

easy
identification
of

AQUATIC PLANTS

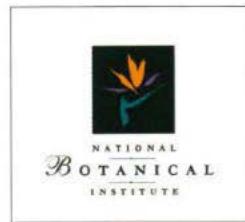
A guide for the identification of water plants
in and around South African impoundments.

August 2004

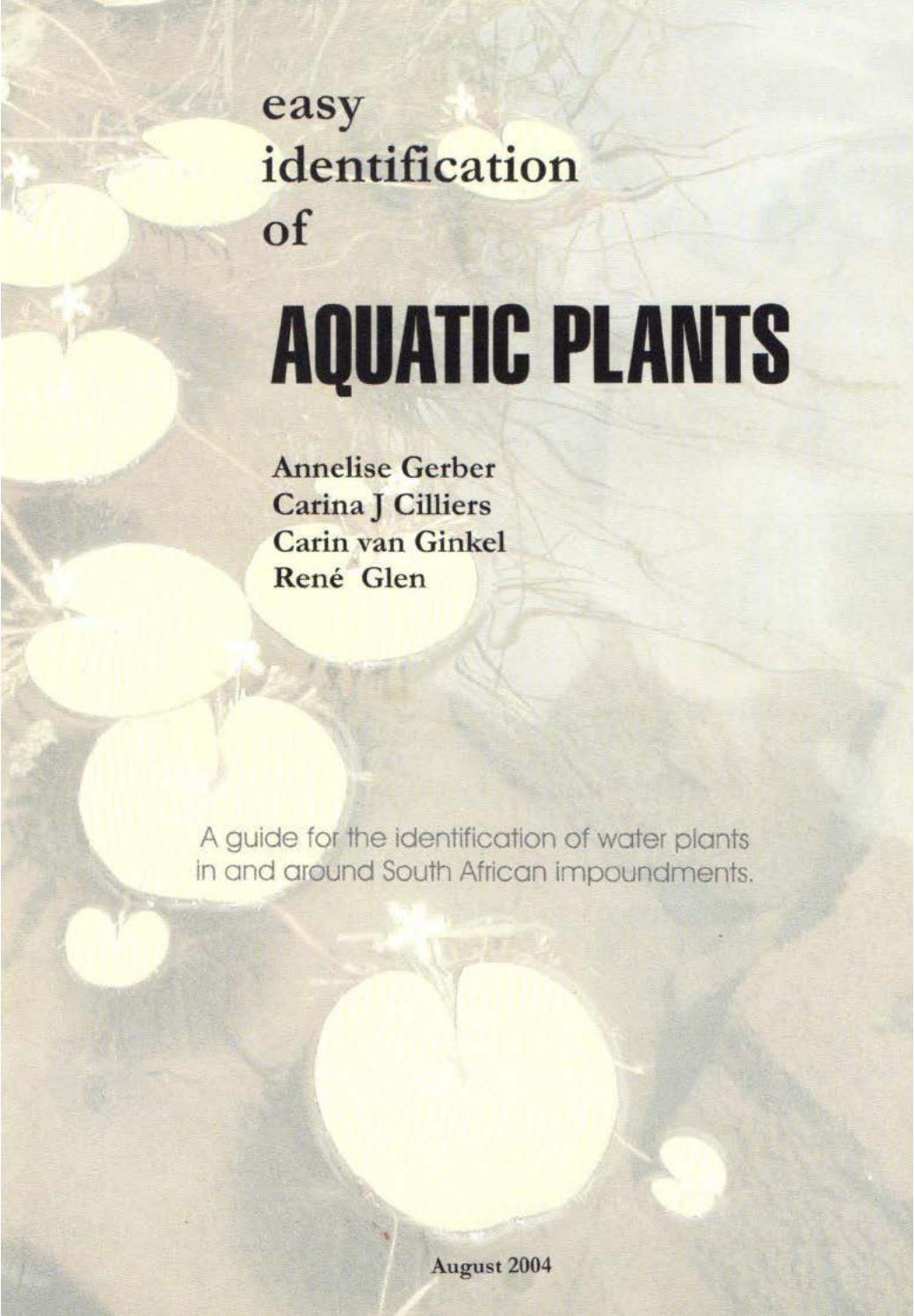
Annelise Gerber
Carina J Cilliers
Carin van Ginkel
René Glen

envirokonsult





RESOURCE QUALITY SERVICES



**easy
identification
of**

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**Annelise Gerber
Carina J Cilliers
Carin van Ginkel
René Glen**

A guide for the identification of water plants
in and around South African impoundments.

August 2004

EASY IDENTIFICATION OF AQUATIC PLANTS

by

**Annelise Gerber, Carina J Cilliers,
Carin van Ginkel and René Glen**

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Expert advice, plant identification

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Durban)
Plant identification

Annelise Gerber (Resource Quality Services, Pretoria)
Plant specimens, photographs

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Roddy Ward - Photographs of *Spirodella* sp and flowering
Utricularia stellaris

National Botanical Institute - Photographs of *Potamogeton*
thunbergii

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Background

Eutrophication is the process of excessive nutrient enrichment of waters that typically results in problems associated with aquatic plants, algal and cyanobacterial growth.

In natural lakes a distinction is sometimes made between 'natural' and 'cultural' (anthropogenic) eutrophication processes (e.g. Rast and Thornton (1996)). Natural eutrophication depends only on the local geology and natural features of the catchment. Cultural eutrophication is associated with human activities that accelerate the eutrophication process beyond the rate associated with the natural process (e.g. by increasing nutrient loads into aquatic ecosystems). In South Africa where impoundments are man-made, the conceptual difference between 'natural' and 'cultural' seems less appropriate. Increased nutrient enrichment can arise from both point and non-point sources external to the impoundment as well as internal sources like the impoundment's own sediments (that can release phosphate). Much eutrophication-related monitoring has been done in South Africa over the past three decades. Before the promulgation of the National Water Act No.36 of 1998 there was no legal requirement to assess the degree of eutrophication at a national level. However this act now requires monitoring, recording, assessment and dissemination of information on national water resources. The National Eutrophication Monitoring Programme (NEMP) specifically addresses the monitoring requirement in respect of eutrophication.

The need for an aquatic plant identification manual was identified during the design of the National Eutrophication Monitoring Programme, where the extent of aquatic water plant growth are one of the variables to be monitored. Excessive water plant growth, also of indigenous plants, is an indication of eutrophication and/or habitat disturbance.

The purpose of this field identification manual is to assist NEMP monitors with photographs of the plants, flowers and habitat to identify aquatic water plants for monitoring purposes.

Symbols used in this book



EXOTIC SPECIES



DECLARED WEED



PERMIT

PERMIT REQUIRED



NO TRADE



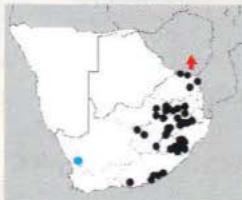
POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME



NATURALLY BEYOND BORDERS OF AFRICA



INDIGENOUS, NATURALLY IN AFRICA



● NATURAL DISTRIBUTION

● RIVER ESCAPE (not naturally found in the area)

↑ PLANTS CAN BE FOUND IN THE REST OF AFRICA

DISTRIBUTION MAP



FREE FLOATING



FLOATING-LEAVED, ATTACHED



SUBMERGED



EMERGENT, BROAD LEAVED

EMERGENT, NARROW LEAVED

Notes on the preparation of plant samples for identification

Unidentifiable plant specimens can be forwarded to Resource Quality Services (old Institute for Water Quality Studies) for identification, to be verified before any publishing or reporting.

Dry plants between newspaper sheets, make sure to include roots, stems, flowers and seeds. The dried specimen should fit on a sheet 270 x 420 mm leaving an A5 size open in the right hand corner. This space is required to attach a label should it be necessary to forward the specimen to National Botanical Institute for identification.

Submerged waterplants can be put in a plastic jar in the fridge for no more than 2 days. Longer storage needs preservation with a solution made up of ethanol, formalin, glycerine, water and a drop of copper sulphate. (See Appendix I)

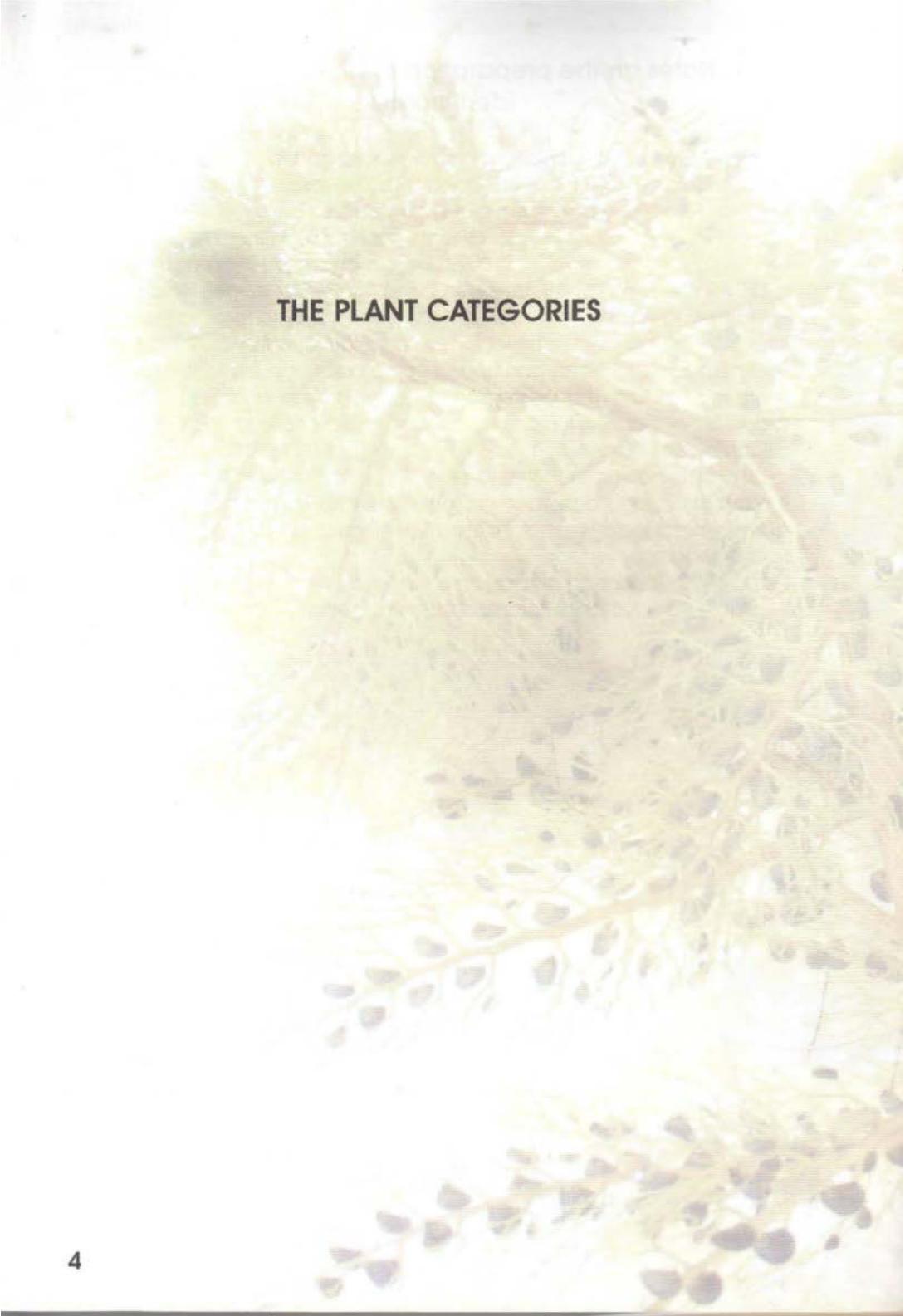
In all cases make sure to include the name of the collector, coordinates if possible or good description of locality. Make notes on where plant grows, what it looks like, height etc. (See field label, Appendix II)

Further reading:

Fish,L. 1999. *Preparing herbarium specimens*.

Available from National Botanical Institute, Pretoria.





THE PLANT CATEGORIES

FREE FLOATING

Plants unattached and float on the surface of the water. May become rooted in mud when water levels drop



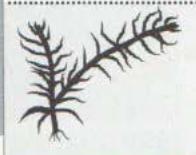
FLOATING-LEAVED, ATTACHED

Plants rooted in the substrate with mature leaves floating on the surface of the water



SUBMERGED

Plants rooted in substrate. Leaves can be feathery or linear, mostly submerged. Flowers usually above the water



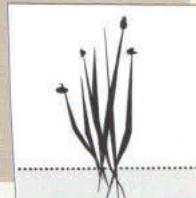
EMERGENT, BROAD LEAVED

Plants are rooted in the substrate with stems, flowers and most mature leaves projecting above or floating on the water surface



EMERGENT, NARROW LEAVED

Plants are rooted in the substrate with modified leaves, reed-like



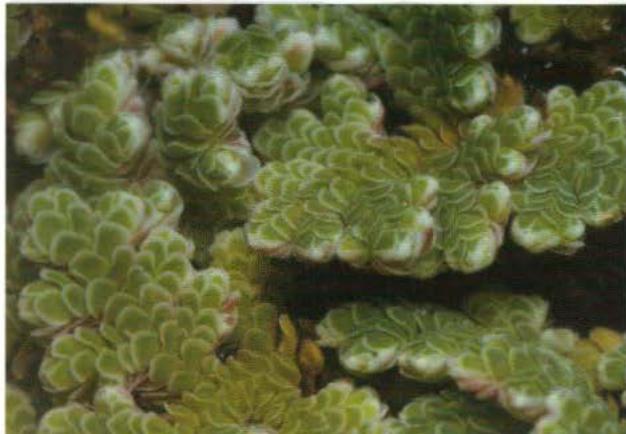
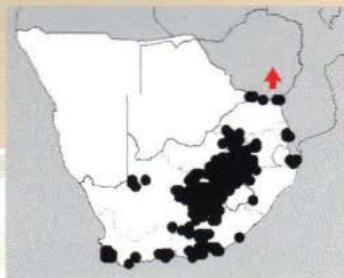


Azolla filiculoides



TRADE

red water fern
rooiwatervaring

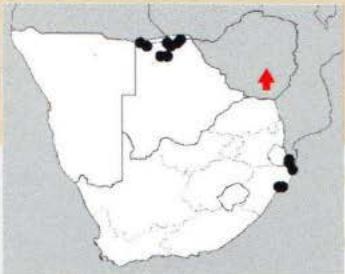


Pond, Marievale



Azolla pinnata

red water fern
rooiwatervaring

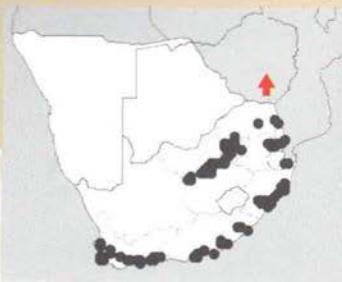


Sabie River, Kruger National Park



Eichhornia crassipes

water hyacinth
waterhiasint



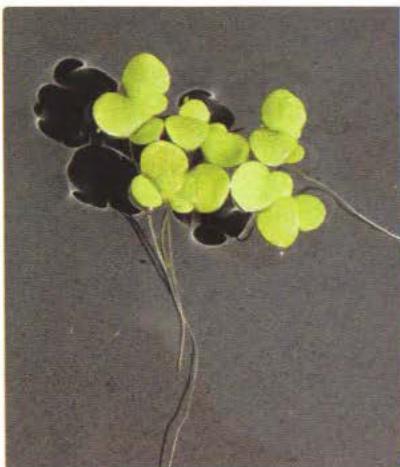
Roodeplaat Dam



Lemna gibba



duckweed
damslyk



Lemna

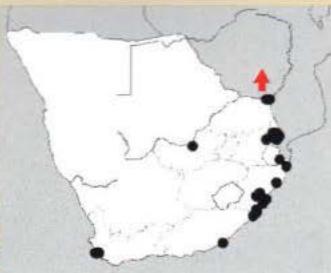


Vier Rivier Spruit, Orkney district



Pistia stratiotes

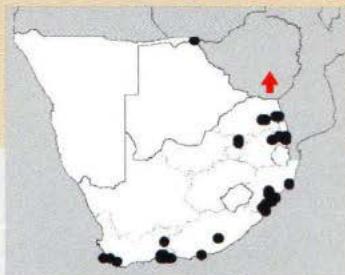
water lettuce
waterslaai





TRADE

Salvinia molesta



salvinia
watervaring



Crocodile river, Komati poort



Spirodela spp

duckweed
damslyk



R. Ward



R. Ward

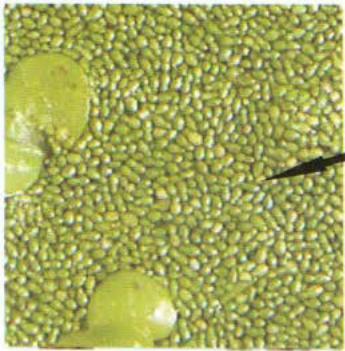
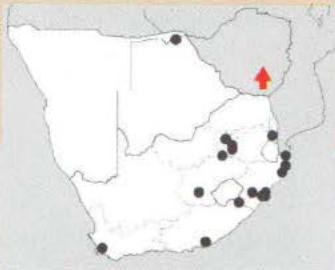


Garden pond, RQS, Roodeplaat



Wolffia arrhiza

duckweed
damslyk



Wolffia



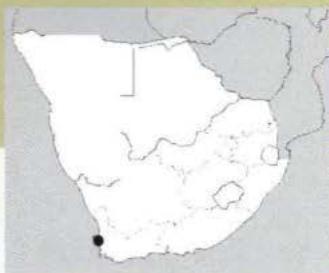
Malanseuns nursery pond, Pretoria North



Alternanthera philoxeroides

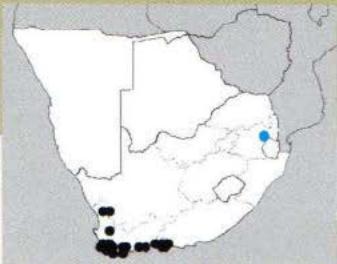


alligator weed

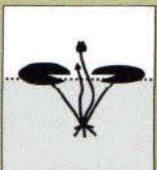


I

Aponogeton distachyos



cape pond weed
waterblommetjie



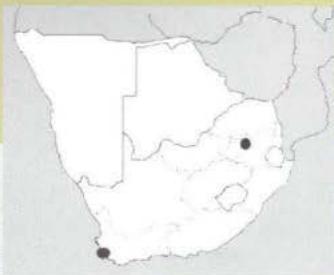
Farm dam, Western Cape



Hydrocleys nymphoides



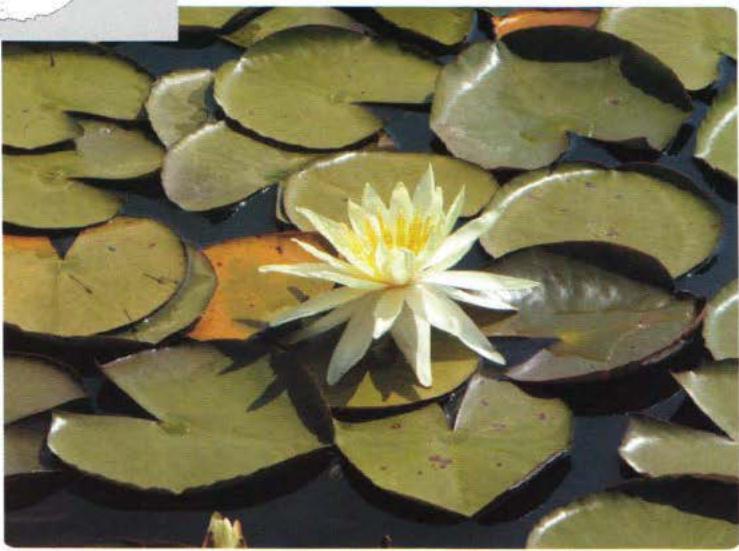
water poppy
drywende papawer





Nymphaea mexicana

yellow water lily
geel waterlelie

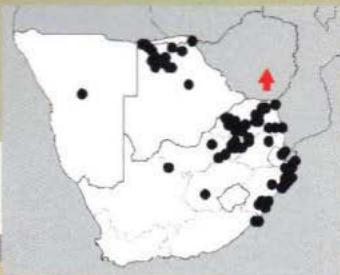


Farm dam, Maschadodorp area



Nymphaea nouchalia var. *coerulea* (I)

blue water lily
blouwaterlelie





Nymphaea sp.



water lily
waterlelie





Nymphoides thunbergiana (I)

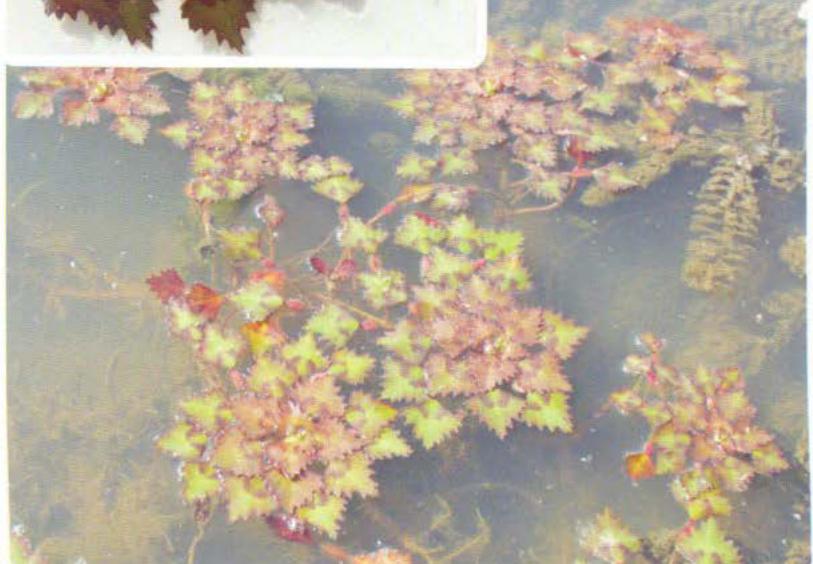
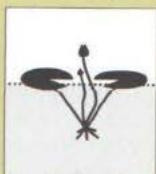
floating heart
drywende hart





Trapa natans

water chestnut
water kastaiing



Sokunti Pan, Makatini floodplain



Egeria densa



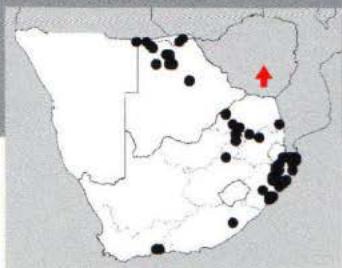
dense water weed
waterpes



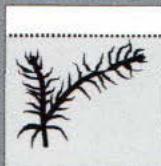
Berg river, Paarl



Ceratophyllum demersum



water hornwort
waterhoringblaar



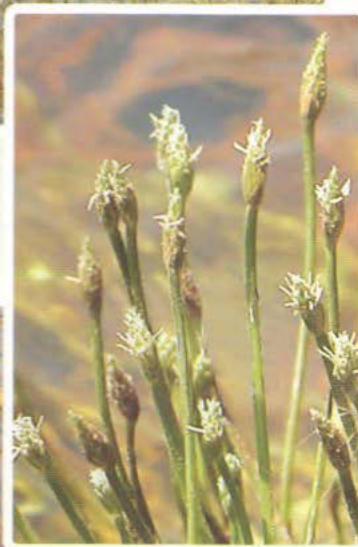
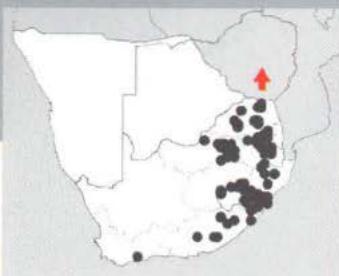
Sokunti Pan, Makatini floodplain



Isolepis fluitans

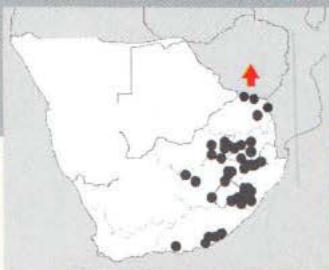
W

water weed
watergras

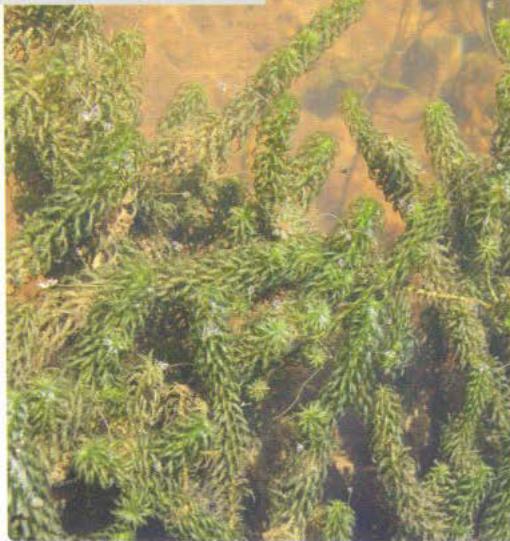


I

Lagarasiphon major



coarse oxygen weed
growwe babergras

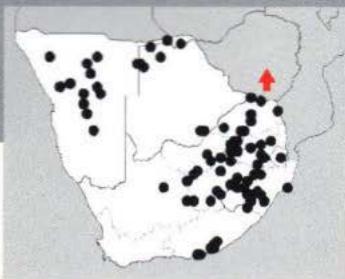


Farm Dam, Mpumalanga



Lagarasiphon muscoides (I)

fine oxygen weed
fyn babergras





Myriophyllum aquaticum



parrot's feather
waterduisendblaar



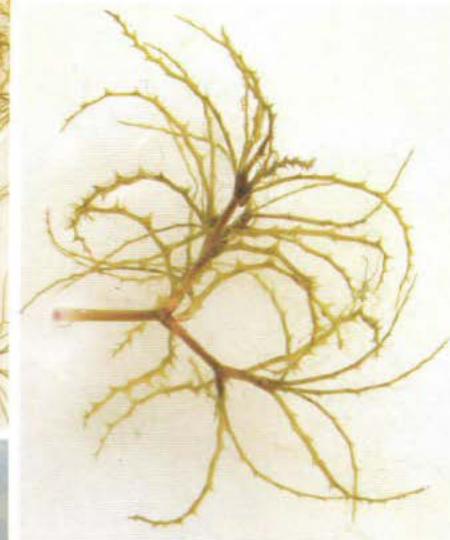
Farm Dam, Machadodorp area



Najas horrida

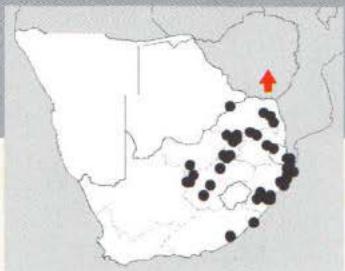
(W)

saw weed
watersaagblaar





Potamogeton crispus



curled pondweed
krulblaarfonteinkruid

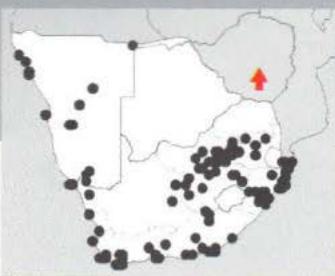




Potamogeton pectinatus

fennel-leaved pondweed
skedefonteinkruid

(W)



I

Potamogeton schweinfurthii



broadleaved pondweed
breëblaar fonteinkruid

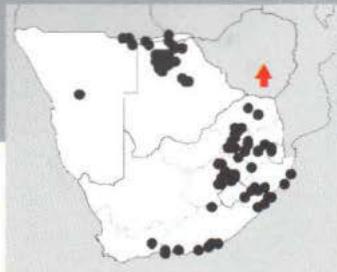


Koster Dam



Potamogeton thunbergii

floating pondweed
drywende fonteinkruid

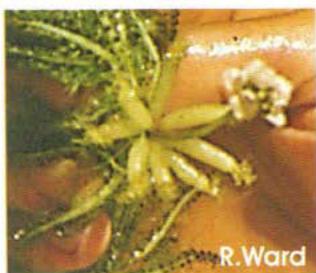
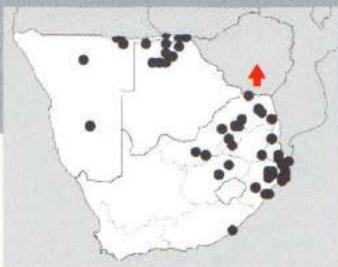


NBI



Utricularia stellaris

star bladderwort
sterblasiekraut



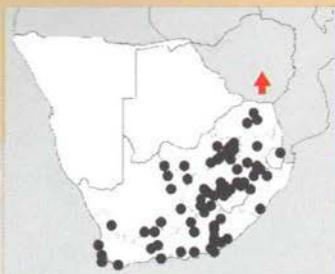
Farm Dam, Kameeldrift area



Berula erecta

(W)

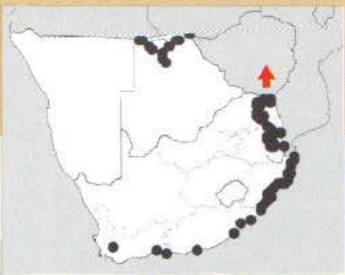
toothache root
tandpynwortel



Steelpoort River, Lydenburg area

Cyclosorus interruptus

fern
varing

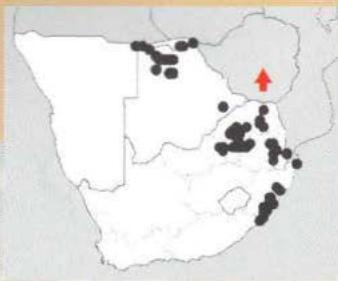


Witklip Dam, Mpumalanga



Floscopia glomerata

①

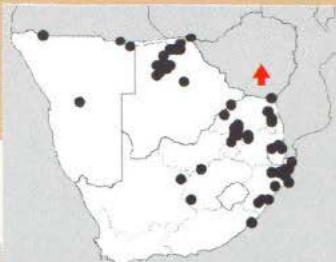


Farm Dam, Lydenburg area

I *Ludwigia adscendens* subsp. *diffusa*

(=*L. stolonifera*)

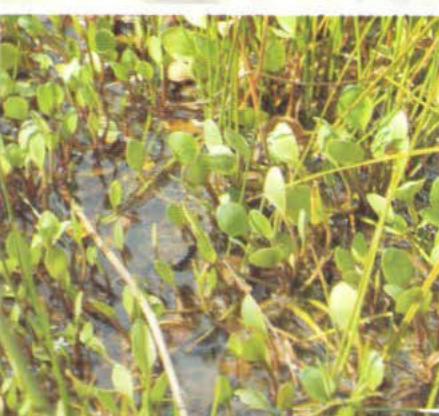
willow-herb
wilgerkruid



Crocodile River, Komati poort



Limosella major (I)





Marsilea sp.

water clover
waterklawer

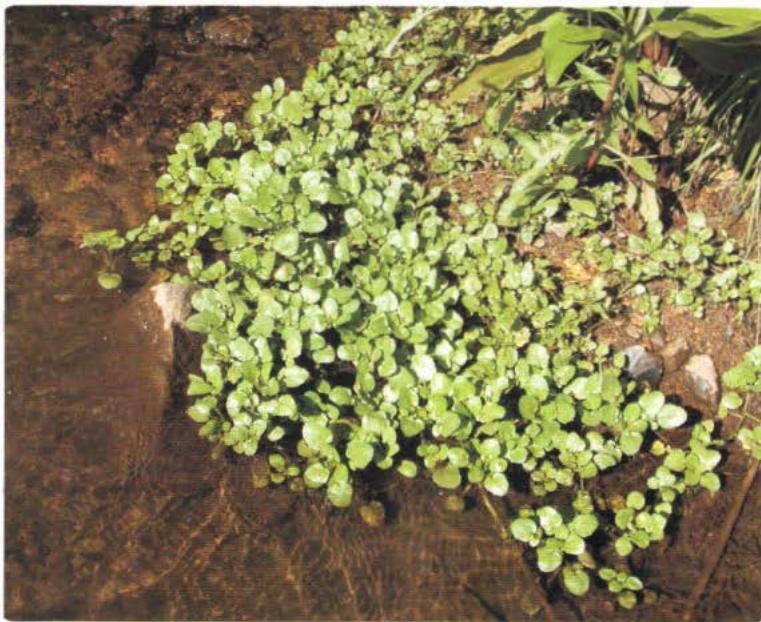
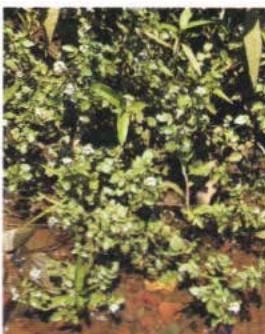


Middelburg Dam, Mpumalanga



Nasturtium officinale

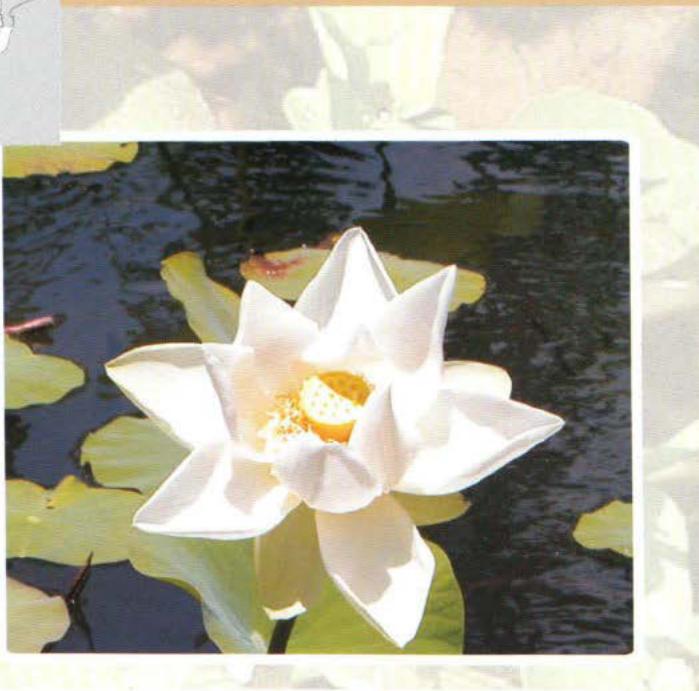
watercress
bronkors





Nelumbo nucifera

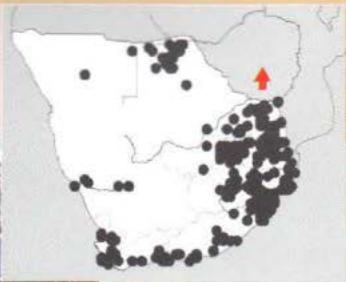
lotus
lotus





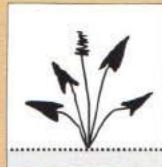
Persicaria decipiens (W)

slender knotweed
slangwortel

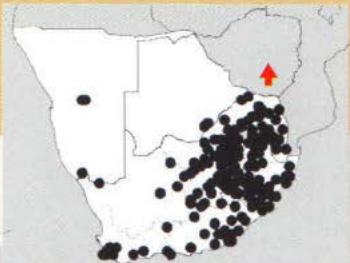




Persicaria lapathifolia



spotted knotweed
hanekam



Farm Dam, Bethal area



Persicaria senegalensis (I)

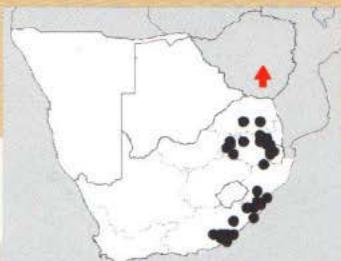
snakeroot
slangwortel



I

Plantago longissima

broadleaved plantago
breeblaarplantago





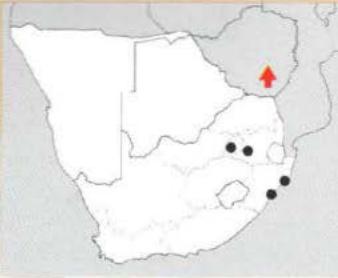
Pontederia cordata

pickerel weed
jongsnoekkruid



TRADE

W

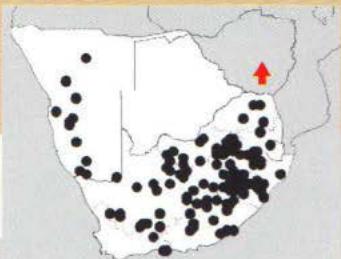


Farm dam, Mpumalanga



Veronica anagallis-aquatica

water speedwell

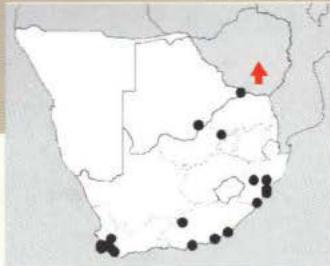


Scheerpoort River, Cradle of Humankind



Arundo donax

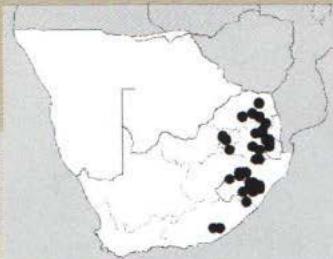
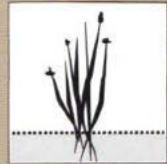
giant reed
spaanse riet



Scheerpoort River, Cradle of Humankind

Carex austro-africana

rushes
biesie

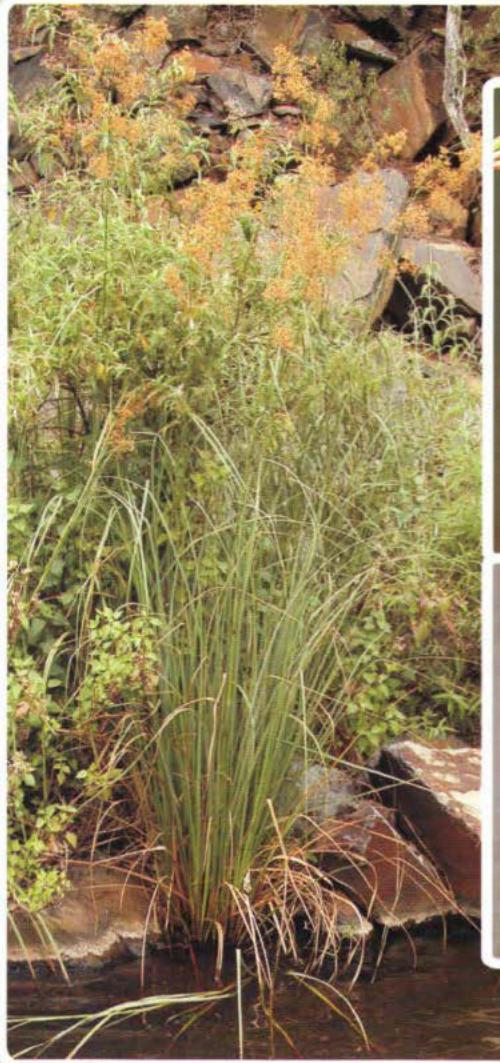
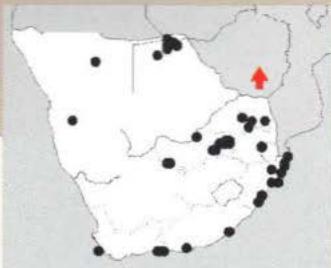


Farm dam, Broederstroom



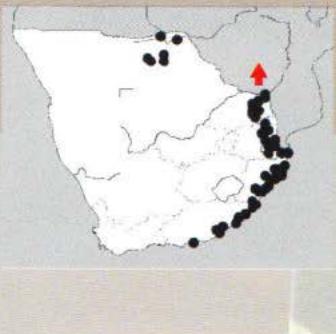
Cladium mariscus subsp. *jamaicense*

saagtandwatergras
sawgrass



Cyperus dives

giant sedge
reuse rietgras



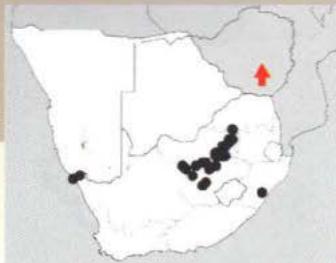
Scheerpoort River



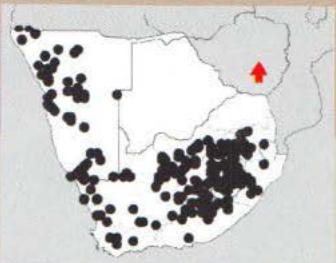
Cyperus eragrostis



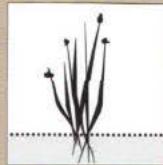
rushes
biesies



Cyperus marginatus



water reed
waterbiesie

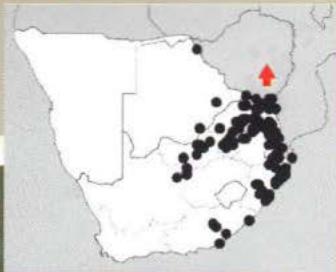


Vaal River at Kimberley



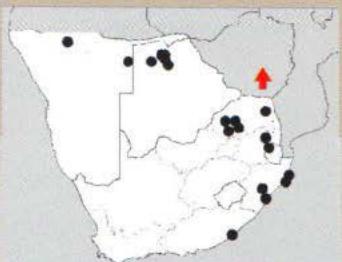
Cyperus sexangularis (I)

matjiesgoed

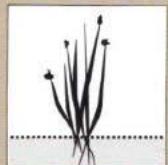


Scheerpoort River

Eleocharis acutangula



sedge
biesie



Witklip Dam



Juncus effusus

rushes
steekbiesie



Juncus lomatophyllus



leafy juncus
biesies



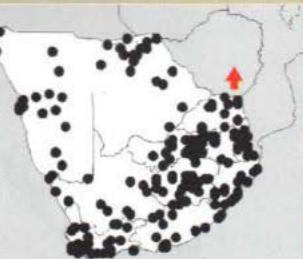
Klipspruit, Mpumalanga



Phragmites australis

W

common reed
fluitjiesriet





Phragmites mauritianum



thatching reed
dekriet



Sable River, Kruger National Park



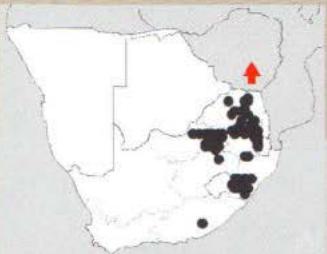
Prionium serratum ⓘ

palmiet
palmiet

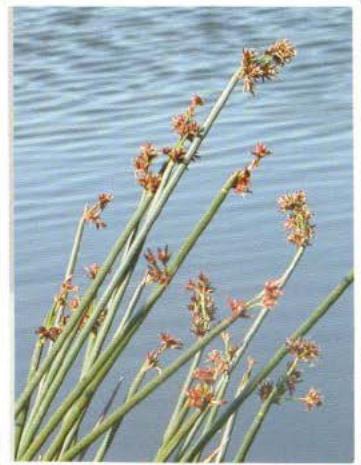


I

Schoenoplectus brachyceras



water reed
waterbiesie

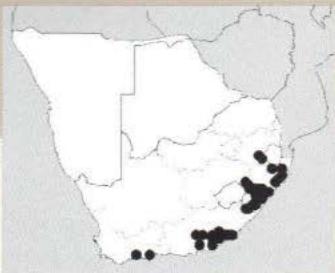


Koster Dam



Schoenoplectus paludicola (I)

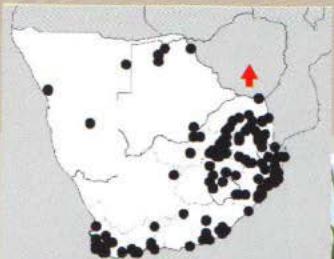
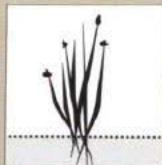
sedge
biesie





Typha capensis

bullrush
papkuil



Sable River

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Farming in South Africa, Water Plants Series W.1-20:
1980a. Water fern (*Azolla filiculoides* Lam.). W.16
1980b. Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*(Mart.) Solms). W7
1980c. Kariba weed (*Salvinia molesta* Mitchell). W.8
1980d. Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Vell.) Verdc.). W.9
1980e. Floating pondweed (*Potamogeton thunbergii* Cham. & Schlechtd.) W.1
1980f. Fennel-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus* L.). W.2

- 1980g. Broad-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton schweinfurthii* A. Benn.). W.4
- 1980h. Curled pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus* L.).
W.15
- 1980i. Saw-weed (*Najas pectinata* (Parl.) Magnus).
W.13
- 1980j. Water hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum* L.).
W.17
- 1980k. Coarse oxygen weed (*Lagarasiphon major* (Ridley) Moss ex wager). W.18
- 1980l. Fine oxygen weed (*Lagarasiphon muscoides* Harv.). W.19
- 1980m. Willow-herb (*Ludwigia stolonifera*). W.16
- 1980n. Blue water lily (*Nymphaea caerulea* Sav.).
W.12
- 1980o. Floating heart (*Nymphoides indica* L. subsp.
occidentalis A. Raynal). W.14
- 1980p. Bulrush (*Typha capensis* (Rohrb.) N.E. Br.) W.3
- 1980q. Duckweed (*Lemna gibba* L.). W.20
- 1980r. Star bladderwort (*Utricularia stellaris* L.f.). W.10

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APPENDIX 1

Solution for the preservation of aquatic plants

The following solution can be used to preserve water plant specimens. Most of the specimens will retain their original color.

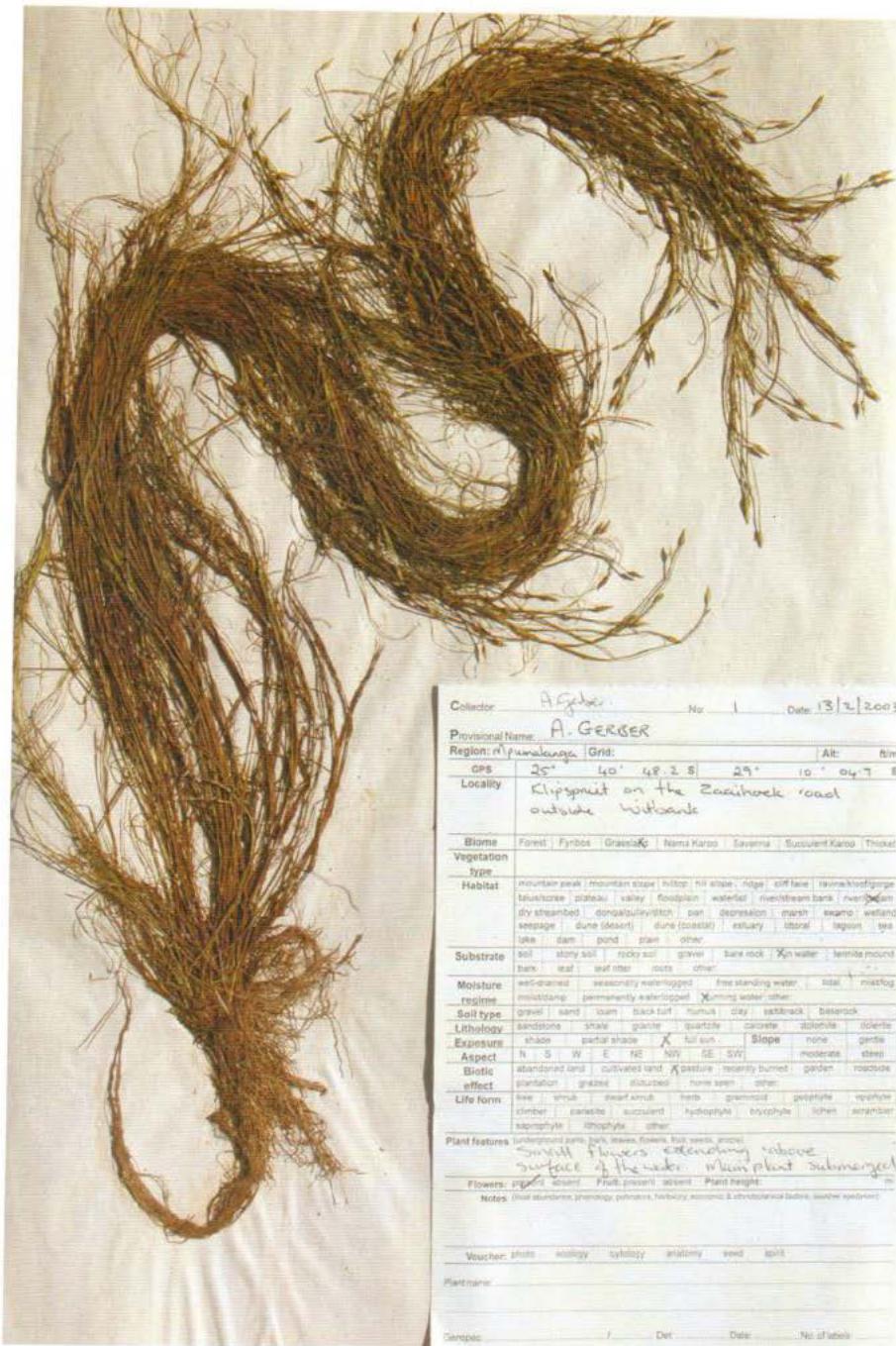
1140 ml water
580 ml ethanol
180 ml formalin
100 ml glyserine
copper sulphate

Mix all the ingredients together. Add a little bit of copper sulphate until the mixture turns pale blue.



APPENDIX 2

Factsheet required by NBI for
identification of plants



Collector: No: Date:

Provisional name:

Region:	Grid:	Alt:		ft/m						
GPS	S			E						
Locality										
Biome	Forest	Fynbos	Grassland	Nama Karoo	Savanna	Succulent Karoo	Thicket			
Vegetation Type										
Habitat	mountain peak	mountain slope	hilltop	hill slope	ridge	cliff face	ravine/kloof/gorge			
	talus/scree	plateau	valley	floodplain	waterfall	river/stream bank	river/stream			
	dry streambed	donga/gully/ditch	pan	depression	marsh	swamp	wetland			
	seepage	dune (desert)	dune (coastal)	estuary	littoral	lagoon	sea			
	lake	dam	pond	plain	other:					
Substrate	soil	stony soil	rocky soil	gravel	bare rock	in water	termite mound			
	bark	leaf	leaf litter	roots	other:					
Moisture regime	well-drained	seasonally waterlogged			free standing water	tidal	mist/fog			
	moist/damp	permanently waterlogged			running water	other:				
Soil type	gravel	sand	loam	black turf	humus	clay	salt/brack			
Lithology	sandstone	shale	granite	quartzite	calcrete	dolomite	dolerite			
Exposure	shade	partial shade		full sun	Slope	none	gentle			
Aspect	N	S	W	E	NE	NW	SE	SW	moderate	steep
Biotic effect	abandoned land			cultivated land		pasture	recently burned		garden	roadside
	plantation	grazed	disturbed	none seen		other:				
Life form	tree	shrub	dwarf shrub		herb	graminoid	geophyte	epiphyte		
	climber	parasite	succulent		hydrophyte	bryophyte	lichen	scrambler		
	saprophyte	lithophyte	other:							

Plant features (underground parts, bark, leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds, aroma)

Flowers: present absent **Fruit:** present absent **Plant height:** m

Notes (local abundance, phenology, pollinators, herbivory, economic & ethnobotanical factors, voucher specimen)

Voucher: photo ecology cytology anatomy seed spirit

Plant name:

Genspec:...../. Det:..... Date:..... No. of labels:.....

