



Nemesis versicolor Lapeirousia pyramidalis Tritonia securigera

An interesting insect which appears on the koppie during spring and which is an important pollinator of *Pelargonium tetragonum*, *Tritonia bakeri* and other long tube-flower types – is a special horse fly with a very long proboscis.



Moraea gawleri Sorrel (*Oxalis obtusa*) Muggiegas (*Pharmaceum auranthum*)



Sorrel (*Oxalis annae*) Tulip (*Moraea bipartita*)

Have a look at your plant plot for a great variety of plant life forms such as the annuals (e.g. daisies and nemesias). See whether you can spot the bulbous plants e.g. *Tritonia*, *Lapeirousia*, *Moraea* and *Oxalis*) special little shrubs e.g. Muggiegas (*Pharmaceum*) and a succulent such as 'Volstruisnek' (*Euphorbia clandestina*).

Sponsored by Oudtshoorn Municipality
Background information Jan Vlok and Marina Eilers

- HOW DO I GET THERE?**
- FOLLOW RED LINE UP TO WATER RESERVOIRS
 - PARKING AT WATER RESERVOIRS
 - CELL PHONE MASTS



Route
Follow the map directions. Park at the reservoir. Go uphill to the mast and explore the southern or northern slopes.

Issues
The old gravel quarry, reservoir, cell phone mast, road and pipeline caused a lot of disturbance. The area is still used as dumping site and uncontrolled littering is a major problem. Collecting fire wood – especially sand olive – causes serious damage to the vegetation. Alien plants, such as Sisal, cacti and Fountain grass usurp the indigenous plant species.

Uncontrolled grazing and the illegal collection of rare species such as *Haworthia* are major issues which threaten the biodiversity of this very special Klein Karoo koppie.

Tortoises
There was a time when this koppie was also rich in animal species like tortoises and small game such as steenbuck, duiker and hare. Unfortunately over a period of time all were poached by unthinking humans.

Why?
If we do not care, conserve and protect a special koppie like this one, its unique plants will also be lost, just like the animal life. Litter and alien plants will deface this scenic koppie and what will De Rust then have to offer its visitors?



GUIDE FOR DE RUST KOPPIE





Carrion flower
(*Piaranthus geminatus*)



Renosterbos
(*Elytropappus rhinocerotis*)



Wild rosemary
(*Eriocephalus africanus*)



Struthiola
(*Struthiola eckloniana*)



Restios
(*Rhodocoma arida*)



Sand olive
(*Dodonea viscosa*)



Spekboom
(*Portulacaria afra*)



Chinese lantern bush
(*Nymannia capensis*)

KOPPIE

THERE may be thousands of koppies in the Klein Karoo, but the De Rust Koppie* is one of the most exceptional in this region - especially if you have a keen interest in plant life.

ANCIENT

The De Rust koppie forms part of the foot hills of the Swartberg mountain range and whilst hiking along the koppie you will notice round pebbles scattered all over. These pebbles, along with a mixture of clay and sandy soil, is better known as Enon Conglomerate which has its own ancient story to tell of a quick flowing river that deposited this material in a lake more than 200 million years ago! Thus no juvenile little hillock!

NORTH AND SOUTH

This specific koppie houses a variety of different vegetation types. The northern and southern slopes are quite dissimilar. Taller shrubs, for example *Dodonea*, Chinese lantern bush and succulents, like Spekboom are found along the northern slopes, whilst smaller shrubs, for example *Renosterbos* occur on the southern slopes – no *Proteas* or *Ericas* however.

VIEW

Looking at the bigger landscape with a bird's eye view from up here, the Swartberg Mountains are situated to the north with Meiringspoort as thoroughfare. On the southern side one can see the Kammanassie Mountains (where original Cape Mountain Zebra still roam).

NOWHERE ELSE

A handful of plant species that grow on the De Rust koppie are found only here and nowhere else on earth! They are called endemics and include: *Bulbine* (miniature 'koppieva'), *Morea regalis* (small blue iris), *Syringodea destutensis* (small crocus), *Pelargonium sp.nov* (small geranium) and *Haworthia bayeri* (window succulent).



Aloe
(*Aloe microstigma*)



Morea regalis



Syringodea derustensis



Pelargonium sp.nov



Haworthia bayeri



Euphorbia colliculima



Vygie
(*Trichodiadema burgeri*)



Dikvoet
(*Pachypodium bispinosum*)

300 PLANT SPECIES

The habitat of this koppie is unique. One can spend a whole day strolling along the koppie and find up to 300 different plant species. Yes – almost one species for every day of the year!

Take two big steps to form a little plot (4m²) and you should find anything from 25 to 30 different plant species in this little quadrangle. Tread carefully- there are many special little plants (especially succulents) which play 'hide and seek' under other shrubs. You will have to get down on all fours to search properly.

koppie* - small hill



Dikvoet
(*Pachypodium succulentum*)



Wild geranium
(*Pelargonium glutinosum*)



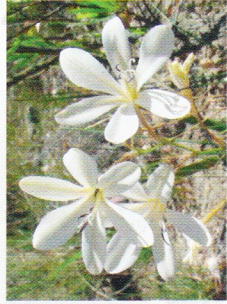
Wild geranium
(*Pelargonium carnosum*)



Wild geranium
(*Pelargonium exstipulatum*)



Wild geranium
(*Pelargonium tetragonum*)



Tritonia bakeri



Daisy
(*Ursinea anethoides*)

KOKKEWIE

Early in the morning and during late afternoon one should notice the interesting bird life of the koppie. Listen carefully for the sound of the Bokmakierie (Kokkewiet) and the distinctive call of the Korhaan.

See whether you can spot the Larklike Bunting and Clapper Lark in the Klein Karoo shrubbery. When the Aloes are flowering, Malachite and Lesser Doublecollared Sunbirds will avidly be looking for nectar.

RARE

Other rare and threatened plant species occurring here are: 'Vingerpol' (*Euphorbia colliculima*) miniature vygie. (*Trichodiadema burgeri*) as well as two 'Dikvoet' species (*Pachypodium bispinosum*) and *P. succulentum*).

WILD GERANIUMS

A variety of widespread wild geraniums grow on the koppie.