

# FLORA of the Bontebok National Park

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Bontebok *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus* VU



*Romulea rosea*



*Lobostemon strigosus*

RED DATA SPECIES:



*Erica dispar* VU

PARK ENDEMICS:



*Erica filamentosa* VU



*Aspalathus burchelliana* EN



*Diosma fallax* EN

Table 1: Largest plant families in terms of number of species, genera & Red Data species. Totals apply to all recorded indigenous taxa.

Family	Species	Genera	Species of Conservation Concern (of which Threatened)	
1 Asteraceae	84	38	3 (1)	
2 Iridaceae	56	16	7 (3)	
3 Poaceae	52	29	1 (0)	
4 Fabaceae	34	13	8 (5)	
5 Cyperaceae	23	8	1 (1)	
6 Asphodelaceae	21	6	5 (4)	
7 Hyacinthaceae	21	6	2 (1)	
8 Scrophulariaceae	20	11	2 (1)	
9 Restionaceae	20	7	1 (0)	
10 Crassulaceae	19	3	0	
11 Geraniaceae	18	3	0	
12 Mesembryanthemaceae	17	10	4 (3)	
13 Ericaceae	15	1	3 (3)	
14 Orchidaceae	13	7	1 (0)	
15 Polygalaceae	13	2	0	
16 Amaryllidaceae	12	9	2 (1)	
17 Oxalidaceae	12	1	0	
18 Thymelaeaceae	10	3	1 (1)	
19 Sterculiaceae	10	1	0	
20 Proteaceae	9	5	1 (1)	
21 Campanulaceae	9	4	1 (0)	
22 Rutaceae	9	3	4 (4)	
23 Belontiaceae	8	3	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>52 (29)</b>

## Rationale & Objectives

- The Bontebok National Park (BNP) is a small (3435 ha) protected area at Swellendam, originally established to conserve the bontebok, although the park also occurs within the botanical hotspot, the Cape Floristic Region.
- The park largely comprises Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos, an Endangered yet poorly known vegetation type, exhibiting floristic features of both Fynbos and Renosterveld.
- This study produced a plant checklist for BNP compiled from old herbarium collections, more recent plant collections and the literature, and assessed the uniqueness of the park's flora in regional context.



*Freesia caryophyllacea*



*Ornithogalum dubium*



*Babiana patula*



*Nerine humilis*

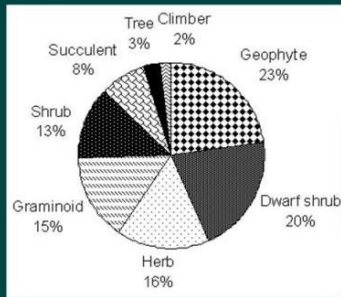


Figure 1: Growth form composition.



*Moraea inconspicua*



*Diosma passerinoides* VU

## Findings

- 650 indigenous plant species, from 280 genera and 85 families have been recorded (Table 1).
- 29 species are threatened with extinction, another 23 are species of conservation concern, and 3 species are endemic to the park (Table 1).
- The most speciose families are the Asteraceae, Iridaceae and Fabaceae, while the most speciose genera are *Aspalathus*, *Crassula* and *Pelargonium* (Table 1).
- Geophytes are the dominant growth form, followed by dwarf shrubs, herbs and graminoids (Fig. 1).
- Similarity with floras of other lowland and montane protected areas in the region is low (Table 2), demonstrating that a large component of the park's flora is not conserved elsewhere.
- This work confirms the high importance of BNP for flora conservation nationally and even globally.

Table 2: Similarity of the flora of BNP to that of other protected areas in the vicinity.

Protected area	Location in relation to BNP	Size	No. plant species	No. plant species shared with BNP	Sørensen similarity coefficient
Marloth Nature Reserve	5 km north	11 238 ha	306	50	10%
Southern Langeberg (Kogmanskloof to Gouitz River)	5 km north	174 857 ha	1215	190	20%
Werner Frehse Nature Reserve	70 km east	195 ha	144	87	22%
De Hoop Nature Reserve	35 km south	34 000 ha	1397	322	33%



*Lotononis umbellata*



*Babiana ringens*



*Tritonia flabellifolia*



*Protea piscina*



*Hessea monticola*



*Leucospermum calligerum*



*Anacampseros lanceolata*