>
Cabbage Tree	<i>Cussonia paniculata</i>	Horse Mint	<i>Mentha longifolia</i>
Asteraceae		Drakensberg Spurflower	<i>Plectranthus grallatus</i>
	<i>Afroaster erucifolius</i>	Roundleaf Sagebush	<i>Syncolostemon rotundfolius</i>
African Wormwood	<i>Artemisia afra</i>	African Stachys	<i>Stachys aethiopica</i>
	<i>Athrixia fontana</i>	Cape Sunbell	<i>Tinnea galpinii</i>
Bushman Tea	<i>Athrixia phyllicoides</i>	Lentibulariaceae	
	<i>Berkheya leucaugeta</i>		<i>Utricularia arenaria</i>
Thorny African Thistle	<i>Berkheya multijuga</i>		<i>Utricularia firmula</i>
	<i>Berkheya rosulata</i>	Malvaceae	
Pretty African Thistle	<i>Berkheya speciosa</i>	Pink Dollsrose	<i>Hermannia coccocarpa</i>
Bristly Buttons	<i>Cotula hispida</i>		<i>Hermannia woodii</i>
Trailing African Daisy	<i>Dimorphotheca fruticosa</i>	Sea Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>
Cape Daisy	<i>Dimorphotheca jucunda</i>	Flower-of-an-Hour	<i>Hibiscus trionum</i>
Mt Currie True-Eye	<i>Euryops tysonii</i>	Melastomataceae	
Wedding Treasureflower	<i>Gazania linearis</i>	Marsh Dissotis	<i>Argyrella canescens</i>
Trailing Treasureflower	<i>Gazania rigens</i>	Metteniusaceae	
False Gerbera	<i>Haplocarpa scaposa</i>	Pondo White Pear	<i>Apodytes abbottii</i>
	<i>Helichrysum albo-brunneum</i>	Moraceae	
Bright Yellow Everlasting	<i>Helichrysum aureum</i>	Red-leaved Fig	<i>Ficus ingens</i>
Goldhead Everlasting	<i>Helichrysum auriceps</i>	Orobanchaceae	
Fume Everlasting	<i>Helichrysum cymosum</i>	Yellow Paintflower	<i>Alectra sessiliflora</i>
Monkeytail Everlasting	<i>Helichrysum herbaceum</i>	Tough Blueheart	<i>Buchnera dura</i>
	<i>Helichrysum krookii</i>	Large Mountain Ink Flower	<i>Cycnium racemosum</i>
	<i>Helichrysum monticola</i>	Vlei Ink Flower	<i>Cycnium tubulosum</i>
Spiral Everlasting	<i>Helichrysum spiralepis</i>		<i>Harveya huttonii</i>
Woolly Umbrella Everlasting	<i>Helichrysum umbraculigerum</i>	Showy Ink Flower	<i>Harveya speciosa</i>
	<i>Oedera pungens</i>		<i>Melasma scabrum</i>
Mountain Gerbera	<i>Roessleria armerioides</i>	Common Sopubia	<i>Sopubia cana</i>

Golden Flat-flower	<i>Schistostephium crataegifolium</i>	Simple Sopubia	<i>Sopubia simplex</i>
Begoniaceae		Small Pink Witchweed	<i>Striga bilabiata</i>
	<i>Begonia sutherlandii</i>	Oxalidaceae	
Boraginaceae		Bowie's Woodsorrel	<i>Oxalis bowiei</i>
Drakensberg Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis semiamplexicaulis</i>	Skewleaf Sorrel	<i>Oxalis obliquifolia</i>
Brassicaceae		Papaveraceae	
Grassland Blue Cress Flower	<i>Heliophila rigidiuscula</i>	Bristle Poppy	<i>Afropapaver aculeatum</i>
Campanulaceae		Podocarpaceae	
Northern Bergbell	<i>Craterocapsa tarsodes</i>	Yellowwood	<i>Podocarpus latifolius</i>
	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	Wild Fumaria	<i>Cysticapnos pruinosa</i>
Floppy Lobelia	<i>Lobelia flaccida</i>	Polygalaceae	
Cobalt Lobelia	<i>Lobelia preslii</i>		<i>Polygala gracilentia</i>
Brother One-Eye	<i>Monopsis decipiens</i>		<i>Polygala rhinostigma</i>
	<i>Monopsis unidentata</i>	Purple Broom	<i>Polygala virgata</i>
Eastern Bell	<i>Roella glomerata</i>	Primulaceae	
	<i>Wahlenbergia cuspidata</i>	African Boxwood	<i>Myrsine africana</i>
Caprifoliaceae		Proteaceae	
Small Scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Sugarleaf Conebush	<i>Leucadendron spissifolium</i>
Caryophyllaceae		Common Protea	<i>Protea afra</i>
Lesotho Pink	<i>Dianthus basuticus</i>	Silver Sugarbush	<i>Protea roupelliae</i>
Convolvulaceae		Waterlily Sugarbush	<i>Protea subvestita</i>
Mile-a-minute Vine	<i>Ipomoea cairica</i>	Rosaceae	
Leafy Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea crassipes</i>		<i>Leucosidea sericea</i>
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	Rubiaceae	
Crassulaceae		Magnificent Flamebush	<i>Alberta magna</i>
Slab Stonecrop	<i>Crassula dependens</i>	Wild Pomegranate	<i>Burchellia bubalina</i>
Heath Stonecrop	<i>Crassula ericoides</i>		<i>Eriosemopsis subanisophylla</i>
Spear Stonecrop	<i>Crassula lanceolata</i>	Narrow-leaf Pentanisia	<i>Pentanisia angustifolia</i>
	<i>Crassula natalensis</i>	Broad-leaf Pentanisia	<i>Pentanisia prunelloides</i>
	<i>Crassula pelucida</i> ssp. <i>brachypetala</i>	Santalaceae	

White Stonecrop	<i>Crassula vaginata</i>		<i>Thesium cupressoides</i>
Ebenaceae		Scrophulariaceae	
Firesticks	<i>Diospyros austro- africana</i>	Upturned Twinspur	<i>Diascia anastrepta</i>
Diospyros austro-africana	<i>Diospyros austro- africana</i>	Twinspur	<i>Diascia integerrima</i>
Euphorbiaceae			<i>Diascia purpurea</i>
Lion Spoor	<i>Euphorbia clavarioides</i>		<i>Glumicalyx</i> sp.
	<i>Euphorbia ericoides</i>	Eastern Shrubby Slugwort	<i>Hebenstretia dura</i>
Ericaceae		Frosty Jaybee	<i>Jamesbrittenia pristisepala</i>
Summer Heath	<i>Erica aestiva</i>	Grassveld Lionface	<i>Nemesia fruticans</i>
Mountain Heath	<i>Erica afrorum</i>	Northern Shadewort	<i>Phygellus aequalis</i>
Dike Heath	<i>Erica thodei</i>	Grassveld Bitterbush	<i>Selago densiflora</i>
Fabaceae			<i>Selago peduncularis</i>
	<i>Arygyrolobium amplexicaule</i>		<i>Zaluzianskya angustifolia</i>
Giggling Capegorse	<i>Asphalathus chortophila</i>	Short-tube Drumsticks	<i>Zaluzianskya microsiphon</i>
Sensitive Pea	<i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i>	Solanaceae	
Creeping Beggarweed	<i>Desmodium incanum</i>	Bitter-Apple	<i>Solanum campylacanthum</i>
Dwarf Coral Tree	<i>Erythrina humeana</i>	Jerusalem Cherry	<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>
	<i>Grona afra</i>	Stilbaceae	
Orange Tick-trefoil	<i>Hylodesmum repandum</i>	Natal Shellflower	<i>Bowkeria verticillata</i>
	<i>Indigofera abbottii</i>	Thymelaceae	
Trailing Indigo	<i>Indigofera hendecaphylla</i>	Fire Curryflower	<i>Lasiosiphon anthylloides</i>
	<i>Lotononis lotononoides</i>	Trinerve Curryflower	<i>Lasiosiphon triplinervis</i>

Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Seen/Heard
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	✓
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	✓
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	✓
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	✓
Blue Crane	<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>	✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓

Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	✓
African Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba melanorhynchos</i>	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	✓
Gray Crowned-Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	✓
Hadedda Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	✓
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythroryncha</i>	✓
Water Thick Knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	✓
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	✓
A Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus sp.</i>	✓
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>	✓
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>	✓
Drakensberg Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>	✓
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>	✓
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>	✓
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>	✓
Rock-loving (Lazy) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>	✓
Piping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>	✓
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>	✓
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	✓
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	✓
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	✓
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	✓
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	✓
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	♪♪
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Dessornis caffer</i>	✓
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>	✓
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	✓

Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	✓
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>	✓
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillare</i>	✓
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	✓
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	✓
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>	✓
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>	✓
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	✓
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	✓
Southern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>	✓
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	✓
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	✓
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	✓
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>	✓
African Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	✓
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	✓
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	✓
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	✓
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	✓
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvis migrans aegyptius</i>	✓
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	✓
Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	✓
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	✓
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numidia meleagris</i>	✓
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	✓
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	✓
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	✓
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	✓
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	✓
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	✓
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓

African Golden (Yellow) Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>	✓
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>	✓
Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓
Buff-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>	♪♪
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	✓
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cumulata</i>	✓
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	✓
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	✓
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	✓
African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphne viridis</i>	✓
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	✓
African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>	✓
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	✓
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	♪♪
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	✓
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	✓
Cape White-Eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>	✓

Mammals

Common Name	Scientific Name
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i> ssp. <i>caama</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Samango Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i> ssp. <i>albogularis</i>
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i> ssp. <i>phillipsi</i>
Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i> ssp. <i>burchellii</i>
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
Sloggett's Ice Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Grey Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Rock Hyrax (Dassie)	<i>Procavia capensis</i>

Amphibians and Reptiles

Common Name	Scientific Name
Spotted Painted Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i> ssp. <i>verrucosus</i>
Raucous Toad	<i>Sclerophrys capensis</i>
Guttural Toad	<i>Sclerophrys gutturalis</i>
Cloud Toad	<i>Vandijkophrynus nubicola</i>
Pondo Flat Gecko	<i>Afroedura pondolia</i>
Bibron's Blind Snake	<i>Afrotyphlops bibronii</i>
Eastern Ground Agama	<i>Agama aculeata</i> ssp. <i>distanti</i>
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
Berg Adder	<i>Bitis atropos</i>
Drakensberg Dwarf Chameleon	<i>Bradypodion dracomontanum</i>
Umtamvuna Dwarf Chameleon	<i>Bradypodion melanocephalum</i>
Flap-necked Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>
Cape Grass Lizard	<i>Chamaesaura anguinea</i>
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
Brown Water Snake	<i>Lycodonomorphus rufulus</i>
Spotted Skaapsteker	<i>Psammophylax rhombeatus</i>
Drakensberg Crag Lizard	<i>Pseudocordylus subviridis</i>
Cape Skink	<i>Trachylepis capensis</i>
Speckled Rock Skink	<i>Trachylepis punctatissima</i>
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>

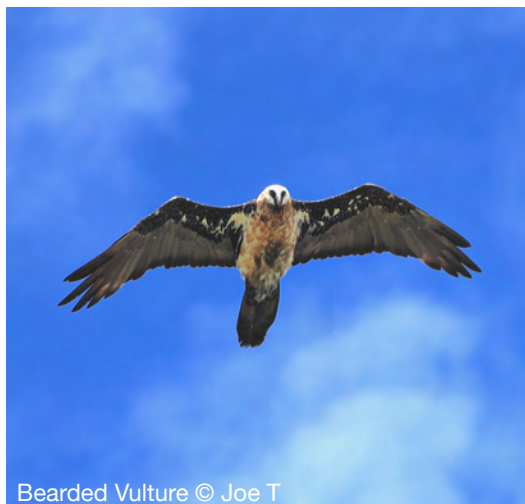
Invertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name
Butterflies	
Table Mountain Beauty	<i>Aeroptes tulbaghia</i>
Garden Acraea	<i>Acraea horta</i>
Rayed Blue	<i>Actizera lucida</i>
African Veined White	<i>Belenois gidica</i>
Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>
Common Pirate	<i>Catacroptera cloanthe</i>

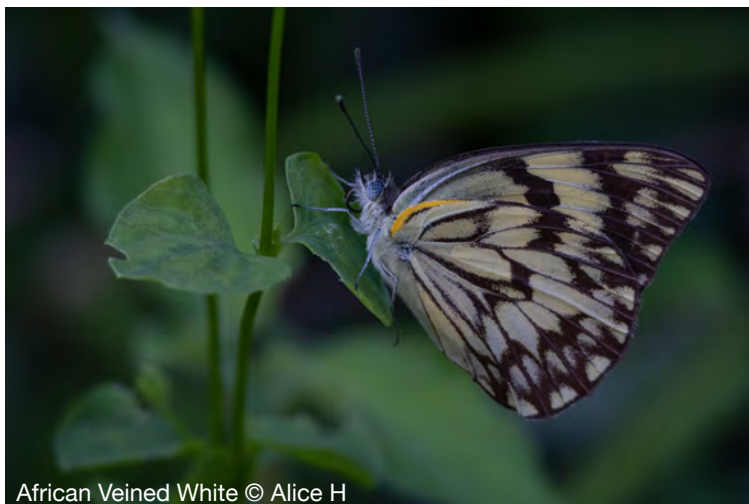
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Variable Diadem	<i>Hypolimnias antheson</i>
Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>
Dark Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>
Natal Pansy	<i>Junonia natalica</i>
Long-tailed (Pea) Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Drakensberg Grassveld Sylph	<i>Metisella malgacha</i> ssp. <i>orina</i>
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
Narrow Green-banded Swallowtail	<i>Papilio nireus</i>
Polkadot	<i>Pardopsis punctatissima</i>
Gaudy Commodore	<i>Precis octavia</i>
Basuto Skolly	<i>Thestor basuta</i> ssp. <i>basuta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i> ssp. <i>antanossa</i>
Moths	
Cabbage Tree Emperor	<i>Bunaea alcinoe</i>
Wahlberg's Longhorn	<i>Ceromitia wahlbergi</i>
	<i>Comibaena leucospilata</i>
Pale Cherry Spot Moth	<i>Diaphone mossambicensis</i>
Banded Euproctis	<i>Euproctis fasciata</i>
Yellow Lines	<i>Grammodes euclidioides</i>
Apollo Marbled Emperor	<i>Henioche apollonia</i>
Common Striped Hawkmoth	<i>Hippotion eson</i>
A Dice Moth (larva)	<i>Ranidophora</i> sp.
Leopard Magpie Moth	<i>Zerenopsis lepida</i>
Grasshoppers & Crickets	
Green Tree Locust	<i>Cyrtacanthacris aeruginosa</i>
Koppie Foam Grasshopper	<i>Dictyophorus spumans</i>
Leprous Grasshopper	<i>Phymateus leprosus</i>
	<i>Taphronota stali</i>
Elegant Grasshopper	<i>Zonocerus elegans</i>

Spiders	
Greenpea Spider	<i>Araneus apricus</i>
Banded Garden Spider	<i>Argiope trifasciata</i>
Common Bark Spider	<i>Caerostris sexcupidata</i>
Shorthorn Kitespider	<i>Gasteracantha sanguinolenta</i>
Boxkite Spider	<i>Isoxya tabulata</i>
A Spotted Orb Weaver	<i>Neoscona</i> sp.
A Nursery Web Spider	<i>Nilus</i> sp.
A Crab Spider	<i>Thomisus zuluanus</i>
Spotted Thyene Jumping Spider	<i>Thyene coccineovittata</i>
Dragonflies and Damselflies	
Common Citril	<i>Ceriagrion glabrum</i>
Barbet Percher	<i>Diplacodes luminans</i>
Julia Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum julia</i>
Portia Widow	<i>Paplopleura portia</i>
Other Taxa	
Zigzag Fruit Chafer	<i>Anisorrhina flavomaculata</i>
A Nosefly	<i>Cosmina aenea</i>
Bracken Stink Bug	<i>Erachtheus lutulentus</i>
Lunate Blisterbeetle	<i>Hycleus lunatus</i>
South African Orchid Leaf Beetle	<i>Lema jolofa</i>
A Beetle	<i>Leucocelis haemorrhoidalis</i>
Zooty Red Spittlebug	<i>Loris areata</i>
KwaZulu Natal River Crab	<i>Potamonautes sidneyi</i>
Common Tanglevein Fly	<i>Prosoeca ganglbaueri</i>
Varuna Crab	<i>Varuna litterata</i>

Photo Gallery



Bearded Vulture © Joe T



African Veined White © Alice H



Brunsvigia undulata © Rick B



Disa crassicornis © Gary YG



Rhanidophora sp. © Alice H



Cape Grass Lizard © Joe T



© Rick B

Disa thodei © Gary YG



Blesbok © Alice H



Drakensberg Rockjumper © Joe T



Dierama latifolium © Joe T



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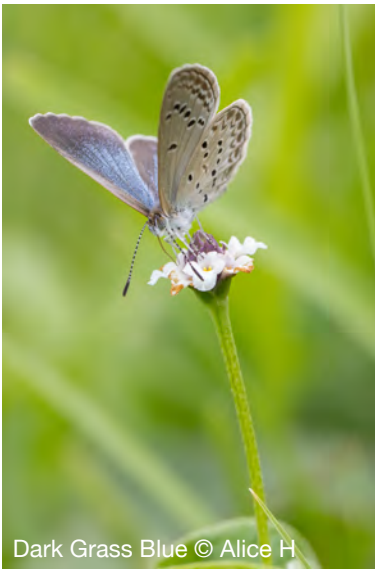
Flap-necked Chameleon © Frank Gaude



Disa cephalotes © Joe T



Bracken Stink Bug © Alice H



Dark Grass Blue © Alice H



Disa crassicornis © Rick B



Disperis cardiophora © Joe T



Grey Crowned Crane © Joe T



Flap-necked Chameleon © Joe T



Disa versicolor © Rick B



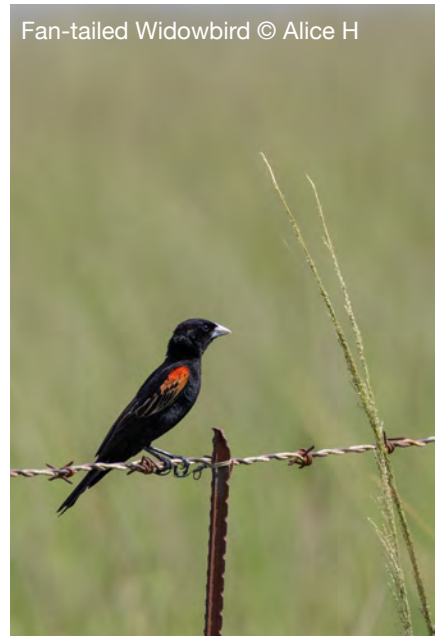
Disperis renibracteata © Frank Gaude



Flap-necked Chameleon
© Frank Gaude



© Rick B



Fan-tailed Widowbird © Alice H



Harvey huttonii © Joe T



Garden Acraea © Joe T



Geranium robustum © Joe T



Gloriosa modesta © Frank Gaude



Habenaria pseudociliosa © Gary YG



© Alice H



Lobelia anceps © Joe T



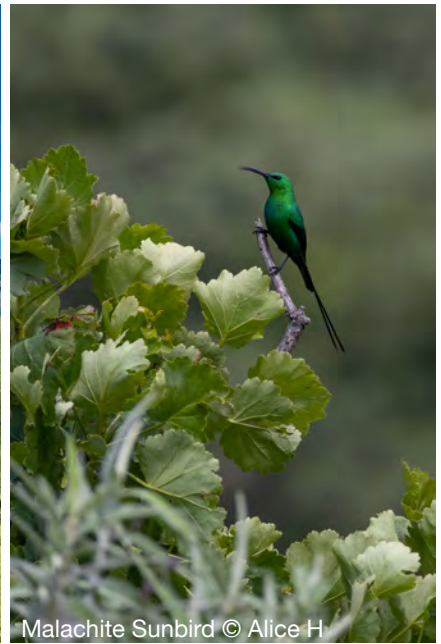
Oxalis obliquifolia © Joe T



Leprous Grasshopper © Alice H



© Rick B



Malachite Sunbird © Alice H



Romulea camerooniana © Joe T



© Rick B



Monopsis decipiens © Joe T



Monopsis unidentata © Joe T



Moraea inclinata
© Frank Gaude



Thick-billed Weaver © Alice H



Utricularia firmula © Frank Gaude



Tinnea galpinii © Frank Gaude



Water Thick Knee © Alice H



Tridactyle bicaudata ssp. *rupestris* © Gary YG



Umtamvuna Dwarf Chameleon © Frank Gaude



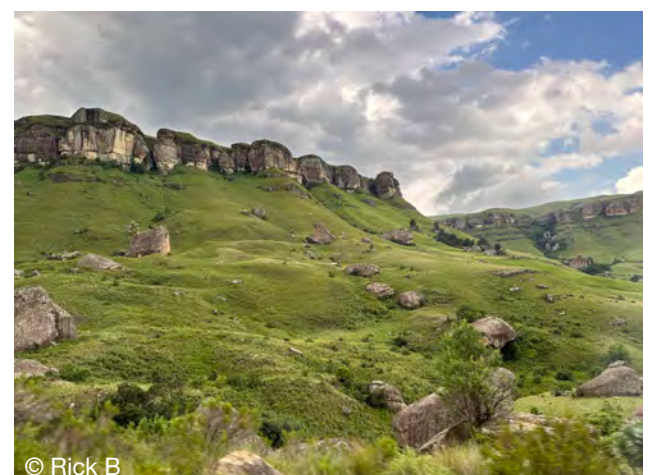
Village Weaver © Alice H



Satyrium longicauda
© Gary YG



Pterygodium magnum
© Gary YG



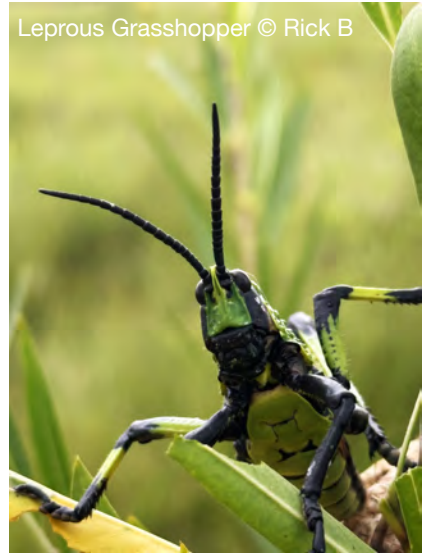
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Rayed Blue © Alice H



Schizochilus angustifolius © Joe T



Leptodermis Grasshopper © Rick B



Pterygodium magnum © Rick B



Pterygodium dracomontanum
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Satyrium hallacki © Gary YG



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Schizochilus angustifolius
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