

Field Guide to Durban's Flora, Fauna, and Funga



DISCLAIMER

This field guide is intended for educational and recreational purposes only. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, species identification should always be verified through multiple sources, especially for:

- Edible or medicinal plants
- Mushrooms (many species are toxic)
- Wildlife encounters (maintain safe distances)

Safety Notice:

- Never consume any wild species without expert verification
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance
- Follow local regulations regarding protected species

FLORA



Giant Bird-Of-Paradise Flower

Strelitzia reginae

This species features tall, erect stems and fan-like grey-green leaves. It thrives in coastal forests and is adaptable to various soils.



African Coromandel

Asystasia intrusa

This species features tall, erect stems and fan-like grey-green leaves. It thrives in coastal forests and is adaptable to various soils.



Bolly Beech

Litsea glutinosa

A rainforest tree from the laurel family, native to parts of Asia and Australia, known for its adhesive bark and invasive presence elsewhere.



Coast Silver-Oak

Brachylaena discolor

A coastal tree or shrub up to 29 m tall, featuring shiny green leaves and brush-like flowers, thriving in coastal forests and river edges.



Black Bird-Berry

Psychotria capensis

An evergreen shrub or small tree, found in southern Africa, with large, leathery leaves and yellow flowers, followed by shiny fruits.



Oriental Trema

Trema orientalis

A fast-growing flowering tree found in tropical regions, it supports wildlife, improves soil fertility, and has various medicinal uses.

FAUNA



Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

A striking waterfowl native to Sub-Saharan Africa, known for its aggressive behavior, distinctive vocalizations, and varied plumage.



Painted Reed Frog

Hyperolius marmoratus

This frog species thrives in diverse habitats, from forests to urban areas, exhibiting varying colors and patterns between day and night.



Western Honey Bee

Apis mellifera

The western honey bee is a eusocial insect known for its complex colony structure, communication, and vital role in pollination globally.



Vervet Monkey

Chlorocebus pygerythrus

These adaptable Old World monkeys, native to Africa, exhibit complex social behaviors and communication, thriving in diverse habitats.



Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

A large, iridescent ibis known for its loud calls, often found near wetlands and urban areas across Sub-Saharan Africa.



Red-Eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

A stocky dove found in Sub-Saharan Africa, it has a dark vinous-pink body, red eye skin, and a distinctive call. Nests in trees.

FUNGA



Dirinaria Lichens

Dirinaria

A genus of lichenized fungi in the Caliciaceae family, found mainly in tropical regions, comprising around 35 species.



Funnel Woodcap

Lentinus sajor-caju

This saprophytic mushroom features a distinct veil and a persistent ring on the stipe, with unique hyphal structure.



Splitgill Mushroom

Schizophyllum commune

This fungus features small, shelf-like caps with split gills, commonly found on decaying wood. It thrives in moist environments.



Trooping Crumble Cap

Coprinellus disseminatus

This saprotrophic fungus features convex caps, adnate gills, and a bare stipe. It typically grows in clusters, not dissolving into ink.



Ear Fungus

Auricularia cornea

Gelatinous, ear-shaped fruit bodies grow on wood, prized in Asian cuisine for texture. Found in diverse regions globally.



Common Greenshield Lichen

Flavoparmelia caperata

A medium to large foliose lichen with a pale yellow-green upper cortex, it grows on tree bark and sometimes rocks, featuring rounded lobes.