

Phytosociology of the north-eastern Transvaal high mountain grasslands

by

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Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

MAGISTER SCIENTIAE

In the Department of Botany
Faculty of Biological and Agricultural Sciences

University of Pretoria

PRETORIA

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PREFACE

"THE HIGHEST FUNCTION OF ECOLOGY
IS UNDERSTANDING CONSEQUENCES"

Dune, pp. 314

The novel by Frank Herbert.

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ABSTRACT

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The vegetation of the high mountain grasslands of the north-eastern Transvaal was sampled by using stratification based on geology and land types. Data was classified by TWINSpan procedures and refined by using the Braun-Blanquet method. This resulted in the recognition of three vegetation units namely wetlands, boulderieries and grasslands which represent a moisture gradient. Wetlands comprised four major communities and ten minor plant communities while boulderieries resulted in four major communities and seven minor communities. The grasslands comprised four major plant communities which were subdivided into twenty eight minor communities.

All identified communities were described and ecologically interpreted and a species list was compiled combining the data gathered in the area by other authors.