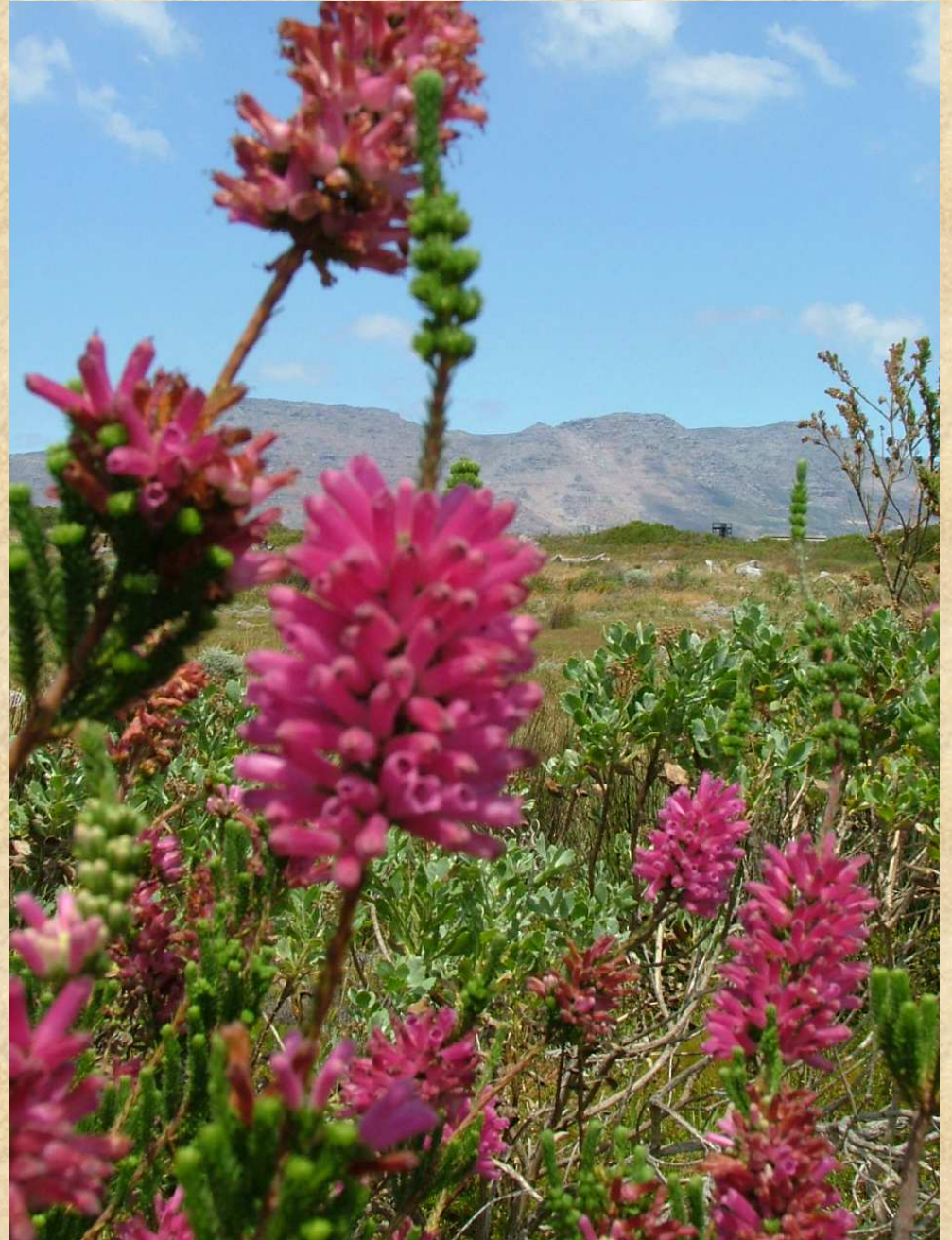


**Reintroducing the extinct
Cape Flats Erica (*Erica
verticillata*)**

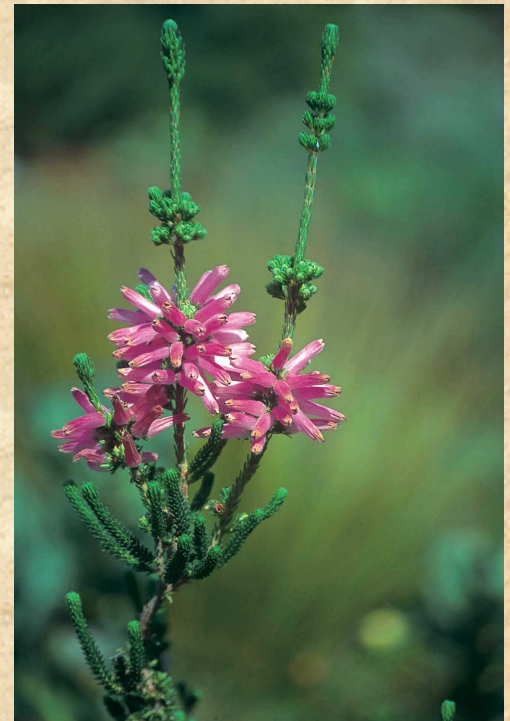
Bungy jumping on the brink of
extinction ...





Missing in action ... last heard of

- “Now very rare and perhaps exterminated within the limits.” – Flora of the Cape Peninsula, Adamson & Salter, 1950
- “Towards Zeekoevlei ...”





Reasons for extinction

➤ limited distribution



Reasons for extinction

- agriculture
- alien vegetation
- urbanisation
- drainage of seasonal wetlands
- flower picking



Summer flowering

Found on the Flats, easily accessible

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF
SOUTH AFRICA,
KIRSTENBOSCH, NEWLANDS.

Name

Loc.

Dist.

Hab.

Notes

Coll.

Date

NATAL GOVERNMENT HERBARIUM.

No 12,162 Flower
Erica verticillata, Berg

Collected by R. Dummer 210
Cape Colony

All 50-100 Jan 1887

64.
CARD INDEX

Date Jan. 1887
Alt. 1-500'

2273 =
Erica
In erica
Kondeb

Logit II Solus

arks 4-5 ft. high. Flowers rose-red

5.
ped
a Island
ensis

9.73

Solus 1.

S I HODE.

a Berg

1988

➤ Deon Kotze from Kirstenbosch finds an old plant in Protea Park, Pretoria





Rondevlei Nature Reserve



Erica verticillata – what did we know about it?

- Sand Plain Fynbos species
- Narrow endemic
- Seasonal Wetland specialist species
- Reseeder
- Flowers Jan- Mar
- Pollinator(s) – sunbirds?



Reintroduction

- 1994 twenty test plants were planted, 10 in a transect.



- One transect plant survives – *Erica verticillata* is a seasonal wetland ecotone species !







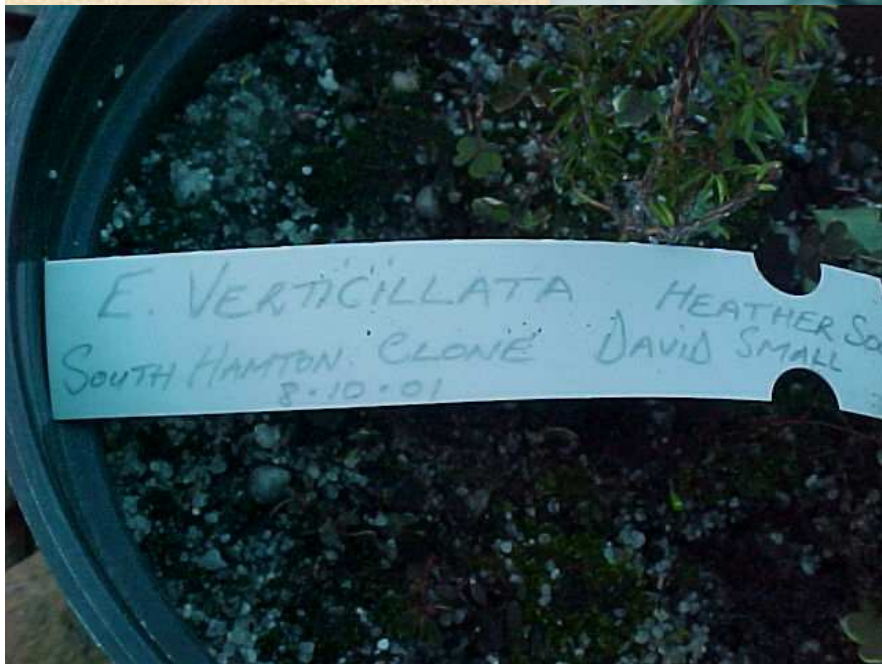
1994 - 2001



No Seed Set!!



Kew Gardens (England) to the rescue!



The plant is different



**Adonis Adonis discovers a
plant at Kirstenbosch!**



Reintroduction 2001

- 2001- 100 plants of the Kirstenbosch (Adonis) clone planted out at Rondevlei





Reintroduction

- April 2003 – several flower heads produce seed !



Reintroduction

- The Rondevlei seed The seed has low viability – 5%



NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF
SOUTH AFRICA,
KIRSTENBOSCH, NEWLANDS, C.P.

Name *Erica verticillata* Berg

Loc. ?

Dist. Alt.

Notes

Coll. *Mrs J. B. Lindley* No.

Date Det. *P. Mac Owan*

Re-det. *R. N. Compton*



November 2001

- Horticultural gardens Vienna supply cuttings of a plant taken into cultivation in 1786 – 1799.



The Vienna Clone









2005 Victoria Wilman
germinates 300 seedlings – the next
generation!



**Presently at Rondevlei: 150
plants – Pretoria, Kirstenbosch &
Vienna clones**



Erica verticillata – what do we know about it now?

- Pollinator – the Southern Double-collared Sunbird; also hawk moths and wasps





Erica verticillata – what do we know about it now?

- Seasonal wetland ecotone species,
associated species, *Chondrepetalum nudum*



Erica verticillata – what do we know about it now?

- Did *Erica verticillata* form part of a red & pink flowering guild on the Cape Flats?



Erica verticillata – what did we know about it now?

- Horticulture makes for a good repository for endangered species, but is not a long term solution.
- Given a chance, rare fynbos species are robust and can make a come back.



Collaberation

Between organisations:

- Kirstenbosch botanical gardens – South Africa
- Kew Gardens – UK
- Belvedere Palace Gardens – Austria
- local authority engineers
- local residents
- education institutions



Lessons Learnt



- - In partnerships each partner must know their goal
- - each partner must be recognised
- - choose a specific target to achieve; dont dilute efforts
- - Restoration projects can take long periods of time

Let's not forget the others ...

Erica turgida



Two individuals left ...

& Erica margaritacea



The End

