



Drakensberg

24th Jan - 6th Feb 2020

Led by Frank Gaude & Yiannis Christofides



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Drakensberg trip report 2020

Led by Frank Gaude and Yiannis Christofides



Black-backed Jackal by Peter

Nine guests from the UK and Germany joined Frank and Yiannis for what was to prove a very interesting and exciting two weeks in the South African mountains. A range of subjects was looked at, from orchids and other plants, birds, butterflies and due to Frank's intimate knowledge of reptiles a number of interesting lizards, chamaeleons, snakes and amphibians too. Iconic birds such as the Lammergeier, Jackal Buzzard, Long-crested Eagle, Rock Kestrel, Amur Falcon, Gurney's Sugarbird, Long-tailed Widowbird, Hamerkop, Grey crowned and Blue Cranes, Ground Woodpecker and Drakensberg Rockjumper were seen at close quarters.

24th/25th January. Elisabeth, David, Allan, Anne, Karlheinz and Yiannis set off from our various departure points in the UK, Germany and Cyprus and met at Dubai airport to catch the mid-morning flight to Durban. We arrived late afternoon to be greeted by Frank and also Mary, Carol, Peter and Chris who were already here. While Frank fetched the vehicle, we saw our first birds of the holiday. There was a flock of Red-winged Starlings flying about and we could also hear Common Myna birds calling. A Cape Wagtail was searching for food at our feet.

We soon set off in our vehicle, looking to identify the various plants and trees that were, mostly planted, by the verge of the road. There were giant Strelitzias, Agapanthus and a Flame tree in brilliant red flower. We drove due south, following the coastline and made a stop to have dinner before continuing on our way to Port Edward and crashing into bed.

Postscript. Not quite everybody went to bed. David and Frank went around the garden and found three species of tree-frogs and a chamaeleon!

26th. We were awakened to sounds of birds in the garden of our accommodation and a pretty warm and humid day. The vegetation consisted of mainly subtropical shrubs and also introduced plants and trees from other parts of the world. Several people were already up before breakfast looking at the birds and a number of butterflies that were active. We saw a resting Evening Brown and more active butterflies that wouldn't settle but we identified a number including the common Brown-veined white and a couple of swallowtail species. A Hadada Ibis was feeding in the grounds. David caught sight of a Blue monkey. Birds seen, mostly by David included Grey Waxbill, Purple-crested Turaco, Cape Weaver, Red-eyed Dove and Green wood hoopoe. There were also two species of *Commelina*, the blue *C. erecta* and the yellow *C. africana*

After breakfast we set off for the Umtamvuna reserve, stopping to stock up on picnic supplies. The Umtamvuna reserve is on the northern bank of the Umtamvuna river and is the best example of the eastern coastal sandstone region in South Africa and the only example of Pondoland coastal highland sour veld.

At the reserve the landscape consisted of grassland with various plants dotted here and there. There were also rocky outcrops with a different set of plants and also rocky shallow pools with their specialist plants. There were many interesting plants, butterflies and birds seen this day. Some of the highlights were the prominent clumps of blue *Agapanthus praecox*, South Africa's biggest orchid, *Eulophia horsfallii*, still in excellent condition, the very rare Natal flame bush, *Alberta magna*, the Natal cycad, *Encephalartos natalensis*, *Brunsvigia grandiflora*, other orchids such as *Habenaria dives*, *Orthochilus ensatus* and *Satyrium longicauda* and the strange Asclepiad *Pachycarpus grandiflorus*. A Gaudy Commadore butterfly posed for us all to take photographs. A most impressive multicoloured cricket was much admired and Frank was most excited on finding a diminutive Rainfrog (genus *Breviceps*). On the rocky outcrops grew *Bulbine asphodeloides* and *Bulbine latifolia*, *Aloe arborescens* and the grey *Selaginella dregei*. Birds seen included Yellow-billed Kite, Jackal Buzzard, Croaking cisticola, Fan-tailed Widowbird, Red-winged Francolin and White-necked Ravens.

27th. Transfer day today but before we set off, we boarded our vehicle and visited the coastal reserve of Mpenjati Nature Reserve. As we arrived there, we could see the tall spikes of the yellow orchid *Eulophia angolensis* in the field. We walked into the site and photographed the orchids and also looked for other plants, finding the yellow *Hybiscus trionum*. We then moved down to the beach where we found yet another orchid, *Eulophia speciosa*, as well as our target plant *Gloriosa superba*. We also found a shore crab and several of us managed to get photos. We then returned to our accommodation, picked our bags up and set off for the long journey to Underberg.

As we drove Frank suddenly stopped, having spotted some *Gladiolus dalenii* growing in the verge. These were in excellent condition and having photographed them we searched the area a little bit more, finding two orchids, *Brachycorythis ovata* and *Satyrium cristatum*. We continued until we reached our destination at Sani Lodge Backpacker. We had a little time before dinner, so we went into the fields above our accommodation, finding *Disa versicolor* and the long slender *Kniphofia laxiflora*.

28th. A bright and sunny day today and birds were being seen in the garden of our accommodation before breakfast. There were White-throated swallows, Double-collared sunbirds and Cape doves. We set off after breakfast, stopping to look at the Bald Ibises we had seen fleetingly last evening. There were White Storks there as well. Our journey to Castle Gardens, part of the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park was to take an hour but lasted much longer as we stopped for interesting birds that kept turning up, such as White-necked Raven, Bald Ibis, Amur falcon, Secretary bird and finally Lammergeier! Seen at close quarters it was a bird many in the group wanted to see. We also investigated the verges for plants and found *Aristea* sp, *Helichrysum*, *Moraea elliotii*. Just when we thought we were making progress we had to stop for two beautiful Crowned Cranes.

Eventually we reached our destination of the Castle Gardens and we could already see the orchids on the slopes. We found *Satyrium longicauda*, *Disa versicolor*, *Crassula vaginata*, *Cyphia tysonii*, *Zaluzianskya microsiphon*, *Gladiolus ecklonii*, *Habenaria dives*, *Satyrium neglectum*, *Hypoxis argentea*, *Disa stachyoides*, *Eulophia hians* var. *nutans*, *Eulophia zeyheriana*, *Rhodohypoxis baurii* and *Watsonia pillansii*.

After lunch we found *Agapanthus campanulatus*, *Phygelius aequalis*, the golden *Cyperus sphaerocephalus*, *Protea roupelliae* and *Schizoglossum atropurpureum*. Butterflies for the day included Vari's Brown, Yellow Pansy, Plain Tiger, Gaudy Commodore, Brown-veined Whites, Painted lady, Long-tailed blue, Cupreous blue and Rayed blue.

29th. Another bright and warm day for our trip to Sani Pass. The thousands of butterflies we had seen yesterday, mostly Brown-veined Whites were now nectaring on the plants in the garden, particularly *Verbena bonariensis*. Our two Landrovers that had been hired for the day arrived at 8.30 and we set off in the direction of the Sani Pass, making stops on the way to look at particular plants, birds and reptiles. Plants seen on the way up included *Gladiolus flanaganii*, the suicide gladiolus, growing in totally inaccessible places. Growing with it on the ledge above was *Albuca fastigiata*. Other plants seen on the way up were *Geranium pulchrum*, *G. multisectum*, *Lotononis sericophylla* and *Disa cephalotes*.

We had by now reached the South African border post where we handed in our passports to be stamped and then carried on driving higher. The road had by now deteriorated significantly and the going was slow, but it allowed us to look at the slopes for birds and plants. We went through the Lesotho border control and on to Sani Pass for a toilet stop before driving a little further on to have a meal of freshly baked bread and beans in a traditional hut of the area. We then drove to the highest point of the area at 3250 meters where we found *Lotononis galpinii* and *Craterocapsa congesta*. We then returned to Sani Pass where we searched the area for plants and birds. Very widespread, both naturally occurring and planted was *Kniphofia caulescens* nicely in flower. Cape sparrows were searching in the flowers for insects. Other plants seen here were *Rhodohypoxis* in patches of white, but also some pink, *Hesperantha baurii*, *Romulea thodei* and *Romulea macowanii* were also seen.

We started on the return journey, stopping to search for frogs and finding Maluti River frog and a fresh-water land crab. Ice rats were spotted, and good views were had.

Bird highlights for the day included Ground Woodpecker, Drakensberg Rockjumper, Gurney's Sugarbirds, Sickle-winged Chat, Red-throated Wryneck and Sentinel Rock Thrush. Butterflies for the day included many Brown-veined whites, Yellow Pansy, Riley's Copper, False Silver-bottom Brown, Table Mountain Beauty and Blood-red Acraea.

We returned to our accommodation very tired but quite excited by the things we had seen.

30th. A misty day today as we continued our journey towards Winterton, in the Central-Northern Drakensberg. We saw many birds including displaying Long-tailed Widowbird, Sacred Ibis, Fiscal Shrike, Secretary birds, Amur Falcon, Jackal buzzard, Red-collared Widowbird, Ant-eating Chat, Red and Yellow Bishop and Red-necked Spurrow. Plant highlights included the magnificent *Brunsvigia undulata*, *Hesperantha coccinea* occurring by streams, *Dais cotinifolia*, the Pompon tree (a member of the Thymelaeaceae) in full flower, *Streptocarpus pentherianus*, *Gladiolus papilio* and *G. sericeovillosus*.

Today we had our first sightings of the larger mammals, Black wildebeest, Red hartebeest and Blesbok when passing through Kamberg Nature Reserve. We stopped at Highmoor Nature Reserve for our picnic and also a short walk. Interesting finds here were *Chlorophytum cooperi*, the diminutive *Aponogeton junceus* growing in a wet area, *Tulbaghia* sp. likely to be *T. natalensis*, *Aristea woodii* (*A. torulosa*) and several orchids including *Brachycorythis ovata*, *Disa patula*, *Eulophia*

hians, *Satyrium longicauda*, *Habenaria dives* and *Habenaria laevigata*. We arrived at our destination near Winterton quite tired after our long but interesting journey to a superb dinner.

31st. Breakfast overlooking the grounds and David spotted a Groundscraper thrush. We gathered at 9.00 and set off for Didima Camp at Cathedral Peak. We parked outside the reception building and started our walk. The habitat consisted of grassland with various plants dotted here and there. There were many Brown veined white butterflies flying around and also some others such as Plain Tiger, Blue Pansy and Gaudy Commodore. Some typical shrubs were *Protea roupelliae*, *Artemisia afra*, *Searsia discolor* with red berries and *Halleria lucida*, the Tree fuchsia, unfortunately not in flower. *Crocasmia paniculata* with its orange flowers drew our attention. There were many Mountain Cabbage trees, *Cussonia paniculata*, a member of the Araliaceae family.

A Cape Vulture circled overhead accompanied by a buzzard and two Ravens. We found several spikes of *Satyrium cristatum* in perfect flower. We walked on until we could see into the gorge and the towering peaks behind and then retraced our steps, finding more plants. We found a small white *Geranium*, *G. wakkerstroomianum*. *Wahlenbergia krebsii* was plentiful in the area. We also found *Hermannia*, *Hypoxis* and *Indigofera*. The most exciting find was *Gloriosa modesta*, found by Frank under a bush. Aptly named as not as exotic looking as its cousin, found a few days ago in the dunes, nevertheless very good to see.

We returned to the reception area where we had our picnic. By now the heavens had opened with torrential rain and much thunder and lightning. In view of this we returned early to our base, seeing Scrub Hare and Hamerkop on the way.

1st. Pre-breakfast walk to the nearby lake yielded Reed Cormorants, Egyptian Goose, Southern Shelduck, Rufus-naped Lark, Fan-tailed Widowbirds and Zitting Cisticola. At breakfast there was Earth-scraping thrush, Fork-tailed Drongo and Weavers flying in and out of their nests in the trees in the garden.

We saw Malachite kingfisher as we were setting off to our next destination. We arrived at the Royal Natal National Park and stopped at the reception centre before driving on a little distance. We found puddling Green-banded Swallowtails on the road which we duly photographed. We then started our walk towards the gorge. The habitat can best be described as Afromontane forest with quite different species from what we had seen so far. We found *Diospyros whyteana*, *Carissa bispinosa*, *Begonia sutherlandii*, *Aloe aristata*, *Schizoglossum atropurpureum*, *Monsonia attenuatum*, the ferns *Pteris cretica* and *Adiantum poiretii* and the orchids *Liparis bowkeri*, *Disperis fanniniae* and *Habenaria malacophylla*. We also found two specimens of *Gloriosa modesta*. We returned to the visitors centre for ice-creams and then set off for our next destination, passing through the sprawling town of Phuthaditjhaba. On the way we spotted several mammal species and two Blue Cranes. As we left the city behind us, we started to climb and the habitat changed from cultivated fields to good grassland. We climbed to over 2000 meters to our accommodation with fantastic views of the Sentinel.

2nd. We embarked in two 4x4 vehicles for the journey higher up towards the Sentinel. We then started walking higher on the path, noting the plants. We saw *Agapanthus campanulatus*, *Nerine bowdenii*, *Aloe boylei*, *Kniphofia thodei* and *K. ritualis*, *Eucomis autumnalis* and *E. bicolor*, *Galtonia*, *Ornithogalum*, *Schizocarphus nervosus*, *Hypoxis* sp. *Rhodohypoxis* and *Hesperantha* possibly *H. baurii*, *Dierama* sp. *Moraea inclinata*, *M. brevistyla*, *Disa fragrans*, *Corycium*, *Disperis stenoplectron*, *Pterygodium hastatum*, *Satyrium longicauda*, *S. parviflorum*, *S. neglectum*, *Schizochilus*, *Habenaria*, *Holothrix incurva*, *Romulea thodei*, *Wurbea* and *Berkheya rosulata*.

After lunch we walked on the path that led out from our hotel. We found *Disperis cardiophora* and *D. fanniniae*, *Geranium dracomontanum*, *Lobelia* (2 species), *Linum thunbergii*, *Papaver aculeatum*, *Hesperantha baurii*, *Zaluzianskya*, *Hebenstretia*, the white parasite *Harveya speciosa*, *Pentanisia*

prunelloids and *Sutera* sp. Other common plants were *Graderia scabra*, *Sopubia canna*, *Striga bilabiata*, *Trifolium burchellianum*, *Heliophila formosa/ridiuscula* and *Cycnium racemosum*.

Birds seen included Cape Vulture, Jackal Buzzard, Rockjumper, Grey-winged Francolin, Black Harrier, Rock Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon. Butterflies seen included Lemon Traveller, Pirate, Gaudy Commodore, Yellow Pansy, Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Table Mountain Beauty, False Silver-bottom Brown and Grassvel Sylph. Interesting reptiles were seen too such as Drakensberg Crag Lizard, Montane Speckled Skink, Rinkhals and the tiny Rain frog *Breviceps*

3rd. Our destination today was the Golden Gate Park. We descended and went through Phuthaditjhaba and climbed to the Park, seeing Burchell's Zebra and rhebuck. After completing the formalities we set off on a walk in the park. There was a purple *Ipomoea*, *Hypoxis costata*, *Gazania krebsiana*, a *Dianthus*, *Pelargonium luridum* and *Delosperma lavisiae*. Yellow Pansy was on the wing. After completing the walk we returned to the visitor's centre, where we had our picnic. We had good views of Crested Barbet, Cape Weaver and Robin Chat. The we then set off in the vehicle to complete two of the loops, looking for mammals. We stopped for *Euphorbia clavarioides*, *Pelargonium sidoides*, a beautiful purple pelargonium and *Monopsis decipiens*. We saw three gladioli during the day, namely *G. papilio*, *P. cf crassifolius* and *Gladiolus permeabilis*, a most unusual white one. Another stop to visit the vulture site produced *Disa cooperi*. We then set off on the return trip, only to stop once more for Black-backed Jackal a fitting end to an amazing day.

Orchids seen during the day included *Disa versicolor*, *Satyrium neglectum*, *Disperis cardiophora* and *Pterygodium magnum*. Other plants seen during the day included *Aloe boylei* (*A. ecklonis*), *Kniphofia triangularis*, *K. porhariantha*, *Albuca shorii*, *Ledebouria* sp. *Hypoxis cf. costata*, *Hermannia* sp., *Hoffmannseggia cf sandersonia* and *Polygala hottentotta*. Mammals seen included Burchell's Zebra, Black wildebeest, Red wildebeest, Heartebeest and Blesbok. Butterfly species included Cape Black-eye, Window Acraea, Golden Gate Widow and Geranium bronze. Bird seen included Black-winged Kite, Amur falcon, Rock Kestrel, Yellow crowned Bishop, Red Bishops, Pied Starling, Spiked-heel Lark and Crested Barbet.

4th. Much activity this morning before departure with orchids and Lammergeier being photographed. Whilst waiting to board our bus a Black Harrier flew closely over the hill. A Malachite Sunbird was nectaring on the *Aloe arborescens* in the garden. A stop was made soon after leaving the hotel to photograph an impressive stand of *Pterygodium magnum*. We started on the long journey to our last destination of the trip at Howick.

By midday the clouds had built up considerably and a thunderstorm broke as we arrived at our hotel. We decided to have lunch at the hotel in Howick. Whilst waiting we watched the Vervet monkey on the tree outside. Even though it was raining we decided to go out to a local reservoir. There was a lake there with many waterbirds. There was White-breasted Cormorant, Reed Cormorant, Egret, Egyptian Geese, Spur-winged Geese, the highlight was probably the Hamerkop. There were many animals as well and we saw Burchell's Zebra, Red hartebeest, Blesbok, Common reedbuck and Oribi, all at close quarters. The list of plants seen either this morning or previously included *Disa versicolor*, *Disperis fanniniae*, *Disperis cardiophora*, *Satyrium parviflorum*, *Habenaria* sp. *Kniphofia porphyrantha*, *K. ritualis*, *K. fibrosa*, *Gladiolus dalenii*, *Haplocarpha cf scaposa*, *Lotononis cf eriantha*, *Argyrolobium tuberosum* and *Silene undulata*.

5th. Our destination today was the Umngeni Nature Reserve, a short drive from our accommodation. There were Burchell's Zebras and Hadada Ibis in the grounds. We drove further into the reserve, stopping for Water Monitor at a small stream. We then walked in the reserve looking at the butterflies and birds. We had good views of more Burchell's Zebra, Blesbok and Impala. Butterflies seen included Citrus Swallowtail, Green-banded Swallowtail, African Common White Sulphur Orange tip, Small Grass yellow, Common Scarlet, Dark Grass Blue and Plain Tiger.

After our lunch we moved to a small reserve where we saw Pied Kingfisher, Pin-tailed Whydah displaying to a mate, African Spoonbill, Black-headed Heron, and Woolly-necked stork. Driving on we saw 2 Crowned Cranes and 2 Blue Cranes.

We also investigated some fields for orchids, but they had mostly gone over. Our final stop was to look at a field with impressive stands of *Kniphofia tysonii* (stamens protruding permanently). There were Tree ferns (*Alsophila dregei*) there as well. Other plants seen during the day included *Aloe cooperi*, *Watsonia confusa*, *Hypoxis*, *Boophone disticha*, *Leonotis intermedia* (*L. ocymifolia*) and *Striga asiatica*.

6th. On our final day we drove to Durban airport, stopping at KZN National Botanical Garden in Pietermaritzburg with its magnificent Plane Tree Avenue, planted just after the turn of the 20th century, in 1908. The gardens were established in the early 1870s and are one of ten South African National gardens. There was a small lake attracting birds, including a Hamerkop, Mountain Wagtail and Weavers. Elisabeth was lucky to spot a beautiful Southern Tree Agama.

Checklists & Photo Gallery overleaf

Special thanks to David & Allan for the additional Odonata list

Drakensberg Plant checklist

Pteridophytes	
Cyatheaceae	
Cyathea dregei	Tree fern
Polypodiaceae	
Adiantum poiretii	
Pellaea calomelanos	
Pteris cretica	
Selaginellaceae	
Selaginella dregei	Grey, moss-like
Gymnosperms	
Podocarpaceae	
Podocarpus latifolius	Broad-leaved Yellowwood
Zamiaceae	
Encephalartos ghellinckii	Drakensberg cycad
Encephalartos natalensis	
Angiosperms	
Piperaceae	
Peperomia retusa	
Monocotyledons	
Agapanthaceae	
Agapanthus campanulatus	
Agapanthus praecox	
Amaryllidaceae	
Boophone disticha	
Brunsvigia grandiflora	
Brunsvigia undulata	
Haemanthus humilis hirsutus	
Nerine bowdenii	
Tulbaghia violacea	
Anthericaceae	
Chlorophytum balkerii	
Aponogetonaceae	
Aponogeton junceus	
Araceae	
Zantedeschia aethiopica	
Zantedeschia albomaculata	

Asparagaceae	
Asparagus ramosissimus	
Chlorophytum comosum	
Dracaena elytriformis	
Asphodelaceae	
Aloe aristata	
Aloe boylei	
Aloe cooperi	
Aloe ferox	
Aloe arborescens	
Aloe thraski	
Bulbine abyssinica	
Bulbine latifolia	
Kniphofia linearifolia	
Kniphofia porphyrantha	
Kniphofia thodei	
Kniphofia triangularis	
Trachyandra saltii	
Colchicaceae	
Gloriosa superba	
Gloriosa modesta	
Sandersonia aurantiaca	
Commelinaceae	
Commelina erecta	
Commelina africana	
Cyanotis speciosa	
Convallariaceae	
Cyperaceae	
Cyperus sphaerocephalus	
Dioscoreaceae	
Dioscorea sylvatica	
Hyacinthaceae	
Albuca shawii	yellow
Albuca pachychlamys	
Dipcadi	
Eucomis autumnalis	
Eucomis bicolor	

Eucomis schijffii	
Galtonia candicans	
Ledebouria	
Ledebouria	
Massonia echinata	
Ornithogalum graminifolium	
Schizocarphus nervosus	
Drimia macrocentra	
Hypoxidaceae	
Hypoxis costata	Broad-leaved
Hypoxis sp	
Rhodohypoxis baurii	
Iridaceae	
Aristea angolensis	
Aristea cognata	Flowers in terminal cluster
Aristea woodi	
Crocasmia paniculata	
Dierama dracomontanum	
Dierama latifolium	
Freezia laxa	
Gladiolus crassifolius	
Gladiolus dalenii	
Gladiolus ecklonii	
Gladiolus flanagani	
Gladiolus papilio	
Gladiolus sericeovillosus	
Hesperantha baurii	
Hesperantha coccinea	
Moraea brevistyla	
Moraea elliotii	
Moraea inclinata	
Romulea macowanii	
Romulea thodei	
Tritonia disticha	
Watsonia densiflora	
Watsonia pillansii	
Wurmbea	
Liliaceae	

Lilium formosanum	
Orchidaceae	
Brachycorythis inhambanensis	
Brachycorythis ovata	
Corycium dracomontanum	
Corycium nigrescens	
Disa cephalotes	
Disa cooperi	
Disa fragrans	
Disa oriophila	
Disa stachyodes	
Disa versicolor	
Disperis cardiophora	
Disperis fanniniae	
Disperis wealii	
Eulophia angolensis	
Eulophia hians	
Eulophia horsfallii	
Eulophia speciosa	
Eulophia zeyheriana	
Habenaria clavata	
Habenaria cluveri	
Habenaria dives	
Habenaria laevigata	
Holothrix incurva	
Liparis bowkeri	
Orthochilus ensatus	
Pterygodium magnum	
Pterygodium cooperi	
Satyrium cristatum	
Satyrium longicauda	
Satyrium neglectum	
Satyrium parviflorum	
Satyrium trinerva	
Schizochilus	
Schizochilus angustifolius	
Strelitziaceae	
Strelitzia nicolai	

Velloziaceae	
Xerophyta viscosa	
Eudicotyledons	
Acanthaceae	
Barleria	
Thunbergia	
Aizoaceae	
Delosperma lavisiaie	
Anacardiaceae	
Searsia dentata	
Searsia discolor	
Apiaceae	
Alepidea natalensis	
Apocynaceae (includes Asclepiadaceae)	
Asclepias macropus	
Aspidonepsis diploglossa	
Carissa bispinosa	
Pachycarpos grandiflorus	
Riocreuxia torulosa	
Schizoglossum atropurpureus	
Xysmalobium undulatum	
Araliaceae	
Cussonia paniculata	
Asteraceae	
Arctotheca populifolia	
Artemisia afra	
Berkheya rosulata	
Callilepis laureola	
Cotula	
Euryops sp.	on the way to Sani
Felicia filifolia	
Gazania krebsiana	
Gazania ringens	
Haplocarpa scaposa	
Gerbera piloselloides	Leaves in basal rosette, stem swollen below flowerhead
Helichrysum milforiae	

Helichrysum spiralepis	
Begoniaceae	
Begonia sutherlandii	
Boraginaceae	
Cynoglossum austro-africanum	
Cynoglossum spelaum	
Myosotis semiamplexicaulis	
Brassicaceae	
Heliophila rigidiuscula	
Buddlejaceae	
Buddleja salviifolia	
Cactaceae	
Rhipsalis baccifera	
Campanulaceae	
Craterocapsa congesta	at 3230 meters
Craterocapsa tarsodes	
Cyphia are erect or twining herbs with purple flowers, equally five lobed or two lipped, split down the side.	
Cyphia tysonii	
Lobelia has the corolla two-lipped split to the base at the back, the front lip with three lobes.	
Lobelia preslii	
Lobelia galpinii	
Monopsis decipiens	
Wahlenbergia has campanulate flowers with broad petals.	
Wahlenbergia bergeii	
Wahlenbergia krebsii	
Wahlenbergia polytrichifolia	mat forming
Caryophyllaceae	
Cerastium arabis	
Dianthus basuticus	
Silene undulata	
Celtidaceae	
Celtis africana	
Convolvulariaceae	
Ipomoea pes-caprae	
Crassulaceae	

Crassula vaginata	
Dipsacaceae	
Scabiosa sp	
Droseraceae	
Drosera madagascarensis	
Ebenaceae	
Diospyros whyteana	
Ericaceae	
Erica cerinthoides	large reddish flowers
Erica straussiana	small pink flowers
Euphorbiaceae	
Euphorbia clavarioides	
Fabaceae	
Argyrolobium tuberosum	
Erythrina humeana	
Hoffmannseggia cf sandersonii	
Indigofera	
Lessertia perennans	raceme of pink flowers
Lotononis cf eriantha	
Lotononis galpinii	blue ground mat
Lotononis laxa	
Lotononis lotonoides	long inflorescence of blue flowers
Trifolium burchellianum	
Fumariaceae	
Cysticapnos pruinosa	
Gentianaceae	
Sebaea sedoides	
Geraniaceae	
Geranium drakensbergensis	Blue-purple flowers in pairs
Geranium multisectum	Leaves finely divided, flowers violet
Geranium wakkerstroomianum	
Monsonia attenuata	
Pelargonium luritum	
Monsonia attenuata	
Pelargonium luridum	
Pelargonium sidoides	
Gesneriaceae	
Streptocarpus pentherianus	

Streptocarpus cf polyanthus	
Gunneraceae	
Gunnera perpensa	
Hypericaceae	
Hypericum aethiopicum	
Lamiaceae	
Leonotis	
Plectranthus	
Pycnostachys reticulata	
Syncolostemon	
Utricularia	
Linaceae	
Linum thunbergii	
Malvaceae	
Hermannia	
Hibiscus trionum	
Melastomataceae	
Dissotis canescens	
Orobanchaceae	
Buchnera simplex	
Harveya speciosa	
Striga bilabiata	
Oxalidaceae	
Oxalis obliquifolia	
Papaveraceae	
Papaver aculeatum	
Polygalaceae	
Polygala hottentotta	
Polygonaceae	
Rumex woodii	
Proteaceae	
Protea caffra	
Protea dracomontana	
Protea roupelliae	
Protea simplex	
Protea subvestita	
Ranunculaceae	
Anemone fanninii	

Clematis brachiata	
Rosaceae	
Leucosidea sericea	
Rubus ludwigii	
Rubiaceae	
Alberta magna	Red-flowering tree, endemic
Galium capense	
Pentanisia prunelloides	
Scrophulariaceae	
Cynium racemosum	pink ink plant
Glumicalyx	
Graderia scabra	
Halleria lucida -Tree fuchia	
Hebenstretia cooperi	
Phygelius aequalis	
Sopubia cana	silvery grey with pink flowers.
Sutera	
Zaluzianskya microsiphon	Flower has two upward facing lobes and three downward, pink outside, white inside
Zaluzianskya elongata	
Stilbaceae	
Halleria lucida	tree fuchsia
Thymelaeaceae	
Dais cotinifolia	
Gnidia abberans	yellow herb
Valerianaceae	
Valeriana capensis	
Verbenaceae bonariensis	

Drakensberg Birds seen

Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	x
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>	x
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>	x
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	x
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	x
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>	x
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	x
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>	x
White-faced Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	x
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	x
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	x
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	x
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	x
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	x
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	x
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	x
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	x
Southern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>	x
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	x
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	x
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	x
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	x
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	x
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	x
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	x
Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	x
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	x
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	x
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	x
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	x

African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	X
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	X
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>	X
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	X
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	X
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	X
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>	X
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	X
Secretary bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	X
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>	X
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>	X
Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	X
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	X
Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	X
Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradiseus</i>	X
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	X
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	X
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	X
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	X
Lemon dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>	X
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	X
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	X
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	X
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>	X
Crowned hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>	X
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	X
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>	X
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	X
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	X
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	X
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	X
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	X
Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	X
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>	X
Collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>	X

Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>	x
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	x
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>	x
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>	x
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	x
Green wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	x
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>	x
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	x
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	x
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	x
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	x
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	x
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	x
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>	x
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>	x
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	x
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	x
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	x
Drakensberg Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>	x
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>	x
Large-billed lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>	x
Spike-heeled lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	x
Common bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	x
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	x
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>	x
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	x
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	x
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>	x
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	x
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>	x
African palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	x
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	x
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	x
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>	x
Dark-capped Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>	x

Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Schoenicola brevirostris</i>	x
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>	x
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	x
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>	x
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapill</i>	x
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	x
Pale-crowned Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cinnamomeus</i>	x
Drakensberg Prinia	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>	x
Spotted Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>	x
Bush Blackcap	<i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>	x
Southern yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops anderssoni</i>	x
Sombre greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>	x
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>	x
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	x
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	x
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	x
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	x
Cape Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	x
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	x
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	x
Groundscraper thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>	x
Cape Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	x
Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>	x
Brown scrub robin	<i>Cercotrichas signata</i>	x
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	x
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>	x
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	x
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Cercomela sinuata</i>	x
Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	x
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	x
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>	x
Sentinel Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>	x
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	x
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	x
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>	x
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	x

Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>	X
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	X
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	X
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	X
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>	X
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	X
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	X
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	X
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>	X
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>	X
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	X
Grey Waxbill	<i>Estrilda perreini</i>	X
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	X
Dusky indigo bird		X
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	X
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	X
Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	X
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>	X
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	X
Mountain Pipit	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>	X
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>	X
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	X
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	X
Drakensberg Siskin	<i>Crithagra symonsi</i>	X
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	X
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	X
Grey tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>	X

Drakensberg Butterflies

Papilionidae	
<i>Papilio demodocus</i>	Citrus Swallowtail
<i>Papilio nireus lyaeus</i>	Green-banded Swallowtail
Pieridae	
<i>Belenois aurota</i>	Brown-veined White
<i>Belenois creona severina</i>	African Common White
<i>Colotis auxo</i>	Sulphur Orange tip
<i>Colotis subfasciatus</i>	Lemon Traveller
<i>Pontia helice</i>	Meadow White
<i>Catopsilia florella</i>	African Migrant
<i>Eurema hecabe solifera</i>	Common Grass Yellow
<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	Broad-bordered or Small Grass Yellow
Lycaenidae	
<i>Actizera lucida</i>	Rayed blue
<i>Aloeides rileyi</i>	Riley's Copper
<i>Axiocerses tjoane</i>	Common Scarlet
<i>Leptotes pirithous/brevidentatus</i>	Lang's short-tailed Blue
<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	Geranium Bronze
<i>Cupidopsis cissus</i>	Common Meadow Blue
<i>Euchrysops malathana</i>	Smoky Blue
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Blue
<i>Leptomyrina lara</i>	Cape Black-eye
<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>	Dark Grass Blue
<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>	Sooty Blue
<i>Azanus natalensis</i>	Natal Spotted Blue
<i>Zintha hintza</i>	Hintza Blue
Nymphalidae	
Danainae	
<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Plain tiger
Satyrinae	
<i>Aerpetes tulbaghia</i>	Table Mountain Beauty or Mountain Pride
<i>Bicyclus anynana</i>	Squinting Bush Brown
<i>Heteropsis perspicua</i>	Eyed Bush Brown
<i>Melanitis leda</i>	Evening brown
<i>Pseudonympha magoides</i>	False Silver-bottom Brown
<i>Pseudonympha poetula</i>	Drakensberg Brown

Heliconiinae	
<i>Acraea horta</i>	Garden Acraea
<i>Acraea encedon</i>	White-barred Acraea
<i>Bematistes aganice</i> ,	Wanderer
<i>Pardopsis punctatissima</i>	Polka Dot
Nymphalinae	
<i>Catacroptera cloanthe</i>	Pirate
<i>Precis octavia sesamus</i>	Gaudy Commodore
<i>Junonia hierta cebrene</i>	Yellow Pansy
<i>Junonia natalica</i>	Brown Pansy
<i>Junonia oenone</i>	Blue Pansy
<i>Junonia orithya</i>	Eyed Pansy
<i>Junonia stygia</i>	Dark Pansy
Hesperiidae	
<i>Eretis umbra</i>	Small Marbled Elf
<i>Metisella malgacha</i>	Grassveld Sylph

Dragonflies	
<i>Pseudagrion kersteni</i>	
<i>Orthetrum julia</i>	
Grasshoppers	
<i>Zonocerus elegans</i>	Elegant grasshopper
<i>Dictyophorus spumans</i>	Koppie foam grasshopper

Drakensberg Mammals

Sloggett's Ice Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>
Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>
Black wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>
Red hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Grey rhebuck	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Common reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus ursinus</i>
Vervet monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>
Scrub hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Blue monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>

Drakensberg Amphibians & Reptiles

Painted Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i>
	<i>Breviseps aspersus</i>
Plaintive Rain Frog	<i>Breviceps verrucosus</i>
African Clawed Frog	<i>Xenopus laevis</i>
Common River Frog	<i>Amietia delalandii</i>
Maluti River Frog	<i>Amietia vertebralis</i>
Tinker Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius tuberilinguis</i>
Natal Tree Frog	<i>Leptopelis natalensis</i>
Guttural Toad	<i>Sclerophrys gutturalis</i>
Red Toad	<i>Schismaderma carens</i>
Variable Skink	<i>Trachylepis varia</i>
Montane spotted Skink	<i>Trachylepis punctadissima</i>
Drakensberg Crag Lizard	<i>Pseudocordylus melanotus</i>
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
Cape Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus capensis</i>
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
Southern Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>
Undescribed Dwarf Chameleon	<i>Bradypodion sp Umtamvuna</i>
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Rinkhals	<i>Hemachatus haemachatus</i>
Common Slug Eater	<i>Duberria lutrix</i>

Odonata – Drakensberg 2020

Smoky Spreadwing *Lestes virgatus*
Umtamvuna NR 2020-1-26 (AF)



Goldtail *Allocnemis leucosticta*

Umgeni Valley NR 2020-02-05 (DJG), National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG & AF)



Common Citril *Ceriagrion glabrum*

National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



Kersten's Sprite *Pseudagrion kersteni*

Umtamvuna River Lodge 2020-01-26 (DJG), National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg
2020-02-06 (DJG)



Swamp Bluet *Africallagma glaucum*

National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*

Royal Natal NP 2020-02-01 (DJG)

No Photo

Orange Emperor *Anax speratus*

1 National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)

No Photo

Julia Skimmer *Orthetrum julia*

Umtamvuna River Lodge 2020-01-26 (DJG), Umtamvuna River Lodge 2020-01-27 (DJG),
National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



African Black-tailed Skimmer *Nesciothemis farinosum*

Royal Natal NP 2020-02-01 (DJG), National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



African Black Widow *Palpopleura lucia*

National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



St. Lucia Widow *Palpopleura portia*

National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



Broad Scarlet *Crocothemis erythraea*

National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



Kirby's Dropwing *Trithemis kirbyi*

National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



Red-veined Dropwing *Trithemis arteriosa*

National Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzberg 2020-02-06 (DJG)



Dorsal Dropwing *Trithemis dorsalis*

ukhahlamba Drakensberg NP--Drakensberg Garden 2020-01-28 (DJG)



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