



*Geissorhiza aspera*



*Lachenalia pallida*



*Thamnochortus spicigerus*

## Cape Flats Sand Fynbos

# Sand Fynbos

Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is typified by the presence of characteristic fynbos families such as proteas, ericas, restios (reeds), buchu and geophytes (bulbs). The vegetation comprises short-to-medium height shrubs, interspersed with restios.

In the BCA, the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is dependant on and restricted to the acid sands on the eastern side of Blaauwberg Hill.

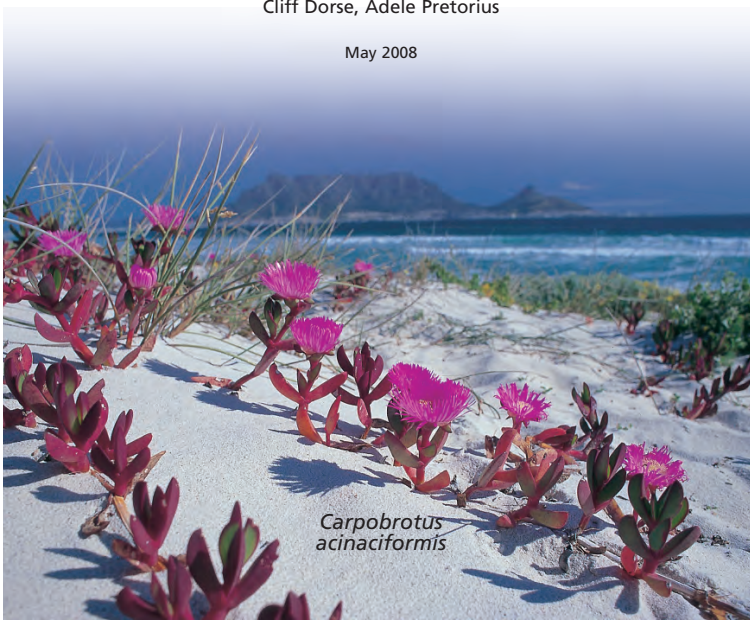
Less than 0,1% of Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is formally conserved.

Many of the threatened flora at the BCA are found in the Sand Fynbos, this includes a population of rare protea, *Leucadendron levisanus*, of which there are an estimated 500 plants left on earth.

Uncontrolled fires, often as a result of invasive alien vegetation, impact negatively on Sand Fynbos.

Some of the plant species commonly found in the Sand Fynbos in the BCA include:

- *Ursinia anthemoides*
- *Watsonia meriana*
- *Serruria decipiens*
- *Willdenowia incurvata*
- *Passerina corymbosa*
- *Staavia radiata*
- *Leucadendron salignum*
- *Thamnochortus punctatus*
- *Phyllicia cephalantha*
- *Sparaxis villosa*



*Carpobrotus acinaciformis*

## For more information contact

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Photo acknowledgements:

Adam Harrower, Anton Pauw, Bruce Sutherland,  
Cliff Dorse, Adele Pretorius

May 2008

# Blaauwberg Conservation Area

## Floral Treasures

[www.bca.org.za](http://www.bca.org.za)



**Vision:** To conserve, protect and enhance the unique natural, historical and cultural resources of this area for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.



*Didelta carnosia*



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## Botanical Focus

The Blaauwberg Conservation Area (BCA) is located approximately 25 km from Cape Town's city centre. Cape Town is located in the Cape Floral Kingdom - the smallest, but richest of the six floral kingdoms of the world - and a recently declared World Heritage Site. Cape Town is a global biodiversity hotspot, with its natural environment under extreme pressure from urbanisation.

The BCA is an important part of the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Network, which aims to ensure functional ecological representation of the vegetation types found within the City.

The BCA represents one of the most intact and diverse lowland vegetation habitats in Cape Town, and marks the beginning of the West Coast flora.

The BCA contains three threatened vegetation types: Cape Flats Dune Strandveld; Swartland Shale Renosterveld and Cape Flats Sand Fynbos. Three transitional vegetation types (or ecotones) can also be found. The combination of these vegetation types is seldom found within one conservation area. All the vegetation types found correspond to specific geological substrates located within the BCA, and 12 major plant communities are identified in the BCA.

Within an area of approximately 2 000 ha, over 564 plant species have been identified to-date. In comparison, the entire British Isles have only approximately 1 500 plant species.

Of the identified plant species, 44 are red data species. These are plant species that are listed as rare, endangered, or vulnerable. In comparison, the entire country of Botswana, has only 16 red data plant species.

An active programme of the removal of invasive alien vegetation and the rehabilitation of badly degraded areas is underway to ensure the survival of this important and threatened indigenous vegetation.

*Amaryllis belladonna*



*Brunsvigia orientalis*



*Gladiolus alatus*



*Drosera cistiflora*



*Euphorbia caput-medusae*



*Ferraria crispa*



*Gladiolus watsonius*



*Ixia dubia*



*Leucospermum tomentosum*



*Scabiosa columbaria*



## Swartland Shale Renosterveld

Swartland Shale Renosterveld is characterised by the occurrence of low-growing grey bushes known as 'renosterbos' (*Elytropappus rhinocerotis*).

The Swartland Shale Renosterveld is restricted to the high-lying areas of the BCA - the Blaauwberg Hills - where it is associated with the shale substrate.

Renosterveld is one of the most threatened vegetation types in South Africa. Of the approximately 9% of its original extent remaining, less than 1% is formally conserved.

The diversity of geophytes (bulbs) in Renosterveld is staggering, with many of them being extremely rare.

Some of the plant species commonly found in the Swartland Shale Renosterveld in the BCA are:

- *Berkheya armata*
- *Elytropappus rhinocerotis*
- *Eriocephalus africanus*
- *Osteospermum spinosum*
- *Aspalathus acanthophylla*
- *Podalyria sericea*
- *Lachenalia pallida*
- *Ornithogalum conicum*
- *Hermannia alnifolia*
- *Ruschia geminiflora*

## Cape Flats Dune Strandveld

Cape Flats Dune Strandveld, as it has been recently termed, is dominated by broad-leaved shrubs and small trees such as taaibos (*Rhus spp.*) and ghwarrie (*Euclea spp.*), with a fair degree of succulence. Annuals abound, as do bulbs.

Cape Flats Dune Strandveld in the BCA occurs on the coastal calcareous sands, in the coastal zone and coastal plain of the BCA. It is characterised by two major plant formations, namely: tall thicket on the higher dunes with deep sand; and dwarf thicket on the shallow sand over limestone, largely in close proximity to the coast.

Some of the plant species commonly found in the Cape Flats Dune Strandveld in the BCA include:

- *Rhus laevigata*
- *Aloe mitrifomis*
- *Gymnosporia buxifolia*
- *Tylecodon paniculatus*
- *Euclea racemosa*
- *Gladiolus carinatus*
- *Carpobrotus quadrifidus*
- *Dorotheanthus bellidifomis*
- *Thamnochortus spicigerus*
- *Zygophyllum morgsana*

Renosterveld

Strandveld

