

The ***Boophone disticha* plant** is commonly called the **century plant, poison bulb, sore-eye flower (Eng.); gifbol, seeroogblom, kopseerblom, boesmangif, perdespook (Afr.); kgutsanayana, motlatsisa (So.Sotho); incumbe, siphahluka (isiSwati); incotho, incwadi (isiXhosa, isiZulu); ibhade (isiZulu)**

It is **widely distributed in all provinces of South Africa and into tropical Africa**. It occurs in dry grassland and on rocky slopes and occurs mainly in summer rainfall regions.

The population trend is identified as **“decreasing”**.

This plant is recorded as a **Floral Species of Conservation Concern (SCC)**. Nationally, the century plant is listed as Least Concern (LC), but **provincially as declining** in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng as per the Red List of South African Plants (SANBI) because wild plants are harvested and sold in large quantities at traditional medicine markets.

It is a **provincially protected plant** under the **Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act (Act No 9 of 2009)**, (NCNCA). It falls within Schedule 2 of the NCNCA, protected family (*Amaryllidaceae*). A Provincial Flora Permit must be acquired to remove, relocate and re-establish the plant.

This attractive but **extremely toxic bulb has many medicinal uses**. Traditional healers use it to treat pain and wounds. Parts of the plant are used to cure various ailments: the outer covering of the bulb is applied to boils and abscesses; fresh leaves are used to stop bleeding of wounds.

**Ecologically** the large round sweetly scented flower heads of the *Boophone disticha* **attracts bees**, which encourages **pollination**.



## Boophone disticha

References:

<http://redlist.sanbi.org/>; <http://pza.sanbi.org/>

**Lethabo’s Environmental Management Team’s commitment to conserve  
A Biodiversity Management Plan is being developed that will provide the best scientific  
recommendations to protect this plant species on site.**