

# iSpot



southern Africa - your place to share nature



# What is iSpot?



southern Africa - your place to share nature

**SANBI**

Biodiversity for Life



[My Spot](#)

[News](#)

[Groups](#)

[Forums](#)

[Observations](#)

[Keys](#)

[Surveys](#)

[Users](#)

[Help](#)

## Latest observations



[« more](#)

Filter by group:



[more »](#)

[Add an observation](#)



## Current feature: help with confirming observations



[« more](#)

Filter by group:



[more »](#)

Search iSpot

[Go](#)

sarah-leigh

- [My Spot](#)
- [My profile](#)

Welcome to iSpot southern

[iSpot News](#)

## Collar Sunbird

« previous | next »

Observed by [tony rebelo](#) on 22nd April 2011

(Added to iSpot on 14th May 2011)



On our arriving at Nature's Valley this sunbird immediately discovered an interloper in the mirror until I got too close and it flew off.

**Location:** Natures Valley

## False scorpion

Observed by [mikeswright](#) on 5th March 2011

(Added to iSpot on 14th March 2011)



Extremely small arachnid with false pincers, no stinging tail and 8 legs.

**Location:** D448 Rd, St Lucia Park

## chameleon

Observed by [lynmac](#) on 9th April 2011

(Added to iSpot on 18th April 2011)



**Location:** In my garden

## Serval

Observed by [Mark Keith](#) on 29th July 2010

(Added to iSpot on 25th May 2011)

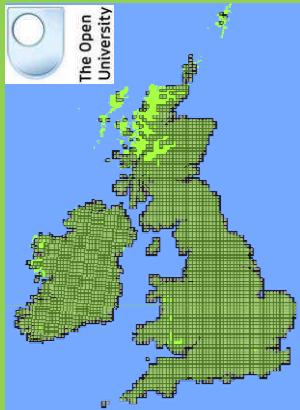


Recorded by a Moulterie digital trail camera on Kwalata Game Ranch (Dinokeng Big Conservancy) on "video" function. This is a screen grab from the video.

**Location:** R734, Cullinan



# Where it all started...



**UK launch 2008**

**14 500 users**

**75 000 observations**

**5700 species**

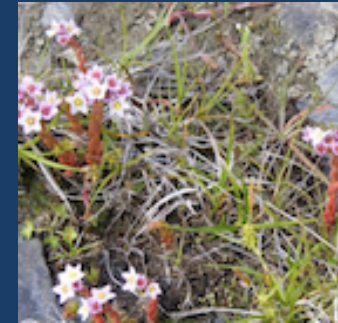
**97% identified**



# iSpot's valuable contribution



**Two new species discovered!**



**118 Red List species**



**Data on NBN**

**How does it work?**

Thys Baai, Eastern Cape

2 mi

Roboens Private Nature Reserve

Fynbosch Estate

Google

Map Data - Terms of Use

Lat/Lng: 34.6997, 24.7458

Roboens Private Nature Reserve, near Thys Baai, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Close

Three levels of confidence to choose from

Initial ID

? How sure are you?:

I'm as sure as I can be.

Please choose a statement

I'm as sure as I can be.

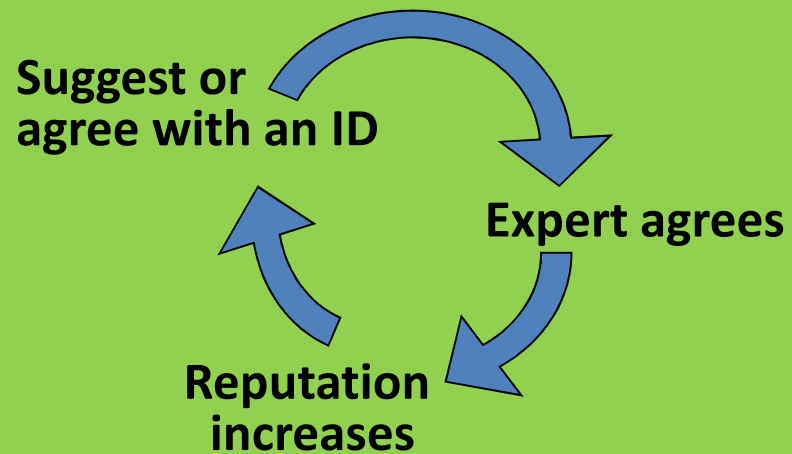
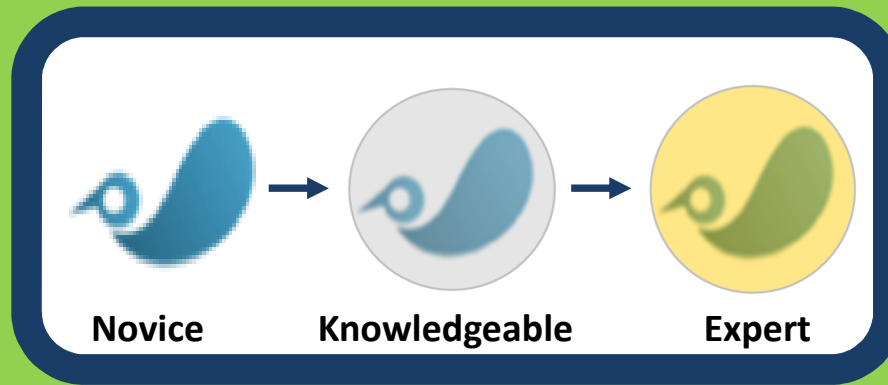
It's likely to be this, but I can't be certain.

It might be this.

Revised ID

Direct link to the Red List

# Reputation on iSpot





# The iSpot learning curve

Atlas/Survey/Database



**Koggelmannetjie**

Observed by **Jeff** on 21st September 2011  
(Added to iSpot on 11th October 2011)



Enjoying a late lunch.

**Location:** Waterfall Walk, Jonkershoek

▼ Identification

**Southern Rock Agama (*Agama atra* subsp. *atra*)** by Jeff at 11:29 pm 11/10/11 likely ID

**Confidence:** I'm as sure as I can be.

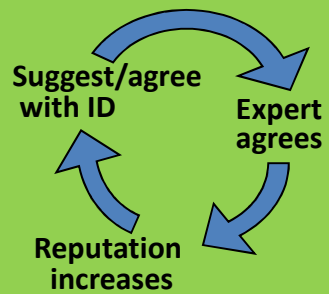
👍 I agree!

**ID agreements** (👍): 3 people agree with this identification.

🔍 Search Encyclopedia of Life for *Agama atra* subsp. *atra*



# The iSpot learning curve



**Other cool features/uses**

# Use the autocomplete dictionary

## Navigate the taxonomy

### Fried Egg Orchid

Observed by [sarah-leigh](#) 🌱🌿🌿🌿 on 11th September 2011



(Added to iSpot on 12th September 2011)



**Location:** Riverlands Nature Reserve

#### Identification

Fried Egg Orchid (*Disa flexuosa*) by [sarah-leigh](#) 🌱🌿🌿🌿 at 11:11 am

likely ID

12/09/11

**Confidence:** I'm as sure as I can be.

**ID agreements** (👍): 1 person agrees with this identification.

Search Encyclopedia of Life for *Disa flexuosa*

Search Red List of South African Plants for *Disa flexuosa*

#### Taxonomy links

- Asparagales
- Orchidaceae
- *Disa flexuosa*

Add an observation

#### Search

[sarah-leigh](#) 🌱🌿🌿🌿

sarah-leigh

- My Spot
- My profile
- Log out



# Badges for societies



Wendy     
Wendy  
Paisley

Botanical Society

CREW

Protea Atlas Project



Amanda Bourne    
Amanda  
Bourne

Cape Bird Club

SANParks







































anthony     
Anthony  
Hitchcock

Speleological Society

SANBI

# Forums

## Forums

| Forum  | Topics       | Posts | Last post  |
|--|--------------|-------|--|
| <b>iSpot Groups Forums</b>                     |              |       |  |
| ✉ Amphibians and Reptiles                      | 1<br>1 new   | 1     | 3 weeks 2 days ago<br>by tony rebele                      |
| ✉ Birds  | 0            | 0     | n/a  |
| ✉ Fish   | 0            | 0     | n/a  |
| ✉ Fungi and Lichens                            | 0            | 0     | n/a  |
| ✉ Invertebrates                                | 1<br>1 new   | 3     | 1 week 2 days ago<br>by tony rebele                       |
| ✉ Mammals                                      | 1<br>1 new   | 1     | 3 weeks 2 days ago<br>by tony rebele                      |
| ✉ Other organisms                              | 0            | 0     | n/a  |
| ✉ Plants                                       | 3<br>1 new   | 4     | 2 weeks 1 day ago<br>by tony rebele         |
| <b>Site Feedback Forum</b>                     |              |       |  |
| ✉ Site Feedback Forum                          | 0            | 0     | n/a  |
| ✉ User feedback<br>Tell us what you think here | 22<br>13 new | 66    | 22 hours 56 min ago<br>by Jonathan    |
| ✉ Experts                                      | 2<br>2 new   | 2     | 1 day 21 hours ago<br>by tony rebele        |

# Personal customization



The screenshot shows the iSpot website interface. At the top left is the iSpot logo with the tagline "southern Africa - your place to share nature". A navigation bar contains links for "My Spot", "News", "Groups", "Forums", "Observations", and "Keys". Below this is a breadcrumb trail "Home > My Spot". A secondary navigation bar features tabs for "Changes", "Unread", "Observations", "Map", and "Favourites", with "Changes" highlighted by a purple box. The main content area is titled "Content of interest that has changed" and includes a descriptive paragraph. Below the text are expandable sections for "Observations" and "RESULTS FILTER", with the latter containing a highlighted item: "[1] Identifications that have been agreed with by others".

**iSpot**  
southern Africa - your place to share nature

[My Spot](#) [News](#) [Groups](#) [Forums](#) [Observations](#) [Keys](#)

Home > [My Spot](#)

[Changes](#) [Unread](#) [Observations](#) [Map](#) [Favourites](#)

## Content of interest that has changed

This section contains links to any content that you've contributed to or have added to your favourites and has changed in some way in the past 30 days.

▼ [Observations](#)

▶ [RESULTS FILTER](#) ?

▶ [\[1\] Identifications that have been agreed with by others](#) ?








# Keep up with local conservation news

My Spot **News** Groups Forums Observations Keys

Home

---

[Leaproaches - living fossils found on Table Mountain](#)

25 May 2011 - 3:31pm — tony rebele       

A Leaproach, named *Saltoblattella montistabularis* or "jumping small cockroach from Table Mountain" has been described from Silvermine by Mike Picker and team. The last record of jumping cockroaches was in the Late Jurassic when Dinosaurs ruled.








For more, including pictures, see:  
[Leaproach](#)

---

[1 comment](#) | [1 new comment](#)

---

[400 records at 17h42 on Sunday 22 May 2011](#)

22 May 2011 - 6:08pm — tony rebele       

On Sunday we reached  
**400 records with lynmac's sighting of [More photos of the Peregrine falcon at 17h42.](#)**








Well done all! Happy iSpotting ...

---

[Add new comment](#)

---

[300 records at 07h30 on Friday 13 May 2011](#)

13 May 2011 - 10:13am — tony rebele       

Today (Friday), we reached  
**300 records with Gigi's sighting of [Aromatic Boegoe at 07h38.](#)**  
Can anyone identify it?



# Search for locality/topic/species

Home > Search

Content

Identifications

Users

Enter your keywords:

Search

Search results

[Puff Adder - unwelcome visitor in the office](#)



Puff Adder (*Bitis arietans*)

Gigi



- 2011-05-25 22:11 - 127326

# Reasons for success

# Quick identifications, for free

## Ferraria variabilis

Observed by [sarah-leigh](#) 🌱🌿🌿🌿 on 7th September 2011

(Added to iSpot on 12th October 2011)



Location: R43, Worcester NU

### ▼ Identification

Spider lily (*Ferraria variabilis*) by [sarah-leigh](#) 🌱🌿🌿🌿 at 2:29 pm

🔍 likely ID

12/10/11

**Confidence:** It's likely to be this, but I can't be certain.

**ID agreements** (👉): 1 person agrees with this identification.

🔍 Search Encyclopedia of Life for *Ferraria variabilis*

🌱 Search Red List of South African Plants for *Ferraria variabilis*

## Taxonomy links

- Asparagales
- Iridaceae
- *Ferraria variabilis*

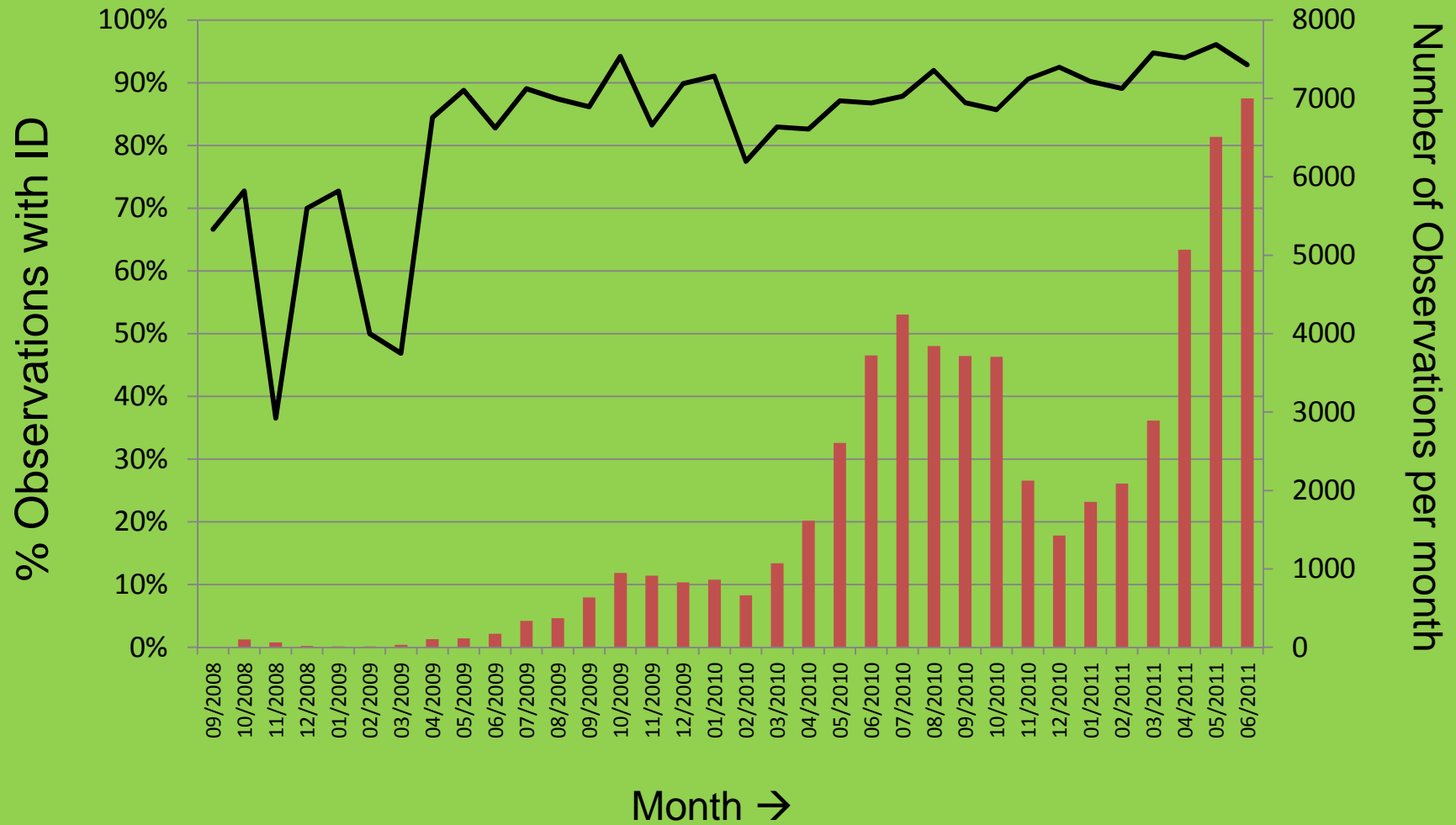
Add an observation

## Search

[sarah-leigh](#) 🌱🌿🌿🌿

- My Spot
- My profile
- Log out

# iSpot is scaleable





# Local relevance

**Create a digitag for your own project  
Request the iSpot community to help**

**Existing appeals:  
Orobanche, Protea Colour, Aliens**

**Species lists by Friends Groups**



# Social networking appeal



**Jonathan**  
Jonathan  
Silvertown  
Milton Keynes  
Plants mainly



**Margaret**  
Margaret  
Kahle  
Cape Town  
Biodiversity preservation and restoration



**Gigi**  
Cape Town  
Biodiversity



**Glenda**  
Glenda



**hamish**  
Hamish  
Robertson  
Cape Town  
Ants



**Jennyp**  
Jenny  
Potgieter  
George  
Plants, mainly fynbos. Hiking



**Callan Cohen**  
Callan  
Cohen  
Cape Town  
All aspects of natural history, especially experienced in birds, but also botany, etc.



**mandy**  
Mandy  
Noffke  
Cape Town  
Wetlands & restoration

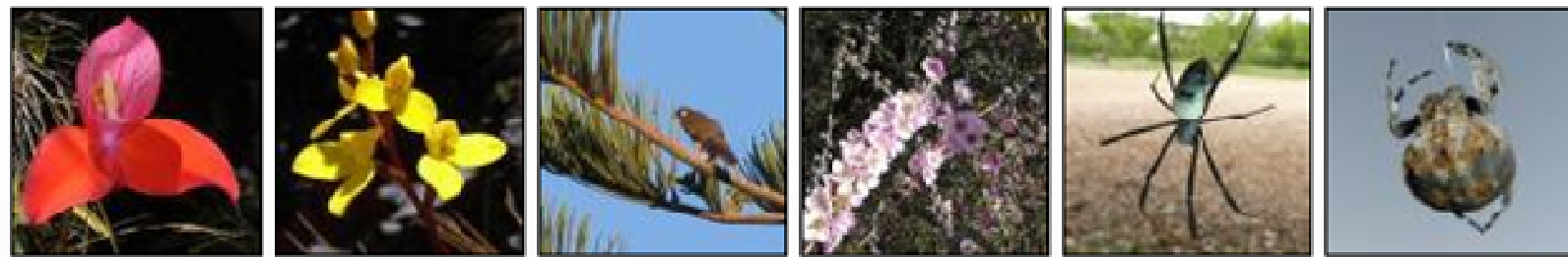
# iSpot southern Africa

**Released in March**

**250 users**

**5000 observations**

**4500 identifications**



# **Our own success stories**

# *Cytinus capensis*



**...back from extinction!**

# The iSpot Vision

**Distributional data for conservation**

**One site to feed other atlas & databases**

**Revive taxonomy**

**“Create a new generation of naturalists”  
by involving public in citizen science**





# What is your role?

Calling all experts

Start iSpotting!

Help to develop Bayesian keys

Partnering with atlas projects

Spread the word



# Relevance to issues at Thicket Forum...

**Andrew Knight: “Scientists don’t know/have everything”  
“Need to engage in social learning”**

**Christo Marais: “Datasets for primary science”**

**Div deVilliers: “Need the help of the public to alert on criminal  
activity”**

**Eileen Campbell: A need to know where rare communities are**

## Testimonial from Sir David Attenborough

“Learning the names of animals and plants can be great fun... All great naturalists, Charles Darwin included, started off this way...

iSpot has already had a great success in encouraging people of all ages and all backgrounds, to take this first step...

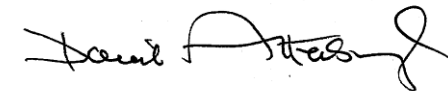
This remarkable project that has been initiated to run so successfully deserves all the help it can get to ensure it continues.”

18 September  
2021

### To Whom It May Concern

Learning the names of animals and plants is great fun. At the very lowest level it gives a pleasure akin to collecting stamps. But it also does things of far greater importance. It enlivens any country walk. It enables people to chart the progress of the seasons. It adds depth to our comprehension of the complexity and multiplicity of the natural world. It the very foundation of the natural sciences. All great naturalists, Charles Darwin included, started their studies in this way

iSpot has already had a great success in encouraging people of all ages and all backgrounds, to take this first step. And an understanding of the natural world has never been more important than it is now if people are to support the measures that we must take to protect our environment from the increasing dangers that threaten it. I believe this remarkable project that has been initiated and run so successfully by the Open University, deserves all the help it can get to ensure that it continues.



*from David Attenborough*

**Thanks**  
**See you on iSpot!**

<http://za.ispot.org.uk>

