

Brunsvigia orientalis - 2022 Report



March 2022 Count

Participants: Graham van Bergen, Diana Stromberg, Julia Morris

Steenbok Nature Reserve

Purpose: To determine a rough estimate of the population numbers and to indicate any threats and disturbances to *Brunsvigia orientalis*, which is considered as stable on the red list of South Africa. The distribution of *B. orientalis* occurs from Vanrhynsdorp in Namaqualand southwards to the Cape Peninsula and eastwards to Cape St Francis in the Eastern Cape (J. Forrester. 2003).

Method: On the 9th of March 2022 a team of three, (Diana Stromberg, Graham van Bergen, and Julia Morris) did a count of all the *Brunsvigia orientalis* within the Steenbok Nature Reserve. Different sections were counted by each person so as to ensure no double counting occurred. Sections were walked with the team staying in line with each other and numbers of any *Brunsvigia orientalis* sightings were called out. Numbers were recorded in a notebook with different columns for the types of sightings observed. The columns were flowering *Brunsvigia*, broken off *Brunsvigia*, *Brunsvigia* that didn't make it, dry leaves (no flowers). The team walked from the start of the Steenbok Nature Reserve near the Harbour to the end of the reserve near the entrance to Leisure Island.

Results/ Outcomes: A total of 267 *Brunsvigia orientalis* were counted and seven dry leaves with no flower heads were counted. Of the 267 *Brunsvigia orientalis* individuals, 141 flowering (fresh) individuals were observed, 14 broken off dry individuals were observed, 1 didn't make it due to possible trampling by dogs or humans or pests, 7 dry leaves with no flowers were observed and 1 dry individual with no seeds was observed.

Table 1 depicting the results of the *Brunsvigia orientalis* count in the Steenbok Nature Reserve

Flowering (fresh)	Dry (with seeds)	Broken off (dry)	Didn't make it	Dry leaves (no flowers)	Dry (no seeds)
141	100	14	1	7	1

Comments/ Recommendations: To ensure no double counting occurs, count in strips along the sections of the reserve. Ensure that each person knows which section to count so that sections aren't counted twice, and double counting doesn't occur. It is estimated that in 10 days from the counting date the flowers will begin to dry and break off to disperse their seeds. It is necessary to check that each plant is either attached or broken off to record accurately whether the plant is flowering still and is attached or flowering still and has broken off in which case it may have been damaged due to factors such as anthropogenic activity or pests.