**A LOACEAE**

*Aloes broomii* Schonland
Status: VU B1b2c

**Treatment:** Harvesting, collection, habitat degradation

This widely distributed aloes has a single pocker-like inflorescence up to a metre long and a close rosette of spine-tipped leaves. The main centre of distribution for this species is in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, and Northern Cape (South Africa). The species extends into eastern Lesotho which contains about 10% of the global distribution of this species. Its distribution extends into western Lesotho, and also patchily (although a proper survey is needed) up the Senqu Valley to beyond Linakang. The species is restricted to riverbanks in Lesotho. Between 100 and 200 individuals estimated from Mohale’s Hoek where its habitat is currently undisturbed. The species is utilised and there are cases where several sites in Lesotho have been extirpated due to habitat degradation. There are two forms—one with small bracts and conspicuous flowers, the other with large bracts that completely obscure the flower. Although both of these species are known to exist, only the species name is in use in Lesotho. The name *A. broomii* var. *broomii* is sometimes applied to the taxon in Lesotho.

*Aloes polyphylla* Schonland ex Pillans
Status: VU B1B2c2e

**Endemism:** Endemic

**Threats:** Road network, collection

The most recent reports state that despite a limited survey, at least 12,000 plants are known to exist in the wild. During a comprehensive survey undertaken in 1999, many previously unrecorded sites were discovered. Although the species is known to be removed from lower-lying, more accessible areas for horticultural purposes, many individuals remain in the wild. The population is characterised by high levels of recruitment. Despite the species being harvested intensively for at least the last 50 years, the population seems to be stable. The species was assessed as Endangered by both Hilton-Taylor (1996a) and Scott-Shaw (1999) who once lived in Lesotho before they were replaced by pastoralists. Its endangered status applies only to Lesotho as it is widely distributed in southern Africa.

**APIACEAE**

*Alpigenia amaymbica* Eckl. & Zeyh.
Status: VU A1A2d

**Threats:** Collection, urban expansion

A popular medicinal plant used for treating coughs and colds, fevers and rheumatism, this plant is actively collected for its roots. Formerly widespread in Lesotho, it is regarded as vulnerable in Lesotho because it is not used sustainably. Most localities have gone extinct. Found from near Maseru near human settlements and at Ts‘x‘ilanyane in Leribe. It is used to be found at the foot of the hill near Mlarakabei; now it is mostly restricted to the mountains. It is heavily utilised in the *KwaZulu-Natal Midlands* (*South Africa*). Widespread in summer rainfall areas of southern Africa. It is locally abundant where it is not exploited. It is used for cough remedies and colds. The plant is a reseeder. Scott-Shaw assesses it as LR-nt.

**APONOGONETACEAE**

*Aponegeton ranunculiflorus* Jacot Guill. & Marais
Status: CR B1B2d

**Endemism:** Near-endemic

**Threats:** Grazing, desiccation

First located in Sehlabathebe ‘confined to pools up to 7 m deep in Cova Sandstone [Clarens] formation at about 2,600 m altitude’ (Jacot Guillarmod & Marais 1972). Jacot Guillarmod (1978) published more finds by P. Cookingham who explored the South African side of the border fence within about 2 km of the nearest site in the Park and found some in pools in the sandstone at the same altitude. Schmitz (1982) reported another population discovered by John Jibert, which is well inside Lesotho in clear pools in the basalt of the Thaba-Putsoa Range 2,900 m (Sheet 21D) from John Jibert.

**ASCLEPIADACEAE**

*Brenchystelma alpinum* R.A.Dyer
Status: EN

**Endemism:** Endemic

Type specimen came from near Ramatseliso’s Gate, Qacha’s Nek District. (Holotype Bayliss 819, PRE) (Dyer 1972). Jacot Guillarmod (1978) published more finds by P. Cookingham who explored the South African side of Sani Pass area 2,800 m (Hargreaves 1989b). There remains a distinct possibility that the species may be eaten by cattle at this locality.

**ASTERACEAE**

*Dicoica anomala* Sand
Status: VU A2d

**Threats:** Collection, habitat degradation

The root of ‘hloenya’ is used medicinally. On its own, or mixed with other herbs, it is used for a very broad range of ailments: aches and pains, diarrhoea and colic, rheumatism and fevers. It is also given to diabetics (Maliehe 1997). It is found in the Lowlands and foothills.

**CRASSULACEAE**

*Crasulla geothambensis* Ranz
Status: EN A2cB1B2c

**Endemism:** Endemic

**Threats:** Urban expansion

This *Crasulla* is an endemic of the summit plateau. The holotype, Hargreaves 4955, is from Tlaseq Pass, Mokhotlong District at 3,270 m. Two subpopulations were seen in Sani Pass area 2,800 m (Hargreaves 1989b). There remains a distinct possibility that the species may be eaten by cattle at this locality.

**CYTHEACAEAE**

*Cynthia dregel* Kunze
Alphitia dregel (Kunze) K.M.Tryon
Status: CR D

**Threats:** Habitat degradation

One old tree fern was recorded from Sehlabathebe. There is no confirmation that it is still surviving in the Park. Possibly extinct.

**CYPERACEAE**

*Carex killickii* Nelms
Status: VU D2

**Endemism:** Near-endemic

This plant has been only found in a narrow zone on the Lesotho side of the eastern watershed (RSA sheet 2926A, Lesotho sheet 28B). There is also a mention of this sedge in a checklist (Scott-Shaw 1998) for Tsheholemanyane (Lesotho sheet 150, RSA sheet 2826C), 130 km west of the escarpment. The species is known from Indomeni Dome and Castle Buttress (*South Africa*). Although it has a narrow distribution range, it does not appear in Hilton-Taylor or in Scott-Shaw. This species has been under-collected.

**HYACINTHACEAE**

*Eucomis autumnalis* (Mill.) Chitt. subsp. *clavata* (Baker) Reyneke
Status: VU A1AcA2c2d

**Threats:** Collection, habitat degradation, fire

An extract from the bulb of this plant is given to women to relieve pain during childbirth. Great caution must be used because the plant is poisonous. Leaves are also used for dressing wounds, boils and sores, the juice being first expressed from stems onto wounds or rashes (Rathbun 1995). Distribution throughout Maloti. Now it is mostly confined to the lower mountain sides, mainly on the east-facing slopes. Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor. Also found in *KwaZulu-Natal* (*South Africa*) and further afield in Swaziland.

*Urginea saniensis* Hilliard & B.L.Burr
Status: VU D2

**Endemism:** Near-endemic

This lily from Sani Top has been regarded as a Lesotho endemic by Hilliard (1990). However, Scott-Shaw (1999) records its distribution as ‘*KZN* and *Lesotho Drakensberg* at *Sani Pass*’ found in ‘Drakensberg Alpine Fynbos’. The species is known from basalt rock sheets at 2,900 m. Listed as Uncertain in Hilton-Taylor. Scott-Shaw assessed it as Data Deficient.

**LEGUMINOSAE: PAPILIONOIDEAE**

*Calpurnia robiniiodes* (DC.) E.Mey.
Status: VU D1D2

**Endemism:** Near-endemic

**Threats:** Urban expansion, fire

This is the accepted name in use in Lesotho. The wood of this small tree is used for house building and for firewood (Jacot Guillarmod 1971). Individual trees have been seen near Kro-Roro and on the Mpetseana riverbank in Maseru District and at two localities in the Berea District. It has also been reported from the lower Senquynane, northeast of its confluence with the Senqu.
Lotononis stricta from Maseru District and one from Mafeteng District. A small population in the upper Koro-Koro Valley and recent reports suggest that in Jacot Guillarmod (1971).

Hélène Jacottet at Whitehill, Qacha’s Nek District from Blue Mountain Pass area. Older records include Maseru District has been reported. There is also a record at Ha Sekhobe on the western flank of Thaba-Telle in Mafeteng District. It is a medicinal plant. Only one plant was used by Basotho for the treatment of bronchitis (Watt & Breyer-Brandwijk 1962).

Status: CR B1abD

in Mokehonoke, while some are still left in a residual part (about 2 ha) of Levy’s Nek Kloof.

Lotononis listii Polhill Status: CR B1B2abD

The genus Lotononis has a number of species, widely used by Basotho for the treatment of bronchitis (Watt & Breyer-Brandwijk 1962). Lotonis listii is known from a small population in the upper Koro-Koro Valley and PRECIS records show four other Lostonos records, three from Maseru District and one from Mafeteng District. L. stricta has a similarly limited distribution, apparently due to over-collection.

Status: CR C2a

Morella serrata (Lam.) Killick

An attractive much-branched shrub with clusters of white flowers, the Oval-leaved Buchu is valued for its traditional medicinal properties. No records have been found after Madame Dieterlen’s from Moyeni Mountain and for house construction, but newer methods of warfare and house building have reduced exploitation for these purposes.

MYRICACEAE

Agathosma ovata (Thunb.) Pillans

Status: VU A1cd

An interesting much-branched shrub with clusters of white flowers, the Oval-leaved Buchu is valued for its traditional medicinal properties. No records have been found after Madame Dieterlen’s from Moyeni Mountain in the south of Lesotho, and one specimen from E.N. Ashton more than 50 years ago. A. ovata used to be planted in gardens. It could be extinct in Lesotho. Also known from the Eastern Cape and Kwazulu-Natal (South Africa). Listed as Indeterminate in Hilton-Taylor. This species is generally utilised throughout its range.

RUTACEAE

Agathosma ovata

An attractive much-branched shrub with clusters of white flowers, the Oval-leaved Buchu is valued for its traditional medicinal properties. No records have been found after Madame Dieterlen’s from Moyeni Mountain in the south of Lesotho, and one specimen from E.N. Ashton more than 50 years ago. A. ovata used to be planted in gardens. It could be extinct in Lesotho. Also known from the Eastern Cape and Kwazulu-Natal (South Africa). Listed as Indeterminate in Hilton-Taylor. This species is generally utilised throughout its range.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Jamesbrittenia beverlyana (Hilliard & B.L.Burtt) Hilliard

Status: VU D2

This endemic plant appears to be confined to a small area in Sehlabathebe Park in rocky soil under an overhang at about 2,325 m. The locality has been extensively surveyed but without success. Nothing is known about threats at the type locality, and the species quite likely still exists there.

TILIACEAE

Sparmannia ricinocarpa (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Kuntze

Status: CR C2abD

Thamnocaulus tessellatus (Nees) Soderstr. & R.P.Ellis

Status: VU D1

This bamboo, indigenous to southern Africa, is widely distributed in Lesotho in remoter areas. Typical subpopulations are made up of 250–300 individuals, which do not flower for many years and then all apparently flower simultaneously after which the plants die. Formerly, the bamboo was used for assegai handles

Extinct & Threatened
**ALOACEAE**

*Aloe aristata* Haw.
Status: LR-nt
Threats: Harvesting
A small aloe with attractively spotted leaves. It has been offered for sale along the Mountain Road, probably because those selling it knew that *A. polyphylla* was highly, although illegally, marketable, and now that the supply is exhausted, this might be a marketable substitute. However, it seems that *A. aristata* is itself also becoming rare near the Mountain Road, because it is no longer offered for sale. In the 1950s, *A. aristata* could still be found on the slopes of the hillside at Botsabelo near Maseru (sheet 32D, RSA sheet 2927BC) (J. Jaques, pers. comm.). Known from the more inaccessible foothills and highlands. Found in the Karoo, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). Protected in the Drakensberg Ukhahlamba National Park along Lesotho's border with South Africa.

*Aloe ferox* Mill.
Status: LR-lc
Threats: Harvesting, urban expansion
This tree aloe, which can exceed 2 m in height, dominates north-facing hillsides in Quthing District, which are ablaze with their 500 mm-long vermilion flowering spikes in September and October. It can also be found in Mohale's Hoek District and extends as far as the southern tip of Mafeteng District in the Makhaleng Valley. Indeed, Makhaleng derives its name from this species. Found at Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng (also Lifateng) and Telie Telie. Many other localities exist for this species, often adjacent to human settlements. It is claimed that the plant is not threatened, but several localities have become extinct in Lesotho. The species extends into Lesotho. It is found throughout the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). Lesotho contains about 5% of the global population. The leaves are harvested for medicinal purposes, usually in small quantities. The leaf extract is widely used medicinally, but apparently at present sustainably, so that there seems to be no major threat.

**ASCLEPIADACEAE**

*Brachystelma perditum* R.A.Dyer
Status: LR-nt
Threats: Habitat degradation
There are only two published records for this species: one (found in 1976) in Lesotho 'north of Rama's Gate' (Dyer 1980) and the type specimen (found in 1907) from Nygine, north of Matambalope in Drakensberg foothills, 1,800 m, KwaZulu-Natal. Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor; also known from KwaZulu-Natal and Free State (South Africa).

**HYPOXIDACEAE**

*Rhodohypoxis thodiana* (Nel) Hilliard & B.L.Burtt
Status: LR-nt
Endemism: Near-endemic
Threats: Grazing
Recorded (Hilliard 1990) as occurring in damp turf above 2,700 m, there are records from both sides of the Lesotho/KwaZulu-Natal border.

**SCROPHULARIACEAE**

*Glumicalyx lesuticus* Hilliard & B.L.Burtt
Status: LR-lc
Endemism: Endemic
Threats: Habitat degradation
The type specimen of this endemic species is from Sani Top at about 2,850 m. The species has been found at a number of other widely dispersed localities from about 2,250 m to 3,230 m (Hilliard 1994). There is no apparent particular demand for the plant.

*Jamesbrittenia jurassica* (Hilliard & B.L.Burtt) Hilliard
Status: LR-nt
Endemism: Near-endemic?
Threats: Grazing
What is known about this endemic species is well documented in Hilliard (1994). The type specimen is from Sani Top on the Lesotho side of the border at 2,900 m, and it forms a small flowery mat on bare gravelly ground between 2,500 m and 3,230 m above sea level. There is also a record from Oshaw (a colour slide in the Edinburgh herbarium) and Olive Hilliard comments that 'it is clearly widely distributed over the high mountains of Lesotho'.

*Zaluzianskya oreophila* Hilliard & B.L.Burtt
Status: LR-nt
Endemism: Near-endemic
The type specimen of this species of Zaluzianskaya is from 2,900 m at Sani Top, Thaba-Tseka District, Lesotho (sheet 49A), and there are also records from the summit plateau nearby in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). There is another record from much farther west in Lesotho at Likalaneng (sheet 34C). This justifies placing it in the category of LR-nt rather than DD. Described by Hilliard (1994) as an ‘Eastern Mountain endemic’.

High-altitude sandstone rock pools support fragile aquatic ecosystems in Lesotho. (Photo: SABONET)
Aloe ecklonis Salm-Dyck

Status: DD

There are seven specimens of Aloe kraussii in ROML collected in the Roma Valley by Schmitz or Hargreaves in the period 1974–1984. However, Reynolds (1950) observed that “plants from western Basutoland appear to be A. ecklonis rather than A. kraussii”, there are several other Lowlands and Foolhills records (Jacob Guillamond 1971). Listed as not being threatened in Hilton-Taylor. Also found in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) and Swaziland (unconfirmed). Taxonomic uncertainty of this species in Lesotho.

**ASCLEPIADACEAE**

Asclepias eminens (Harv.) Schltr.

Status: DD

There are five records of this asclepiad in ROML, three in MASE and one at SEIL (Kai & Hargreaves 1985) and it is also widespread in South Africa and Swaziland (Arnold & De Wet 1993). It does not appear to be rare. Listed as Vulnerable in Hilton-Taylor.

Asclepias syxmalobioidei Hilliard & B.L.Burtt

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

This species is locally common on the summit of the Maloti (Hilliard & Burtt 1986b). There are also records from the KwaZulu-Natal side of the watershed.

Cynanchum meyeri (Decne.) Schltr.

Status: DD

This species appears from Arnold & De Wet (1993) to be a Namibian rather than a Lesotho endemic. C. vinrns. Dietz. has been collected in Lesotho (sheets 14A, 230) by Madame Dietrienen and Miss Archibald. Listed as Vulnerable/Endangered in Hilton-Taylor. Recorded from the former Cape and Transvaal in South Africa.

Schizoglossum elongine N.E.Br. subsp. pupureum Kupicha

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

Hilliard & Burtt have two records: Beverly 265, 1976; 497, 1976. Beverly 783 is from Kokstad, on Lesotho's southeastern border. Found at an altitude of 2,000–2,700 m.

Schizoglossum montanum R.A.Dyer

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

Rubright (1995) collected S. montanum from Masafeleng, Tsatsa-Lemane Range Management Area, Gach's Nek District (sheet 57D). It is also found in the mountains of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). An eastern mountain endemic. Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor. Scott-Shaw assesses it as LR-ic.

**ASTERACEAE**

Euryops evansi Schltr. subsp. dendroides B.Nord.

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

Almost all reports of this plant are from Lesotho: Mererang in Mohokatlong District (sheet 39A); Lesobeng in Thaba-Tseka District; and Oxbow in Butha-Buthe District. No herbarium records in Lesotho. Also in Cathedral Peak on the path to One Tree Hill (South Africa).

Senecio montanum Hilliard

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

This plant has been recorded in Lesotho only from seepage areas and damp grassland at about 2,300–2,400 m in Sehlabathebe and nearby at Thamathu Pass (Hilliard & Burtt 1987). It is widely distributed in elevated areas outside Lesotho including Swaziland (Arnold & De Wet 1993).

Senecio senensis Hilliard & B.L.Burtt

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

The type specimen for this species was collected by Mrs D.C. Grice in February 1972 (Hilliard 1977) at the summit of Sani Pass at an altitude of 2,865 m on southwest facing cliffs, a description which would place the collecting site just within KwaZulu-Natal. There is one PRECIS record from Lesotho. Scott-Shaw (1999) regards the plant as a KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg endemic, occurring from Sani Pass to the headwaters of the Lotheni River. Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor. Scott-Shaw records it as LR-ic.

**BORAGINACEAE**

Cymoglossum alticola Hilliard & B.L.Burtt

Status: DD

Endemism: Endemic

The type specimen is from the slopes of Ben Madchui at 2,623 m on Lesotho’s southern border and the plant has been recorded from Mohokatlong at 2,286 m (Hilliard & Burtt 1986b).

Ehretia rigidia (Thunb.) Druce

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

Threats: Urban expansion

This small tree has a precarious fragmented foothold around Maseru, the capital. Another small area at Matseng Ha Semo, 13 km north east of Maseru has just three individual bushes. The species has also been found on the south of the Mpetana River bank and west and south of Qeme Plateau. Increasing urbanisation has apparently critically affected this species within Lesotho.

**CAMPANULACEAE**

Wahlenbergia doleritica Hilliard & B.L.Burtt

Status: DD

Endemism: Near-endemic

Rare according to Hilton-Taylor (1996), this Drakensberg-Maloti endemic is recorded from Thamathu Pass and an basalt cliffs at Sehlabathebe (Hilliard & Burtt 1987) at about 2,500 m.

**CRASSULACEAE**

Crassula lanuginosa Harv. var. pachystemon (Schonland & Baker fl.) Toelken

Status: DD

Hargreaves (1991) found C. lanuginosa in two sites in Lesotho. There are viable populations in the Eastern Cape (South Africa). Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor.
Cyperaceae
Carex monotepe Nelms
Status: DD
Endemism: Near-endemic
This species was found at a number of localities from the mountains of Mokhotlong District as far as Sani Top, and has recently been found also nearby in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). Earlier PRECIS records were wholly from Lesotho. It needs to be monitored within the newly created Transfrontier Area.

Dryopteridaceae
Polystichum dracomontanum Schelpe & N.C.Anthony
Status: DD
Endemism: Near-endemic
This species appears as a Lesotho endemic in Arnold & De Wet (1993), but from resources in Lesotho, no additional records are available. Scott-Shaw assesses it as LR-lc.

Geraniaceae
Pelargonium oppositifolium Schitr.
Status: DD
Endemism: Endemic
This species appears as a Lesotho endemic in Arnold & De Wet (1993), but from resources in Lesotho, no published reference could be found. There is also a report that the plant has recently been found.

Hyacinthaceae
Scilla natalensis Planch.
Status: DD
Endemism: Endemic
The type specimen is from flat grassland in the vicinity of Tsipa Ha Sekhobe near the Lesotho side of the border (De Vos & Meakins 1988). It is obviously under threat from grazing animals. It is listed as Vulnerable in Hilton-Taylor (1993). There is a rescue operation in 1995 and 1996 to save the plants before inundation (Ntloko 2001).

Hyloxylaceae
Hypoixis hemerocallidea Fisch. & C.A.Mey.
Status: DD
Threats: Collection
This plant is heavily utilised in Lesotho for its underground corm, which is in demand for treating prostate problems and urinary infections (Van Wyk, Van Oudtshoorn & Gericke 1997). The only Lesotho herbarium specimen seems to be in Madame Dieterlen's herbarium records, apart from Madame Dieterlen's photograph of the Rock Garden.

Iridaceae
Dierama jucundum Hillard
Status: DD
The type specimen is from the farm Fetcani Pass, near Barkly East in the Eastern Cape (South Africa). This graceful flower has only ever been recorded twice and the other record is from Lesotho (Schmitz 7891 ROML and PRE). It was collected in a big tuft on a dry rocky slope, 'flowers pale mauve' in October 1977 between Mfentjeng and Mahale's Hoek (believed to be sheet 51C) in southern Lesotho about 120 km to the north-northwest of the first site. No further finds have been made of this attractive Dierama (Hillard & Burtt 1988; 1991).

Leguminosae: Mimosoideae
Elephantorrhiza elephantina (Burch.) Skeels
Status: DD
The crushed underground stem of this plant is used to stop bleeding and to treat syphilis and intestinal disorders. Distribution Lowlands and Foothills.

Leguminosae: Papilionoideae
Lesseria glabricaulis L.Bolus
Status: DD
Endemism: Endemic
This species is rare as there is only one record in the PRECIS database, which is from the Makhaoeng Plateau near Pitseng (sheet 14D). There is also one specimen in MASE, as listed in Kail & Hargreaves (1986), but without details of collecting locality.

Malvaceae
Anisodontae juli (Burch. ex DC.) Bates subsp. prostrata (E.Mey. ex Turcz.) Bates
Status: DD
This species is Data Deficient until more information is available. Scott-Shaw assesses it as LR-ic.

Orchidaceae
Brownleea recurvata Sond.
Status: DD
This orchid has a widespread distribution in the Eastern Cape, extending just into the Western Cape and with an outlier in Mpopomanga (South Africa). There is a Lesotho record from Sehlabathebe (Hoener 1800, 23 ii 1897).

Corycium alticola Parkman & Schelpe
Status: DD
Endemism: Endemic
This orchid grows on damp turf slopes above 2,600 m (Hillard & Burtt 1987) and Scott-Shaw (1999) mentions 'summit of the Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg'. The cited reference in Hillard & Burtt (1987) is Linder 1034, but the location is not given. This species is Data Deficient until more information is available.
**DISCACEAE**

**Disa cephalotes** Rchb.f. subsp. frigida (Schltr.) H.P.Linder

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This high-altitude orchid subspecies is stated (Linder & Kurzwel 1999) to be ‘rare in Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal; in large or small populations in dry to damp grassland at 3,000 m on the summit of the Drakensberg’. Data deficient until extent of Lesotho occurrences is clarified. Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor. Also in Free State and possibly in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). Scott-Shaw assesses it as LR-ic.

**Disa oreophila** Bolus subsp. erecta H.P.Linder

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
It is stated for this orchid subspecies (Linder & Kurzwel 1999) that ‘it is occasional in the Drakensberg in the Eastern Cape, Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal; on rock ledges and damp grassy slopes between 2,250 and 2,700 m, usually growing in soils derived from basalt’. Data deficient until extent of Lesotho occurrences is clarified. A record of this orchid is in MASE (Kali & Hargreaves 1985).

**Disa tripetaloidea** (L.f.) N.E.Br.

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
Not a Lesotho species but a species of the Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Western Cape. Possibly the intention was to include D. tyanisi which is found in the Eastern Cape and of which there are two known records from sheets 16A and 16C. Listed as Rare/Vulnerable in Hilton-Taylor.

**Satureja microcarina** Rydb. Schltr.

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This rare orchid is known from only six localities, stretching 470 km from Mpmalanga to the Eastern Cape (South Africa). It is found on grassy and sometimes stony or moist slopes from 1,600–3,300 m (Linder & Kurzwel 1999). There is one Lesotho record, Hoener 1792 from the Rock Pool areas in Sehlabathebe (Hoener 1979). Scott-Shaw assesses it as LR-ic.

**POACEAE**

**Agrostis subulifolia** Stapf

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
There are several records of this grass from Lesotho. ROML specimens include Morris from Ha Lejone and Killick from Oxbow. Backéus’ specimens from Khalong–Rchb. subsp. frigida (Schltr.) Stapf 1988). Subalpine grassland to Drakensberg Alpine Tundra and occupies damp sites mainly in meadow sedges, Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic. It is also found in South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal).

**Anthoxanthum brevifolium** Stapf

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
Subalpine grassland to Drakensberg Alpine Tundra and occupies damp sites mainly in meadow sedges. Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic. It is also found in South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal).

**Prunus africana** (Hook.f.) Kalkm.

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This tree was collected by Hoener FKH 2002 from the Rock Pool areas in the shelter of a sandstone outcrop in Sehlabathebe, 1978. This is the only known record from Lesotho, and the tree no longer survives. The species occurs nearly, east of the escarpment, and seeds may be dispersed by birds. It closely resembles Prunus seratina, an exotic. P. seratina has been planted on the university campus; there have been several examples of trees coming up in the wild as a result of bird dispersal. One specimen was observed in the Maphatong Gorge. Widely known from many countries in Africa.

**Rhus lanceolata** Benth.

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This high-altitude grass appears as a Lesotho endemic in Gibbs Russell et al. (1990) and Arnold & De Wet (1993). The distribution shows two locations within Lesotho near the eastern border, and the plant is said to flower in September and to be found in ‘sour grassland in the montane belt’ (Gibbs Russell et al. 1990). A reference to Linder & Ellis (1990) is given in Gibbs Russell et al. (1990), but without full citation details. Scott-Shaw assesses it as LR-ic and considers it a rare Drakensberg endemic.

**Phacellurus fransensis** (J.M.Wood) Clayton

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This high-altitude grass is known from only six localities, Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic.

**PORTULACACEAE**

**Anacampseros rupestris** (Burm.) Sweet

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
Definite Lesotho records of this species are over 40 years old, PRE Dieterlen 625 from Lesibe and Paroz from Thabane-Mapendulo (Jacot Guilmard 1971). Anacampseros material in ROML collected by Hargreaves (Hargreaves & Kali (1985), 3744 and 3751) still has to be identified to species level. Listed as Indeterminate in Hilton-Taylor; also listed in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State (South Africa) and Swaziland. According to PRECIL, this species occurs only in South Africa.

**ROSACEAE**

**Daisy cotinifolia** L.

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Indeterminate  
Unlike Morella serrata, Dais cotinifolia has both a present and known past limited distribution close to Berea Mission, on escarpments northeast of Lesotho’s capital. The one exception to this is a record by Scott-Shaw (1998) from Tsehlanyane (Lesotho sheet 15D, RSA sheet 2828CD). The species could have been introduced to Lesotho.

**Gnidia singularis** Hilliard

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Indeterminate  
There is a single record for this plant from the Lesotho side of the border in the San Top area (Arnold & De Wet 1993). It was assessed by Hilton-Taylor as Indeterminate.

**THYMELAEACEAE**

**Disa cephalotes** Rchb.f. subsp. frigida (Schltr.) H.P.Linder

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This high-altitude grass is known from high altitude sedge meadows in KwaZulu-Natal. The grass is known from high altitude sedge meadows in KwaZulu-Natal. It is occasionally a Maloti–Drakensberg endemic, but definite Lesotho records are still needed. Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic.

**Bromus furmior (Nees) Stapf**

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This grass, which also occurs in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, is ‘locally common in Sengunyane valley, also in Bokang and Jordane valleys altitude 2,400 m 2928AC’ (AfriDev Consultants 1996). There is a duplicate ROML record from sheet 34C. It is likely that it will be found elsewhere in Lesotho. Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic.

**Colpodium drakensbergense** Hedberg & I.Hedberg

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
This grass genus is confined to the ‘archipelago’ of African high mountain summits (White 1978), and this particular species has been found in Lesotho (Schmitz 1986). Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor. Also in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa).

**Festuca dracomontana** H.P.Linder

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
Threats: Habitat degradation  
High-altitude grass. The type specimen is from a slope bordering Letshen-ge-Letse, sheet 74B (RSA sheet 302BAC) (Linder 1986). ROML has a duplicate from P.C.V. du Toit 2714, also near Letshen-ge-Letse. The grass is mentioned in Scott-Shaw’s 1998 checklist from Bokang, Leribe District (presumably sheet 25B), but with no details about exact locality. F. dracomontana also occurs in the Mpuumalanga Drakensberg, far north of Lesotho (Arnold & De Wet 1993). Recent high rates of cattle theft between southern Lesotho and the Eastern Cape have resulted in sufficient insecurity in the border zone that people can no longer graze animals there. As a result the grassland (including that around the lake (Letshen-ge-Letse)) has recovered from its previously overgrazed status, although this may only be a temporary phenomenon. Listed as Rare in Hilton-Taylor.

**Festuca killickii** Kenyon-‘O’Byrne

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
Threats: Habitat degradation  
This grass has a wider distribution than Urginea saniensis. It is confined to high areas in the Drakensberg from 1,980–2,500 m, and was found by O’Byrne at Sehlabathebe, which is the only Lesotho record. Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic.

**Merxmuelleria aureocephala** (J.G.Anderson) Conert

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
Threats: Grazing, fire  
Although there are no records from Lesotho, this species is likely to occur here, because it has been recorded on basalt slopes and sandstone ridges in the southern KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg (South Africa) (Hilliard & Burtt 1987). Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic.

**Merxmuelleria guillarmordi** Conert

**Status:** DD  
**Endemism:** Near-endemic  
Threats: Grazing, fire  
There is one specimen in ROML from Sanp Top in Lesotho (sheet 59A), P.C.V. du Toit 2606, collected in 1977 on top of the escarpment on dark brown gritty, gravelly, humus-rich soil (illustrated in Kali & Hargreaves (1985)). It has also been found in the LHWP Phase 1A Area (Laxton, Vern & Associates 1993). This grass also occurs in KwaZulu-Natal (Arnold & De Wet 1993). Listed in Scott-Shaw as LR-ic.