

Browse

- [Genera: A](#)
- [Genera: B](#)
- [Genera: C](#)
- [Genera: D](#)
- [Genera: E](#)
- [Genera: F](#)
- [Genera: G](#)
- [Genera: H](#)
- [Genera: I](#)
- [Genera: J](#)
- [Genera: K](#)
- [Genera: L](#)
- [Genera: M](#)
- [Genera: N](#)
- [Genera: O](#)
- [Genera: P](#)
- [Genera: Q](#)
- [Genera: R](#)
- [Genera: S](#)
- [Genera: T](#)
- [Genera: U](#)
- [Genera: V](#)
- [Genera: W](#)
- [Genera: X](#)
- [Genera: Y](#)
- [Genera: Z](#)

[Home](#) >> [Genera: D](#) >> [Genus: Disa](#)

Taxonomy

Scientific Name **Disa zuluensis Rolfe**
Higher Classification Monocotyledons
Family ORCHIDACEAE

National Status

Status and Criteria **Endangered B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)**
Assessment Date 2012/08/30

Assessor(s) L. von Staden, D. McMurtry, L. Grobler, S. Burns & J.E. Victor
Justification EOO 122 km², fewer than five remaining locations continue to decline due to ongoing degradation of wetlands as a result of mining, damming, grazing and alien invasive plants.

Distribution

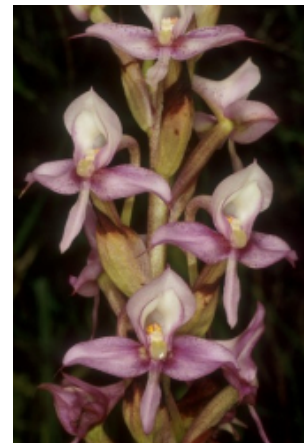
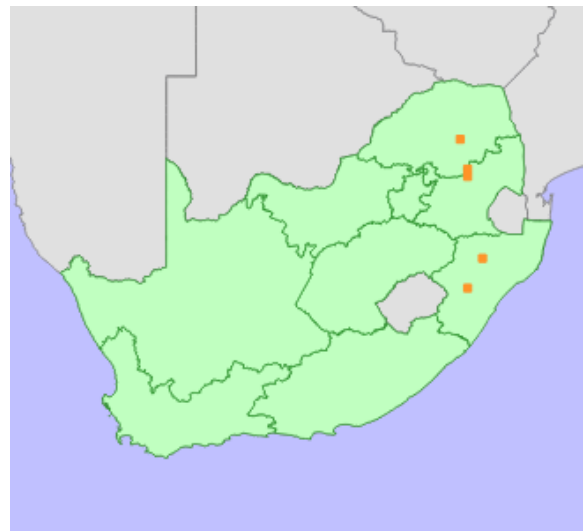
Endemism South African endemic
Provincial distribution KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga
Range Dundee, and Roosenekal to Dullstroom.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial
Major habitats Income Sandy Grassland, KwaZulu-Natal Highland Thornveld, Steenkampsberg Montane Grassland, Wolkberg Dolomite Grassland, Sekhukhune Montane Grassland
Description Swampy areas, vleis in grassland, 1500-2000 m.

Threats

Mining is the most serious threat to this species. There are mines on both sides of the farm on which it occurs. There are also strong indications that mining activities is are likely to extend onto this property in future (M. Lötter, pers. comm.). Drainage lines in the area are badly invaded with wattles, and this may potentially affect the wetland habitat of this species in the future. Water flow dynamics on the farm has also been altered by the building of dams for trout fishing tourism - Dullstroom is currently a very popular trout fishing destination. Cattle farming around Dullstroom is impacting on wetlands where cattle trample the wetland vegetation (D. McMurtry pers. comm.). Cattle grazed in wetlands are also often responsible for eutrophication and subsequent degradation of wetlands, and aids in the spreading of alien invasive plants.



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Population

This species was originally described from KwaZulu-Natal, but it was last collected there in 1954, from an area now highly transformed through expanding human settlements and agriculture. Scott-Shaw (1999) lists *Disa zuluensis* as DD for KwaZulu-Natal. Currently, this species is known from a few subpopulations in the Dullstroom-Roosenekal area, where it is declining due to ongoing degradation of its wetland habitat.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Disa zuluensis Rolfe	EN	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Disa zuluensis Rolfe	Lower Risk - Near Threatened	Victor (2002)
Disa zuluensis Rolfe	Data Deficient	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Disa zuluensis Rolfe	Insufficiently Known	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Disa zuluensis Rolfe	Uncertain	Hall et al. (1980)

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Citation

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