



## Southern African Bulb Group

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# SABG Newsletter no. 48 March 2023

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## News

- An auction of books from Peter Watt's library and other sources is under way

## Dates for your diary

- Saturday 18th March: NAAS *Lachenalia* Day at Exbury
- **Friday 31st March:** closing date for bids in our book auction
- **Sunday 2nd April: SABG Spring meeting** in Winchester, UK
- Friday 13th October: NAAS *Nerine* Day at Exbury

- Sunday 22nd October: SABG Autumn meeting

## From the Editor

After some apparent indecision on the part of the weather here in the UK, Spring does seem to be arriving, and it's less than three weeks until our next meeting in Winchester. I hope to see some of you there.

We are carrying out an auction of books from Peter Watt's library and other sources. The list and instructions for bidding have already been sent to members by email, but the instructions and the list are repeated at the end of this Newsletter

to remind you and so that they are available to members who receive the newsletter by post. The details and books available can also be read on the SABG web-site<sup>1</sup>, and photos of the covers of many of them are at our new Gallery<sup>2</sup> Take note that the deadline for bids is at the end of this month, just before our Spring meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sabg.uk/sale/books:start>

<sup>2</sup> <https://gallery.sabg.uk/>

This newsletter has a report on the 2022 Bulb & Seed Exchanges from Jon Evans. If that sounds familiar and you think you've read it before, fear not, that's just because his 2021 report appeared late in the previous Newsletter after I'd lost it down the back of the sofa.

Other items in this Newsletter include an article on *Daubinya capensis* by Paul Cumbleton and two photos from Uli Urban's garden in Portugal: *Moraea tubaghensis* (an endangered species from the Western Cape) and *Gladiolus splendens* (from the Roggeveld and Calvinia district).

*Moraea tubaghensis* [Uli Urban]

## Notices and Requests

I have some requests to members from the Committee, so please read through the following sections. If you can help in any of these ways, please contact any of the Committee members listed later in the Newsletter.

### *Potential speakers*

We would always welcome volunteers to give either the main morning talk at one of our meetings, or one of the shorter talks in the afternoon. Although many speakers show digital photos, in the past we have had demonstrations and discussion sessions, which make a welcome change from sitting in rows in front of the screen, so ideas for such activities will be useful.

For those who cannot attend our meetings in person, we intend to have another online meeting via Zoom. January 2024 is the planned time, as for most members this is winter when they are less likely to be away from home. Although it may seem a long way off, ideas or volunteers for speakers will be welcome. In particular, we would not be restricted to speakers able to travel to Winchester.

As well as members volunteering themselves, we

would also appreciate suggestions of the names of other people who might be willing and able to talk about something of interest, whether they are SABG members or not.

### *Help at meetings*

Our meetings are always very busy times for the Committee, especially as meetings are only twice a year. If you feel you can help in any way, again please contact a Committee member. Tasks we would like help with include:

assisting with plant sales,

looking after the refreshments table and perhaps keeping the stock of items between meetings,

organising videos of the talks for the benefit of members who cannot attend, especially if you have suitable experience and equipment you could bring,

improving the meetings in other ways we might not have thought of.

### *Join the Committee*

The Committee is not a closed shop! We will welcome some more SABG members who would like to join the Committee to help us run

the group. Most Committee business can be or already is done in online meetings and by email, so it is not necessary for a volunteer to live in the South or South-east of England. Don't be put off if you think a particular task is already handled by a Committee member – we would all like a bit of help!

### *Newsletter delivery*

As you will know, items such as newsletters can be sent by email in two ways: they can be **attached** to emails, or a **link** can be included, in which case the email is much smaller but the newsletter has to be downloaded by you before you can read it.

For reasons explained in the previous Newsletter



(no. 47), I use two email lists when sending newsletters or other material to members. Previously these were based on a simple alphabetical split, but now I can use the two lists to implement these two methods. Arbitrarily, I have designated the first list for attached newsletters and the second for linked newsletters.

Some members have expressed a preference for one method or the other, and these people have been moved to the appropriate list. Everyone else is at present in their original list, in which case you will receive an attached newsletter if your surname starts with A to K or a link to the newsletter if your surname starts with L to Z. If you'd prefer to receive your newsletters by the alternative method to the one used for this newsletter, just email me and I'll swap you into the other list.

Members without access to email will of course continue to receive printed newsletters until they ask us to stop.

### *In the next Newsletter*

Contributions short or long will be most welcome for the next Newsletter, with or without pictures. The observant reader will notice that I have dropped my usual practice of saying when the next Newsletter will appear. It remains to be seen whether I will also drop my usual practice of it being later than that.

## **SABG meetings**

### *The next SABG meeting*

Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday 2nd April 2023** at our usual venue, the Badger Farm Community Centre near Winchester. Directions are shown on our web-site<sup>3</sup>. The doors will open at 10:00 am, and the meeting will close at about 14:30.

In the morning at approximately 11:00 am, Paul Lewis will give us a talk about his work breeding hardy *Gladiolus* hybrids. After lunch, Paul Cumbleton will present part 2 of his series on "*Sorting out the Massonias*", and Rodney Sims will show a 40-minute video "*Wildflower Extravaganza*", with scenes of South African flowers and named species.

As usual, there will be a display table for any plants that you bring along for others to see. We

<sup>3</sup> <https://sabg.uk/meetings:next:start>

will have time for some informal discussion during the afternoon, so that members can point out their plants and answer any questions. If you have any slides or computer images that you would like to show, please bring them along.

There will also be the usual very popular sales table where you can offer material for sale on the usual 80:20 basis, i.e. the Group takes a 20% commission to help cover the hall hire costs etc. Please include a second label in each pot, showing the price and your initials, so that we can settle up easily at the end of the day.

There will also be a table for the sale of books, including any left over from the current auction. You are welcome to bring books for sale: please enclose a sheet of paper in each one with the price and your name. Books sold will be treated in the same way as plant sales, with 20% going to the SABG and 80% returned to you at the end of the meeting.

There will be a lunch break from approximately 12.00 until 13.00. For those of you that have not come before, it's worth adding that many members bring their own lunch so that they can stay in the hall and have the opportunity to chat to others and examine the display and sales plants. Alternatively, the Sainsbury's supermarket and the petrol station based on the same site have sandwiches, drinks, fruit, etc.

As usual, the charge for the meeting will be £3.00 per person, payable on entry. There is no charge for parking, provided that you remember to add your car registration number to the list, usually in the main entrance hall and on the table just inside the entrance to our meeting room, to avoid any fine for over-staying.

### *SABG Autumn 2023 meeting*

The Autumn meeting will be on **Sunday 22nd October 2023** at the Badger Farm Community Centre in Winchester. The main speaker is yet to be confirmed; in the afternoon Jon Evans will talk about South African bulbs grown at Wildside Nursery in Devon (Keith Wiley's garden).

## **Books for auction Spring 2023**

The SABG has acquired some of Peter Watt's books on South African bulbs and other flowers, in addition to a number of books donated at the October 2022 meeting and a few books,

pamphlets and journal articles remaining from those left by Terry Smale. These are all listed at the end of this Newsletter.

### Auction rules

Offers are invited. A “guide price” is listed, based on Internet searches for other copies for sale, and generously discounted for members. Bids, preferably around or above the guide price, should be sent by email to Alina Hughes (see SABG Committee below, or to her postal address included with printed copies of this Newsletter). She will confirm the receipt of your offer and also if time permits let you know if a higher bid is received, so you have the option of increasing your offer. A book will be considered sold to the member submitting the highest bid received on or before 31st March. If the highest bid is significantly below the guide price it will be reviewed by the Committee and will not necessarily be accepted.

We assume that most of these books will have to be posted or sent by courier to you, so there will be an additional charge for this, which will be arranged when a sale is confirmed. Most single books will make a small parcel for around £3 to £4, but some books are heavier and will cost more to send, as will sending several books. In some cases there may be other ways to get the books to you, or you might arrange for yourself or someone acting for you to collect them at the next SABG meeting in Winchester on 2nd April 2023, which is why the deadline is 31st March. Overseas members are welcome to bid, but the cost of postage (“shipping”) will of course be higher.

### Additional notes

I will try to answer any questions you have (see SABG Committee below). Remaining unsold books will be offered for sale at our meeting on 2nd April.

I have photographed the front covers of many of the books and you can browse through them in our gallery<sup>4</sup> on a computer, tablet or smartphone. Click on the bookcase picture to enter the "Books for Sale" album, then click on one of the books to enlarge it, then to move through the list click on < or > or use the arrow keys or swipe sideways on a phone. The background grid in the photos has 1cm squares. The book with the untitled front

cover is Trauseld (1969) “Wild Flowers of the Natal Drakensberg”. You can find more information on most of these books by searching online in the usual way, or if you use Google’s Chrome browser you can go straight from the cover picture via Google Lens to search with Google without having to type anything at all (except for Trauseld’s book, even Google isn’t that clever/omniscient/scary).

*Gladiolus splendens* [Ulster Urban]

### Report on the 2022 Bulb & Seed Exchanges

The 2022 SABG Bulb and Seed Exchange has now closed. The size of the operation was roughly the same as last year. Slightly fewer items were donated, but more requests were made and more orders sent out.

Some items were available only in very small numbers (1 or 2 bulbs), and these were invariably oversubscribed, along with *Daubenyia*, and the more unusual *Gladiolus*, *Massonia* and *Moraea*.



	2022	2021	2020
Donors	35	31	26
Items donated	672	706	537
Requests	80	73	77
Packets distributed	1771	1848	1931

Most members received 70-80% of what they asked for, though this depended on the scarcity of their requests. This fell slightly for members who listed many items, but I think everyone received at least 60% of their requests.

As always, the exchange is critically dependent on

<sup>4</sup> <https://gallery.sabg.uk>

the generosity of relatively few members who donate material - huge thanks are due to all of them. I would urge more members to consider growing bulbs from seed, which is less heavily in demand. Very nearly all the requests for seed were satisfied, and I am often able to send out quite large packets of seed. When you have a pot of 2-3 year old seedlings, perhaps you can donate some back to the exchange.

### *Ephemeral Seeds*

In addition, an exchange for 'ephemeral' seeds was conducted in mid-November. This was significantly larger than last year, with more items donated, more requests, more packets to make up, and more parcels to send out. Items such as *Nerine sarniensis* bulbs and *Rhodohypoxis* corms proved popular.

	<b>2022 Ephemeral</b>	<b>2021</b>
Donors	13	13
Items donated	93	61
Requests	49	27
Requested Items	573	295
Packets distributed	410	242

### *Next year*

The timing of the ephemeral distribution continues to cause problems (really we need to run two, one at the end of September, and another two months later). We will consider again other ways of managing this next year, with the aim of being able to distribute seed in better condition. Nevertheless, I hope that many members will be successful with the material sent out.

*Jon Evans*

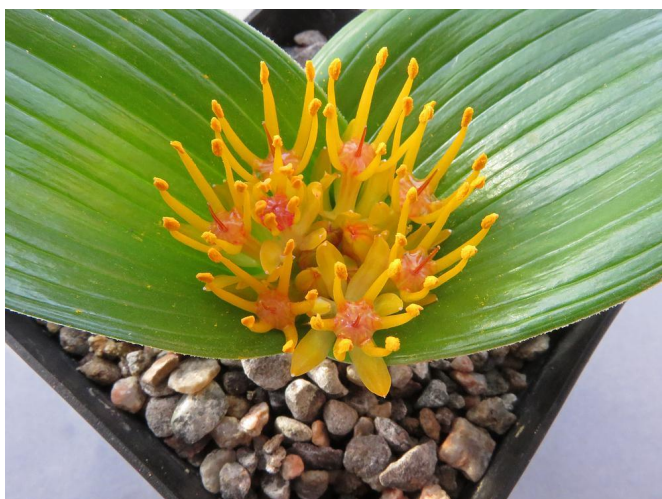
## **Bulbils**



*Daubenya stylosa* [Paul Cumbleton]

### *Daubenya capensis*

I find all the species of *Daubenya* attractive. Currently 8 species are recognised: *D. alba*, *D. aurea*, *D. capensis*, *D. comata*, *D. marginata*, *D. namaquensis*, *D. stylosa* and *D. zeyheri*. Until recently I grew 6 of these, the exceptions being *D. capensis* and *D. namaquensis*. I had obtained seed of *D. capensis* on several occasions from varying sources, but on flowering these had always turned out to be *D. stylosa*. However, the last seed lot labelled as *D. capensis* that I got from Gordon Summerfield flowered this year and at last turned out to be the right species.

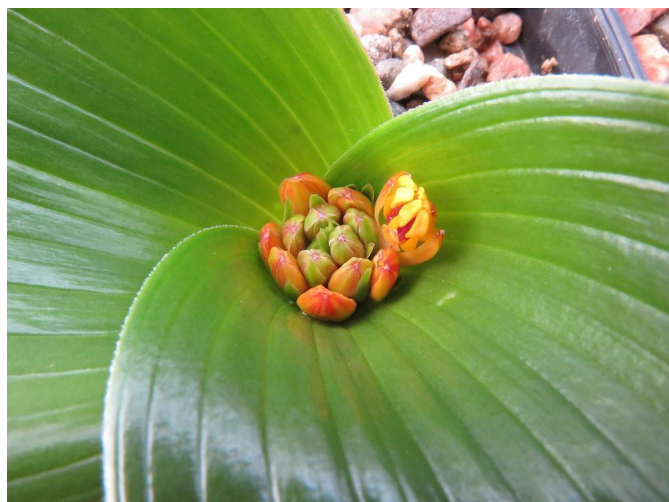


*Daubenya capensis* [Paul Cumbleton]

It is understandable that these two species could be confused when seed collecting as they grow in close proximity at one of their sites near to Nieuwoudtville. They can be told apart by several features, but the most obvious is that when in bloom *D. stylosa* flowers are entirely yellow while

*D. capensis* has obvious red staining on the disk at the mouth of the staminal tube. This difference is clearly visible in the pictures. You can also tell them apart while they are just in bud as *D. capensis* has red/orange coloration that *D. stylosa* completely lacks.

Paul Cumbleton



*Daubenya capensis* in bud [Paul Cumbleton]

## SABG Committee

### Chairman

Paul Cumbleton [cumbleton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cumbleton@yahoo.co.uk)

### Bulb & seed exchange

Jonathan Evans  
[jonevans46.uw@btinternet.com](mailto:jonevans46.uw@btinternet.com)

### Treasurer

Rodney Sims [rodney.sims@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rodney.sims@tiscali.co.uk)

### Secretary & Membership

Alina Hughes [abmhughes@gmail.com](mailto:abmhughes@gmail.com)

### Newsletter & Web editor, Committee minutes

Richard White [richard@sabg.uk](mailto:richard@sabg.uk)

## List of books for auction

sb = softbound, hb = hardback without dustjacket, dj = hardback with dustjacket

Author, year, title	Binding, pages, Notes ISBN, weight(g)	Guide price	
Acocks J.P.H. (1953) Veld Types of South Africa (Botanical Survey Memoire no. 28)	sb, 192, --, 366	Gives descriptions of vegetation types including lists of typical spp. in each; no illustrations apart from 5 vegetation maps	£3.00
Baker and Oliver (1967) Ericas in Southern Africa	dj, 246, --, 1456	167 spp. descriptions with many colour paintings; dust jacket torn	£15.50
Batten (1988) Flowers of Southern Africa	dj, 448, --, 3080	Large heavy book with 100 colour paintings of spp. (not all bulbs) with pencil habitat backgrounds and facing text; the backs of the pages with paintings are blank, tempting to picture framers	£62.00
Bomback E.S. (1964) Manual of Colour Photography	dj, 412, --, 994	Pre-digital, of course; plastic covered, inscribed "Tom Mollard Ltd. Colour Slide Competition, 1966. Awarded to T.C. Smale, Esq., joint Fourth Prize."	£1.00
Bougey A.S. (1957) The Origin of the African Flora: An inaugural lecture	sb, 48, --, 66	All text except for some diagrams showing the effects of continental drift: possibly one of the earliest applications to S.A. botany	£1.00
Burman/Bean (1985) Hottentots Holland to Hermanus – South African Wild Flower Guide 5	sb, 224, 062008393X, 367	Colour photos and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 360 species	£6.00
CAPE project with GEF and WWF (2000) Cape Action Plan for the Environment	sb, 55, 0958422648, 210	Subtitled "A Biodiversity and Strategy and Action Plan for the Cape Floral Kingdom", September 2000. A4 format with colour photos, maps and tables	£0.50
Centaur (publisher) (1984) Wild Flowers ("South Africa in colour" booklet)	sb, 24, 0908379803, 110	Large slim booklet with large colour photos and little text	£2.00

Clifton R.T.F. (1999) Geranium Family Species Check List – Part 4: Pelargonium	sb, ?, 189974200X, ?	Published by The Geraniaceae Group	£8.00
Cowling & Richardson (1995) Fynbos	dj, 156, 1874950105, 1256	Coffee-table-style book with description of the habitat and many large photos of landscapes and plant species	£10.00
de Vos (1972) The Genus Romulea in South Africa (Journal of SA Botany Supp. Vol. 9)	hb, 307, 0620005807, 1065	Comprehensive botanical monograph covering 68 spp. plus many subspecies and varieties, with drawings, maps, colour photos, paintings and maps	£70.00
Delpierre & du Plessis (1974) The winter-growing Gladioli of South Africa	dj, 71, 0624005763, 348	Introduction to biology and cultivation, with many colour photos of spp.; torn dust-jacket	£10.00
Doutt (1994) Cape Bulbs	dj, 254, 0713476648, 698	Cultivation information followed by descriptive text and colour photos of many spp.	£4.00
du Plessis & Duncan (1989) Bulbous Plants of Southern Africa: a Guide to their Cultivation and Propagation	dj, 192, 0624026590, 1600	Large-format book with cultivation information, followed by detailed descriptions of families, genera and about 700 spp., over 300 illustrated in 47 full-page colour paintings	£120.00
Duncan (2002), Grow Agapanthus (Kirstenbosch Gardening Series booklet)	sb, 32, 01919684387, 76	Cultivation information, with colour photos of species	£5.00
Duncan (2010) Grow Bulbs (Kirstenbosch Gardening Series book, 2nd edition)	sb, 390, 01919684263, 829	The focus is on cultivation techniques and species of value in cultivation, with colour photos and notes of many species	£25.00
Duncan (2000) Grow Bulbs (Kirstenbosch Gardening Series booklet)	sb, 64, 9781919684567, 120	Brief summary of the book above	£5.00
Duncan (2002) Grow Nerines (Kirstenbosch Gardening Series booklet)	sb, 76, 01919684336, 137	Cultivation information, with colour photos of species	£5.00
Duncan (1988) The Lachenalia Handbook (Annals of Kirstenbosch Vol 17)	sb, 71, 0620119535, 315	Many colour photos and descriptions of spp.; some nomenclature may have been superseded by his more recent "The Genus Lachenalia"	£10.00
Eliovson (1980) Wild Flowers of Southern Africa (6th revised edition)	dj, 350, 0869540882, 1481	Species descriptions with much cultivation information, 40 pages of colour photos; said to be very scarce	£20.00
Goldblatt & Anderson (1986) The Moraeas of Southern Africa (Annals of Kirstenbosch Vol 14)	dj, 224, 0620099747, 1694	Large-format book with detailed descriptions and maps of 103 spp., most illustrated with full-page colour paintings	£21.00
Goldblatt & Manning (1998) Gladiolus in Southern Africa	dj, 320, 9781874950325, 2227	Comprehensive botanical monograph with introduction, drawings, maps and keys, but very attractively produced with 144 full-page colour paintings	£70.00
Goldblatt & Manning (2008) The Iris Family - Natural History and Classification	dj, 290, 9780881928976, 1390	Introduction to the biology and evolution of the family, followed by keys and descriptions of the genera in Africa and S. and Central America, illustrated by line drawings and 230 colour photos	£17.00
Goldblatt etc (1991) Systematics, Biology and Evolution of some South African taxa	sb, 288, 0799213020, 870	incl. Goldblatt Overview of African Iridaceae, 74pp; Hartmann Mesembryanthera 83pp	£3.00
Hilliard & Burt (1987) The Botany of the Southern Natal Drakensberg	dj, 253, 0620106255, 862	Introduction to the vegetation, followed by brief genus descriptions with species lists and colour photos	£5.00
		another copy, but not quite such good condition	£4.00
Jeppe (1989) Spring and Winter Flowering Bulbs of the Cape	dj, 143, 0195705351, 1252	Large-format book with 62 full-page colour paintings each with several spp. and facing descriptive text	£38.00



Kidd (1983) Cape Peninsula - South African Wild Flower Guide 3	sb, 239, 0620067454, 465	Paintings and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 800 species	£6.00
Killick (ed., 1978) Bothalia Vol.12(3)	sb, 356, --, 977	21 articles including a revision of <i>Ornithogalum</i> (54 pp.) and shorter papers on Hypoxidaceae ( <i>Spiloxene</i> , <i>Pauridia</i> & <i>Empodium</i> ) and on many non-bulbous plants	£25.00
Le Roux/Schelpe (1988) Namaqualand - South African Wild Flower Guide 1	sb, 215, 0620121149, 410	Colour photos and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 700 species	£6.00
Lewis (1959) The Genus <i>Babiana</i> (Journal of SA Botany Supp. Vol. III)	hb, 147, --, 662	Comprehensive botanical monograph covering 61 spp. with colour and black-and-white paintings	£50.00
Lewis. Obermeyer & Barnard (1972) <i>Gladiolus</i> : A revision of the South African species (Journal of SA Botany Supp. Vol. I0)	dj, 316, 0360001556, 1194	Comprehensive botanical monograph covering 103 spp. plus many subspecies and varieties, with colour and black-and-white paintings	£10.00
Manning (2001) Eastern Cape - South African Wild Flower Guide 11	sb, 307, 1874999236, 753	Paintings and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 750 species	£6.00
Manning (2003) Photographic Guide to the Wildflowers of South Africa	sb, 352, 1875093427, 852	Colour photos, text and maps for nearly 900 spp. arranged by habitat	£5.00
Manning, Goldblatt & Snijman (2002) The Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs	dj, 486, 0881925470, 2027	Detailed descriptions of genera and spp. with many colour photos and keys to species in each genus; torn dust-jacket	£45.00
Manning/Goldblatt (1996), West Coast - South African Wild Flower Guide 7	sb, 240, 1874999112, 476	Colour photos and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 600 species	£6.00
Manning/Goldblatt (1997) Nieuwoudtville - South African Wild Flower Guide 9	sb, 204, 1874999171, 467	Colour photos and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 420 species	£6.00
Moriarty (1982) Outeniqua, Tsitsikamma & Eastern Little Karoo - South African Wild Flower Guide 2	sb, 206, 0620059419, 413	Paintings and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 500 species	£6.00
		another copy	£6.00
Mustart/Cowling/Albertyn (1997) Southern Overberg - South African Wild Flower Guide 8	sb, 270, 1874999155, 502	Colour photos and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 550 species	£6.00
Onderstall (1984) Transvaal Lowveld & Escarpment - South African Wild Flower Guide 4	sb, 222, 0620077492, 439	Colour photos and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 360 species	£6.00
Paterson-Jones C. (1998) Wild Flowers of Southern Africa (Indaba Mini-Curio series)	sb, 32, 1868721922, 99	Small slim booklet with colour photos of a few spp. arranged by region	£1.00
Pooley, Elsa (2003) Mountain Flowers: A Field Guide to the Flora of the Drakensberg and Lesotho	sb, 320, 0620302216, 691	Short descriptions of species with maps, points for identification and colour photos; some minor markings in fine red pen	£5.00
Rex Peter (undated) Landscapes of South Africa - The Cape - car tours, walks, picnics	sb, 136, 1856911179, 237	Tourist guide with car tours and walks; with map and poster	£1.00
Shearing (1994) Karoo - South African Wild Flower Guide 6	sb, 192, 187499904X, 435	Paintings and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 550 species	£6.00
Snijman (1984) The Genus <i>Haemanthus</i> - a revision (Journal of SA Botany Supp. Vol. I2)	dj, 139, 062007339X, 585	Botanical revision with detailed species descriptions, 24 colour paintings and maps	£50.00

Snoeijer (2004) Agapanthus - A revision of the genus	dj, 320, 0881926310, 852	Botanical monograph, the main work on Agapanthus before "The Genus Agapanthus", with colour photos and detailed descriptions of many cultivars	£22.00
Struik (publisher) (1984) Wild Flowers of South Africa	hb, 128, 0869771361, 772	General descriptions of each family illustrated by many colour photos	£2.50
Trauseld (1969) Wild Flowers of the Natal Drakensberg	hb, 220, --, 1238	107 left-hand pages (4 misprinted) with c. 8 colour photos, with text on the facing pages	£17.00
van der Walt (1977) Pelargoniums of Southern Africa Vol. 1	?, ?, 0868430064, c. 1900	"Each volume contains 50 natural species of Pelargonium. Superbly illustrated in full colour from live material. Collected in their natural habitat ( 150 in all). There are notes on cultivation, ecology and geographical distribution." – Silverhill Seeds and Books	£50.00
van der Walt & Vorster (1981) Pelargoniums of Southern Africa Vol. 2	?, ?, 0702112208, c. 1900		£100.00
van der Walt & Vorster (1988) Pelargoniums of Southern Africa Vol. 3	?, ?, 0062011074, c. 1900		£100.00
van Rooyen/Steyn (1999) Cederberg - South African Wild Flower Guide 10	sb, 256, 1874999198, 643	Colour photos and descriptive paragraphs of roughly 500 species	£6.00
Williamson, Graham (1995) Richtersveld National Park	sb, 48, 9991630465, 116	Visitors' guide with drawings of flora and fauna	£2.00

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