

ORCHID LIST FOR RUAHA NATIONAL PARK JANUARY 2017

Below is a summary of the orchid list for Ruaha to date. We have used The Annotated Check-list of the Plant Species by Anders Bjornstadt, as our guide. (Serengeti Research Institute, SRI Publ. No.215, Oslo 1976) In addition to this, in order to get the new species not found on his list verified, we have been very lucky to be able to send photos of these orchids to a real master on orchids, Benny Bytebier, who is the curator of the Bews Herbarium, and lecturer at the KwaZulu-Natal University, South Africa. His research focuses on the systematics, biogeography and evolutionary history of African Orchids. We have also sent photos to Quentin Luke, who is a world renowned botanist based in Kenya. I am extremely grateful to them both for their continued interest and support.

Some of the species we have seen, do not seem to appear every year. I have GPS location records and photos for most of the species seen.

NB. We have added 18 species to the Ruaha Orchid list.

The ones in **red** show the species we have added to the Anders Bjornstadt list.

The ones in **green**, show the species already on the list that we have seen.

The ones in **black** we have not yet managed to see, but are on Anders Bjornstadt's list.

Orchid species in Ruaha National Park - Mostly from the Western Zone.

Aerangis brachycarpa October 2005

Aerangis flabellifolia. Rohb.f. (*Brachystegia/acacia sieberana*)

Aerangis kotschyana Nov 2004

Aerangis verdikii (*De Wild*) *Schltr.* Nov/Dec 2014. Kimbi track on rocks

Ansellia africana Oct/Nov Common all over Ruaha valley

Brachycorythis tenuoir 31st Jan 2014. Mkakati

Cytorchis crassifolia Schltr. (*Brachystegia/Uapaca*)

Disa walleri Feb 10th 2008, Jan 29th 2014. Mkakati

Disa erubescens subsp. *carsonii* (*N.E.Br.*) *H.P.Linde* (old name *Disa stolzii* Schltr)

Eulophia cucullata 4th Jan 2013, Common in all mubugas.(annually common)

Eulophia euantha Schltr. 15th Dec 2011, Dec 2016. Mkakati.

Eulophia flavopurpurea 5th Jan 2012, Sue camp Magangwe.(annually common)

Eulophia gonychila 27th Nov 2014. Kimbi track

Eulophia involuta Summerh. (*Commiphora/Combretum/inselbergs*)

Eulophia lindiana Kranzl. (*Brachystegia/Terminalia*)

Eulophia livingstoneana 8th Dec 2012

Eulophia monile 11th Nov 2015/Dec 2016, Robs road to camp

Eulophia norlindhii Summerh (*Brachystegia/Terminalia*)

Eulophia sabulosa Nov 2014 Mkakati

Eulophia seleensis 24th Dec 2011, 23rd Dec 2012, Sue Camp Magangwe

Eulophia speciosa 10th Dec 2015 Jongomero, Nov 2016 Isunkaviola

Orthochilus welwitschii *Rchb.f* Nov 2004, Dec 2014. Kimbi track (old name *Eulophia welwitschii*)

Orthochilus thomsonii Dec 2014. Road from Upper Itiku escarpment to Usangu.

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Habenaria cornuta 23rd Feb 2013 Mkakati

Habenaria clavata 22nd Feb 2013. Sue camp Magangwe (annually common)

Habenaria debeerstiana Kraenzl Jan 31 2014. Mkakati

Habenaria filicornis (Thon.) Lindl. (*Brachystegia/Taxifolia*)

Habenaria humilior Feb 15 2014 Magangwe road

Habenaria schimperiana 4th Jan 2013, Sue camp Magangwe, (annually common)

Habenaria cf stolzii Schltr. (*Brachystegia/Terminalia*)

Habenaria uhehensis Feb 15 2014. Mkakati

Nervillia reniformis Schltr (AB 2328 (*Brachystegia/Uapaca*))

Nervillia shirensis 23rd Dec 2007, Nov 16 2009, 14th Dec 2010, (suddenly become rare)

Nervillia umbrosa (Rolfe) Schltr. (AB2134) (*Brachystegia/Terminalia*)

Polystachya sp (AB 2434) (*pseudobulbous epiphytic on syzigium cordatum*)

Polystachya sp (AB 2404) ? *Drypetes* epiphytic orchid. Nov 2011, 2015, 2016.

Satyrium anomalum 8th March 2008, Jan 31st-10 Feb 2014. Magangwe road, Mkakati

Scharzkopffia lastii (Rolfe) Schltr. (*Brachystegia/Terminalia*)

Tridactyle sp nr *T fucistipes* Summerh = Richards 7272, 11857 15780 (*Drypetes*)

Tridactyle tridentata Robs camp Magangwe

NOTES

Nervillia shirensis, These start to flower about 10 days after the first big rainstorm. We saw them annually from 2007- 2010, However we have not seen them in 2011, 2012 and 2013, in 2014 there were one or two stems but that is all. We still check for them annually, but despite it being a large patch of 50 or so plants, they do not seem to come up any more. We have both a greeny/yellow one and a purply /pink one growing together. The ones in the mbuga situation have multiple blooms on each stem, then we have a few that are much smaller and more delicate, growing in the miombo and they only have one bloom per spike. The leaves are identical. These single miombo plants still appear every year.

General flowering dates.

The orchid flowering times seem to depend on when the first rain falls and how much it is. The rains generally start towards the end of November or early December. Occasionally we can get a heavy shower in October. If the first rain storms are heavy the flowers will be early. If you want to see flowers of a certain species the best way is to find out when the first rains fell and if the rains were heavy. The dates for 2007 show late rains, the dates for 2009 show early rains, (refer to *nervillia shirensis* dates of flowering, above)

***Eulophia cucullata*?**

This plant probably hybridised with another species.

It only flowered the one time. It was not far from my camp in the western miombo zone.

24th January 2013

