

A

a pronunc

as the first letter of the alphabet pronunc [ei]; the ind article is pronunc [ə]

a/an

a is used before consonants (other than silent *h*) & before initial vowels sounded [ju], eg *a* bad girl, *a* humorous anecdote, *a* European climate, *a* unique occasion; *an* is used before vowels & silent *h*, eg *an* easy exercise, *an* honourable man

aandblom n, D/Afk, +

lit: evening flower

vernacular name applied to a number of indigenous & other species of plants (eg *Palargonium flavum*, *P. lobatum*, *P. triste*, & certain species of *Hesperantha*, *Gladiolus* & *Freesia*) with large, showy flowers wh remain open or open only towards evening, emitting a fragrant scent at sunset or nightfall

aandpypie n, D/Afk, +

see: afrikaner (i)

aapkop n, D/Afk, +

see: rooihaakdoring

aapsekos n, D/Afk, x (*Rothmannia capensis*, *Gardenia capensis*)

alt: candlewood, kershout

shrub or small tree of the fam *Rubiaceae*, with leathery leaves; occurs mainly in the est parts of S Afr fr the Cape Province nthwards; flower creamy white, with dark spots on the tube, & a heavy, sweet scent; the inedible fruit is large, round & woody, its firm flesh turns into black pulp when mature

aardbos n, D/Afk, +(*Walafrida geniculata*)

alt: water-finder

small, branched shrub of the fam *Selaginaceae*, found in dry inland areas of the Cape Province; the minute heath-like leaves occur in closely placed tufts on the stem; flowers small, tubular & purple or white; where it is plentiful sub-terranean water is found not far fr the surface of the ground, hence the vernacular name, water-finder

aardroos n, D/Afk, + (*Cytinus sanguineus*)

parasite, of the fam *Cytinaceae*, wh lives on the roots of different plants wh act as its hosts; has no green leaves, but unisexual orange or scarlet flowers wh appear close to the host, only the inflorescence being visible above the surface of the ground; found along the coastal belt of the Cape Province fr Saldanha Bay to the Transkei

aasvoëlbessie n, D/Afk x

lit: vulture berry

the fruit of *Mauroecenia frangularia*; name probably derived fr the manner in wh the Hottentots gathered round the ripening fruit of the plants, like vultures around a carcass

see also: Hottentot's cherry

abakweta n, Ba, + coll

name applied to Ba males at the age of approx 13, when they are circumcised; during this time they are isolated fr the tribe as they are considered unclean

abalone n, E, +

see: perlemoen

-able

when this suff is added to a word wh ends in an *e*, delete the *e*, eg love - lovable, except in cases where the consonant preceding the final *e* is *c* or *g*, eg replace - replaceable. change - changeable

Abraham's book n, E, + (*Massonia bowkeri*)

alt: buttonhole flower

plant with opposite flat leaves & a sessile head of white flowers between, resembling the pages of a book, the two leaves being the 'covers'; hence the vernacular name

abroad/oversea

alt: abroad/oversea(s)

see: oversea(s)

acacia n, Gk, +

generic name prob derived fr the Greek word *acantha* = thorn; the word *mimosa* is also applied to S Afr thorn trees, but the true mimosas are a related group, found mainly in the tropics &

sub-tropics of Amer; the acacias are found mainly in Afr & Aust; in S Afr there are approx 40 species of acacia occurring mainly in the drier bush- & lowveld regions

Adam's fig n, E, + (*Ficus carica*)

variety of large, brown fig apparently first introduced & cultivated at the Cape during the time of van der Stel, but now widely cultivated in the Republic

addada n, -, x

see: hadeda

afraid of/frightened of (at) (by)

afraid of = frightened of the consequences & for that reason unwilling, eg 'We were *afraid of* asking him in case he would be rude to us'; *frightened of* = habitually in fear, eg 'Have you always been *frightened of* the dark?'; *frightened at* = terrified with ref to a particular occasion, eg 'He was *frightened at* the thought of having to address the gathering'; *frightened by* = thrown into fear, eg 'She was *frightened by* the unexpected bang'

African n, E, +

native of Afr, generally understood to refer to a member of the Negroid racial groups; in S Afr E equiv of Ba
see also: Bantu, kaffir, native

African beech n, E, +

see: boekenhout

African black wattle n, E, +

see: African wattle

African blackwood n, E, +

see: African wattle

African buffalo n, E, + (*Syncerus caffer caffer*)

alt: Cape buffalo
massive, bovine in form; dull black, with enormous, widely-curved horns forming (in adult bulls) a helmet-like boss over the forehead; ears broad & drooping

African civet n, E, + (*Viverra civetta*)

long-bodied, coarse-coated mammal as big as a medium-sized dog; has a grey body covered with irregular black blotches & stripes, a pointed white muzzle, short, white-tipped ears & a long, fairly bushy tail, pointed at the black tip; legs short & black, the back usu arched; the dorsal crest of hair is raised when the animal is alarmed or angered

Africander n, D/Afk, x

see: Afrikander

African ebony n, E, +

see: jakkalsbessie

African goshawk n, E, + (*Accipiter tachiro*)

rapacious bird wh inhabits wooded areas & mountain forests; a menace to poultry

African hawk eagle n, E, + (*Hieraaetus spilogaster*)

found in mountainous & open country; surprises its prey in trees, usu killing it on the ground; notorious for its raids on poultry

African hoopoe n, E/L, + (*Upapa africana*)

common S Afr bird with a brick-coloured head, back & underside; wings & tail black with white stripes; crest always erect when the bird alights; feeds on insects & grubs

see also: hoopoe

African hunting dog n, E, +

see: Cape hunting dog

African jacana n, E, + (*Actophilornis africanus*)

alt: lily trotter

wading bird with disproportionately long, straight claws & spurs wh enable it to walk or run on the floating leaves of water plants, in search of insects; breeds in floating nest constructed of water plants

African lily n, E, +

see: agapanthus

African lynx n, E, +

see: caracal

African marsh harrier n, E, + (*Circus ranivorus*)

alt: paddavreter

common resident harrier of sth Afr wh frequents large marshes; seldom alights on the ground; flight rather laboured; when catching prey it executes an odd half-roll & backward twist very suddenly, falling as if shot

African quail n, E, + (*Coturnix coturnix*)

migratory bird wh spends the summer months in sth Afr grasslands; can be heard calling fr fairly dense scrub or seen dart out of the bush only to dash off again with a startling whirr & a squeaky call

African rock python n, E, + (*Python sebae*)

alt: land python, tree python, water python

found throughout Afr excluding the southerly regions; mainly terrestrial though partly aquatic & arboreal as well; frequently lies in water particularly near watering places at wh game drinks, & seizes its prey unawares

African shelduck n, E, + (*Tadorna cana*)

species of duck peculiar to S Afr occurring in flocks of up to several hundred, occasionally in such numbers as to be a pest

African swine fever n, E, +

virus disease of pigs in Afr; proclaimed animal disease in S Afr

African tulip n, E, +

see: agapanthus

African wattle n, E, + (*Peltophorum africanum*)

alt: African black wattle, African blackwood, black wattle, blackwood, dopperkiaat, huilboerboon, huilboom, huilbos, kajata(n)hout, kiaathout, Rhodesian (black) wattle, Transvaal wattle, wild wattle
large shrub or small tree of the fam *Leguminosae*, with spreading crown, acacia-like dull-green feathery foliage & dense, erect sprays of flowers; the vernacular name 'huilboom' (weeping tree) is applied to the species as in spring an insect (*Ptyelus grossus*) pierces the wood

to suck out the sap, excreting water in the process, wh forms a froth around the insect & drips constantly; the Ba use the bark for medicinal purpose, an infusion being taken for stomach ailments

afsaal v, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of unsaddle

agama n, L, +

genus of lizards of the fam *Agamidae*, the Afk 'koggelmannetjie' refers to its characteristic habit of bobbing its head up & down, esp when nervous or curious; characterised by a broad head covered with small, irregular, granular scales; skin on body is tough & covered with small, imbricate scales wh are sometimes uniform but more often intermingled with larger, spiny scales

agapanthus n, Gk, +

alt: African lily, African tulip, bloulelie

common name for various species of the genus *Agapanthus*, popular S Afr garden plant with tuberous rootstocks, strap-shaped leaves & showy blue flowers in umbels on long stems, eg. *Agapanthus africanus*

agtdaegeneesbos (i) n, D/Afk, ? (*Hermannia hyssopifolia*)

lit: eight days' healing bush

alt: pokkiesblom

bush common in the coastal districts of the wst Cape Province; the dried leaves sometimes used as a substitute for tea

agtdaegeneesbos (ii) n, D/Afk, ? (*Lobostemon tructicosus*)

alt: douwurbossie, luibossie

bush found in the coastal districts of the wst Cape Province as far nth as the mountains of Namaqualand

agtdaegeneesbos (iii) n, D/Afk, ? (*Psoralea decumbens*)

struggling plant of the fam *Leguminosae*, sub-fam *Lotodeae*; the early settlers used the plant to make an ointment for treating skin ailments

agteros n, D/Afk, x

lit: hind(most) ox

fig: one who makes slow, but sure, progress

air plant n, E, +

popular term for several succulent indigenous & other species, commonly grown as ornamental plants suspended fr verandah ceilings, etc

albacore (i) n, Ar, +

see: yellowtail (ii)

albacore (ii) n, Ar, + (*Germo alalunga*)

alt: albicore, avoador, germon

see: tuna

Albany prop n, -, +

Grahamstown is the most important centre in this district where mixed farming is practised in the est Cape Province; established in 1814; home of General J.G. Cuyler, first landdrost; little progress was made until the arrival of the British settlers in 1820; today also noted for its pineapple plantations

albatross n, E, +

large sth sea-bird of the fam *Diomedidae*, wh has a wing span of up to 3,5m; spends most of its time at sea, flies low & feeds on a variety of sea organisms; breeds on islands making its nest on the ground; lays only one egg at a time; commonest species, the black-browed albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*), the grey-headed albatross (*D. chrysostoma*), the sooty albatross (*Phoebastria fusca*), the wandering albatross (*D. exulans*) & the yellow-nosed albatross (*D. chlorohyrcus*)

albertya n, E, + (*Albertya magna*)

shrub or tree 5-10m in height, of the fam *Rubiaceae*; found along forest margins in Natal & the Transkei; an evergreen with leathery, shiny, dark-green leaves; produces panicles of brilliant scarlet flowers in early autumn, & the winter fruit has scarlet 'wings' (the enlarged sepals); sometimes grown in gardens in the warmer areas of S Afr, but does not adapt itself easily to artificial conditions

Albertinia heath n, E, + (*Erica bowieana*)

protected wild flower of the Cape Province, variety of heath

aloe n, E, +

generic name for several species of succulent plants (fam *Liliaceae*) found mainly in sth Afr; spicate showy flowers; basal leaves yield a bitter, yellow crystalline sap used as a cathartic & known as 'aloin'; common name for the indigenous species & for certain genera wh resemble the *Aloe*, eg *Agave*, *Apicra*, *Dracaena*, *Gasteria*, *Haworthia*, & *Yucca*

altydbos n, D/Afk, ? (*Staavia radiata*)

low bush of the fam *Bruniaceae*, with slender, heath-like leaves & small flower-heads wh superficially resemble daisies in shape; flowers pale pink, & surrounding bracts white; found in open, bushy areas in the s-wst coastal districts

alwyn n, D/Afk, x

alt: aalwyn x

see: aloe

amadumbi n, Zu, + (*Arum esculentum*)

alt: amadoemie

kind of arum lily extensively cultivated by the Ba of Natal & Port Ea Afr before the advent of the Europeans; the tuber yields a popular starchy food; in Natal it was formerly used in barter; the name is derived fr the Zu 'idumbi' = tuber

amandebele n, Ba, +

originally a name for the Matabele, but now also applied to a small community of Ba living near Pretoria who, it is believed, remained behind in the Transvaal when Moselikatse trekked to Rhodesia with the majority of the tribe; noted for their beadwork & a style of house-building characterised by many-coloured geometrical designs

amasi n, Ngu, +coll

alt: maas

curdled milk prepared in a calabash & drunk by Ba as well as by Europeans; considered to be health-giving

anaplasmosis n, Gk, +

see: gall sickness

ana tree n, Namaqua/E, + (*Acacia albida*)

large, evergreen tree, in the Waterberg district; it reaches a height of 30m & trunk diameter of 60cm; the pods are eaten by stock & game

anchova n, Port, +

see: elf(t)

anchovy (i) n, Sp, +

small fish with dark tasty flesh, found mainly in warm seas & belonging to fam *Engraulidae*, of wh there are three genera in S Afr waters: *Anchoviella*, *Thrissocles* & *Engraulis*, & several species: *Anchoviella indica*, *A. commersonii* (alt: whitebait), *A. holodon* (alt: shiner, whitebait), *Thrissocles malabarius* (alt: herring, glass nose), *T. setirostris* (alt: herring, glass nose), *Engraulis japonicus* or *capensis* see also: anchovy (ii-v)

anchovy (ii) n, Sp, + (*Anchoviella indica*)

widespread in the tropical Indo-Pacific, seldom seen off the S Afr coast, but has been found off the Natal coast

anchovy (iii) n, Sp, + (*Anchoviella commersonii*)

alt: whitebait

occurs in warm waters of the central Indo-Pacific, common along the S Afr coast as far s as Durban

anchovy (iv) n, Sp, + (*Anchoviella holodon*)

alt: shiner, whitebait

reported fr Algoa Bay along the ea coast of S Afr to Mauritius; a doubtful species, prob identical with *Anchoviella commersonii*

anchovy (v) n, Sp, + (*Engraulis japonicus*)

found mainly in the colder waters of the Indo-Pacific, on the S Afr coast as far as Port Nolloth, down to 100 fathoms, but not very common

angel fish (i) n, E, + (*Brama raii*)

alt: bulleye

found in all but the coldest seas down to 500 fathoms; in S Afr fr

Walvis Bay to Algoa Bay; receives its name fr the wing-like expansion of its pectoral fins

angel fish (ii) n, E, + (*Heniochus acuminatus*)

widespread in the tropical Indo-Pacific, common as far s as Durban; occasional specimens reach Knysna; agile, but stately fish wh frequents reefs

angel fish (iii) n, E, + (*Platax pinnatus*)

alt: seabat, batfish

widely distributed in the warm waters of the Indo-Pacific, common on the ea coast of S Afr; occasional stragglers are found as far s as Knysna

angle grass n, E, + (*Themeda triandra*)

vernacular name an adaptation of Afk 'angelgras' lit 'awn grass' in reference to the long black awn of the spikelets

Angola mourning dove n, E, + (*Streptopelia decipiens*)

the red skin around the eyes, the black half-collar & pinkish head, neck & breast, are characteristic of this bird; its call is a muted 'kuk kurr...'; found in S Afr only in the Lowveld

anhinga n, Port, +

see: darter

ankerkaroo n, D/Afk, + (*Pentzia incana*, *P. virgata*)

alt: goedkaroo, karoobossie, skaapbossie

many-branched shrub of the fam *Compositae* wh is common in the dry interior of S Afr; the leaves are aromatic & nutritious & preferred to other plants by sheep & goats

ante-/anti-

these prefixes should not be confused; *ante* = before, *anti* = against, eg *antenatal* = before birth, *anti-Christian* = opposed to (against) Christianity

apiesdoring n, D/Afk, x

see: monkey thorn

appelblaar n, D/Afk, x

see: rain tree

apple of Sodom n, E, +

see: bitter appel

appreciate pronunc

[ə'pri:ʃieɪt] + [ə'prɪsieɪt] x

April fool (i) n, E, + (*Haemanthus rotundifolius*)

common species of the fam *Amaryllidaceae* occurring in the wst coastal districts of the Cape Province, & as far eastwards as Knysna; large bulb with two-ranked fleshy scales, of wh one new pair grows annually, so that the age of the plant can be approximately determined, making allowance for the older scales wh wear away over the years; two large, almost circular leaves lie flat on the ground during the winter months

April fool (ii) n, E, +

see: blood-flower

archangel pronunc

['ɑ:kɛɪndʒəɪ]

arch-enemy pronunc

['ɑ:tʃ'ɛnəmi]

archetype pronunc

['ɑ:kitaɪp]

arctic pronunc

['ɑ:ktɪk] + ['ɑ:tɪk] x

Argentina n, F, +

ie the S Amer Republic of Argentina; Argentine/Argentinian as a n = a native of Argentina, as an adj = of or relating to Argentina eg 'Argentine trade, Argentinian orchids'; avoid using 'the Argentine' when referring to the country

Argentine tick n, E, +

see: winter horse tick

arrow poison n, E, +

the early Bu & Hott tribes were apparently well acquainted with the toxic properties of a number of plants; they used the bulb scale, the fruit or the latex as sources of poison

asbossie n, D/Afk, x

see: bankrotbos

asparagus fern n, E. + (*Asparagus setaceus*, *A. plumosus*)

fern-like plant of the fam *Liliaceae*, indigenous to Natal; used by florists in many parts of the world; the roots are tuberous & produce many-branched wiry stems; the fine green structures are modified stems; the leaves are small, brown & scale-like; the flower is white, the fruit a berry

as/than

see: than

as what

in combination with as, 'what' is crude & superfluous, eg 'This is the same as what you bought' x '... as you bought' +

aurora snake n, E, + (*Lamprophis aurora*)

harmless oviparous snake of the fam *Colubridae*; olive green with conspicuous bright yellow stripe down the centre of the back; nocturnal, living on mice & rats wh it kills by constriction; when fully grown approx 80 cm long; found throughout S Afr

autumn star n, E, + (*Empodium plicatum*, *Curculigo plicata*)

alt: sterretjie

plant of the fam *Amaryllidaceae*, indigenous to the s wst & midland districts of the Cape Province, also found in the Transvaal; has a subterranean corm, bright yellow, star-like flowers & leaves with longitudinal pleats

avoador

see: tuna

ax/axe

both +

B

baakhout n, D/Afk, x

see: bottle-brush

baardman (i) n, D/Afk, x

lit: 'beard man'

see: tasselfish

baardman (ii) n, D/Afk, x

see: scaly weaver

babianer n, D/Afk, +

see: babiana

baby n, -, +coll

machine invented by Jerome Babe in about 1871 on the Vaal River diggings, used for sorting diamondiferous gravel

backward/backwards

as advs these words may be spelt with or without an *s*, eg 'babies usually crawl down the stairs *backward/backwards*' +; *backward* as an adj *never* has an *s*, eg 'they have special classes for *backward* children' +

bafaro n, ? + (*Polyprion americanus*)

alt: black Bess, stone bass, wreck fish

type of rock-cod, found over a wide ocean area, in deep water fr the Cape to Natal, often in the neighbourhood of wrecks; grows to 2 m; its liver is very rich in vitamin A

bakbos n, D/Afk, + (*Conyza ivaefolia*)

alt: bakoondbossie, oondbos

shrub of the fam *Compositae* wh grows in sheltered places & reaches a height of 1m; leaves light green, toothed, narrow & short-stalked; flower heads consisting of marginal female florets in many rows & central bisexual flowers; the flower head is surrounded by several rows of greenish bracts; widely distributed in areas with a moderate rainfall

bakoondbossie n, D/Afk, x

see: bakbos

bakoorjakkals n, D/Afk, x

see: bat-eared fox

bakpypie n, D/Afk, x

see: bluebell, Caledon

bald ibis n, E, + (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)

bird peculiar to S Afr & Lesotho; breeds in mountainous territory esp near the Drakensberg, but frequents vleis & lakes of neighbouring areas in the non-breeding season; a restless forager
see also: ibis

banana bat n, E, + (*Pipistrellus nanus*)

bat wh is reputed to take refuge between the leaves of banana palms & indigenous *Strelitzia*

banded galjoen n, E/D/Afk, +

see: bastard galjoen (ii)

bankblouer n, D/Afk, +

see: biskop

bank holiday n, E, +

in GB a day on wh banks are legally closed, but usu kept as a general holiday as well; in S Afr the term is replaced by 'public holiday'

bankrotbos n, D/Afk, + (*Stoebe vulgaris*)

alt: asbossie, sandbossie, slangbos, slanghoutjie
shrub of the fam *Compositae*; branches covered with tiny grey-green leaves; flowers crowded together in tufts in the axils of the upper leaves; occurs in open areas in the est parts of S Afr fr the nth Cape Province to Rhodesia; closely related to the slangbos & renosterbos of the Cape

bank steenbras n, E/D/Afk, + (*Palunolepis grandis*)

sea fish found in S Afr fr Walvis Bay to Natal
see also: steenbras (i)

bansela n, Ba, +

see: basela

bantom n, D/Afk, +coll

corr of 'bandom' a type of pebble found in river gravel; often indicates the presence of diamonds; name derived fr the stripes (Afk band(e)) around it

baobab n, Ba, + (*Adansonia digitata*)

alt: cream of tartar tree, kremetartboom, lemonade tree, monkey bread

deciduous tree wh can reach a height of 14m, with swollen trunk up to 9m in diameter, & numerous branches high above the ground; gourd-like fruit with a mealy pulp wh contains citric acid used by Ba to prepare a beverage or added to their mealie-meal porridge; the only species of *Adansonia* in Afr; related species found in Australia & the Malagasy Republic & cultivated in India & the W Indies

barbel (i) n, L, +

name applied to various species of fish characterised by the fleshy filaments hanging fr the mouth
see also: barbel (ii) - (vi)

barbel (ii) n, L, + (*Clarias cavernicola*)

fish found in sinkholes n of Windhoek, S W Afr; blindness a characteristic
see also: barbel (i)

barbel (iii) n, L, + (*Clarias gariepinus*)

eel-like freshwater fish without scales wh has eight barbels around its mouth; because of its auxiliary respiratory organs it can live in water of low oxygen content though it breeds in water of a high oxygen content; inhabits muddy pools in time of drought & makes short excursions overland; found in the Orange River & common in rivers of Natal & the Transvaal; very common further nth; largest freshwater fish in sth Afr rivers, an omnivorous scavenger, & when smoked regarded as a delicacy by some Ba tribes, rejected by others prob because it is scaleless
see also: barbel (i)

barbel (iv) n, L, + (*Plotosus anguillaris, Tachysurus fossor*)

alt: barbel eel; sea barbel
slimy-skinned scaleless fish wh grows to a length of approx 65 cm; common off the coast & in the estuaries of S Afr rivers; the pectoral & dorsal fins have sharp serrated spines with glands containing venom; the male harbours the eggs & shelters the newly hatched fishes in his mouth; *P. anguillaris* has a tail like an eel, that of *T. fossor* is forked

see also: barbel (i)

barbel (v) n, E, + (*Tachysurus dussumieri*)

alt: catfish
found in the Indian Ocean as far s as Delagoa Bay; part of the bones of the skull resemble a crucifix
see also: barbel (i)

barbel (vi) n, E, + (*Tachysurus feliceps*)

alt: bagger, barber, catfish, sea barbel found in S Afr right round the coast, common in estuaries
see also: barbel (i)

barbel eel n, E/L, +

see: barbel (iv)

Barberton daisy n, place name/E, + (*Gerbera jamesoni*)

alt: Transvaal daisy
perennial herb, common near Barberton in the Ea Transvaal; flower

heads have narrow, orange- to flame-coloured petals; there is a large variety of hybrids wh are very popular as garden plants in S Afr

barbet n, E, +

small bird of the forest & bush, never found in large numbers; bill strong & slightly curved; plumage red, yellow & black; feeds on fruit & insects; nests in holes wh it excavates in trees, & lays 2 to 4 white eggs; most common species: black-collared barbet (*Lybius torquatus*), crested barbet (*Trachyphonus vaillantii*), pied barbet (*L. leucomelas*), yellow-fronted tinker barbet (*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*)

Barnard-gif prop n/n, D/Afk, x

see: lekkerbreek

baroe n, Hott, +

see: barroe

Barolong n, Ba, +

Ba tribe related to the Basuto; the name is derived fr one of its chiefs, Morolong; believed to have emigrated sthwards fr the central Afr lakes in approx 1400 AD; settled near the Harts River in what is now Botswana

Barotse n, Ba, +

Ba tribe living in Zambia on the upper Zambesi; noted for its skill with canoes

barroe n, Hott, +

alt: baroe

modification of a name for a plant of the species *Cyphia*; the tuberous rootstock has a watery but pleasantly sweet taste & was eaten by the Bu & Hott & subsequently by Eur colonists; there are several recognised species: bergbarroe (*Cyphia assimilis*), (*C. bulbosa*), bosbarroe (*C. phyteuma*), (*C. sylvatica*), melkbarroe, panbarroe, sandbarroe, veldbarroe, waterbarroe
see also: kamb(a)roo

barrow-boys n, E, +

applied in S Afr to the Cape Coloured vendors of vegetables, etc; word now obsolete

basela n, Ba, +coll

[bãʂɛlã]

alt: bansela, bonsela, pasela, pansela, ponsela gift, small present added to a purchased article

basenji n, prob Ba, +

[bã 'sɛndʒi] + [ʔ bãʂɛndʒi] +

smallish, curly-tailed dog with erect ears; rarely barks

bastard n, E, +

in compound botanical names = 'false' or 'mock', eg bastard acacia (*Dichrostachys cinerea*), bastard ironwood (*Linociera foveolata*), bastard olive (*Buddleia saligna*), bastard saffronwood (*Pleurostyliia capensis*), etc
see also: baster

bastard acacia n, E/Gk, +

see: bastard

bastard eland n, E/D/Afk, +

see: roan antelope

bastard galjoen (i) n, E/D/Afk, + (*Oplegnathus conwayi*)

alt: beaked galjoen, golden roman, parrotfish

fish found off the S Afr coast fr False Bay to Natal, mostly in shallow water

bastard galjoen (ii) n, E/D/Afk, + (*Coracinus multifasciatus*)

alt: banded galjoen, damba (ii) (est Cape – Natal)

marine fish found off the est coast of S Afr

bastard ironwood n, E, +

see: bastard

bastard karee n, E/Hott/D/Afk +

see: mountain karee

bastard marula n, E/N So, +

see: white syringa

bastard olive n, E, +

see: bastard

bastard saffronwood n, E, +

see: bastard

baster (i) n, D/Afk, x

lit Afk: mongrel

term used in compound common names of plants & trees implying: likeness or similarity in appearance or habit but inferior in quality, usu applied to timber trees, eg bastergeelhout (*Neumannia myrtiflora*) the wood of wh has the yellow colouring of the true geel(yellow)hout(wood); likeness in habit or appearance but lacking some product, eg basteralwyn (*Dracaena hookeriana*) wh resembles an aloe but differs fr it in that its fruit is a berry & not a capsule; rarely used in its literal sense of 'hybrid' eg basterkhakibos (*Bidens bipinnata*) wh is believed to be a cross between *Tagetes minuta* & a species of *Bidens*; in many Cape names the term 'baster' is generally replaced by 'wilde', implying those plants wh yield an inferior medicinal or other product as compared with plants wh yield the true product

Baster (ii) n, D/Afk ?

see: Basters

basterbergboegoe n, D/afk, x

see: shepherd's delight

basteressenhout n, D/Afk, x

see: Natal mahogany

bastergemsbok n, D/Afk, x

see: roan antelope

basterhartbees n, D/Afk, x

see: tsesseby

basterkameeldoring n, D/Afk, x

applied to various species of *Acacia*, eg *Acacia sieberiana* (see: paperbark thorn tree), *Acacia tortilis* (see: haak-en-steek), *Acacia giraffae* (see: camel-thorn)

Basters n, D/Afk, +

alt: Rehoboth Basters, Rehobothers
members of a Coloured community of cattle breeders & farmers who form a homogenous group & inhabit Rehoboth & its surroundings in S W Afr

basterwaterbok n, D/Afk, x

see: lechwe

Basuto n, So, +

tribe inhabiting two areas in S Afr; known respectively as the Transvaal Basuto & the Moshesh Basuto; the former live in the nth Transvaal, but the majority live in Lesotho, the mountainous area between the Orange Free State, the nth Cape Province & Natal

bat-eared fox n, E, + (*Otocyon megalotis*)

alt: bakoorjakkals, Delalande's fox, draaijakkals, long-eared fox
small harmless fox with relatively large ears, greyish-drab colouring & blackish face, legs & tip of bushy tail; feeds on insects, mice & wild fruit; seen singly, in pairs or small groups

bateleur eagle n, F/E, + (*Terathopius ecaudatus*)

found throughout sth Afr; characterised by the short, practically absent, tail; the name means 'juggler' & is applied because of the antics the bird performs in the air; the mode of flight is also characteristic as the bird rocks fr side to side with wings held up at an acute angle; feeds on reptiles & small mammals, but mainly on the carrion of animals as its claws are prob not sharp enough for attacking larger animals

batfish n, E, +

see: angel fish (iii)

Bavenda n, Ba, +

Ba tribe inhabiting the Zoutpansberg area & the Louis Trichardt & Sibasa districts of the Transvaal; essentially mountain-dwellers; closely related to the neighbouring tribes of Rhodesia, having migrated across the Limpopo during the 16th & 18th centuries
see also: Sotho clans

beach hyena n, E, +

see: brown hyena

beach ranger n, E, +

see: strandloper

beaked galjoen n, E/D/Afk, +

see: bastard galjoen (i)

beat/win

see: win

Bechuana n, Tsw, +

tribe of the Tsw & nth So groups, inhabiting a large area of Botswana; includes the Bakwena, Baharutsi, Bamangwato & Bangwaketse; member of this tribe

beech

for S Afr variety see: boekenhout

bee-sting n, E, + (*Azima tetraacantha*)

alt: by-angel, naaibos, naaldbos

low, dense, spiny shrub of the fam *Salvadoraceae*, occurring in coastal bush fr the Breede River ewards to Natal & nthwards into tropical Afr; deep green, simple leaves with four spines at each node, flowers small & unisexual; characteristic fruit wh is white, round & fleshy

beetle drive n, E, +

see: tickey drive

beggar-tick n, E, +

see: black jack

begging hand n, E, + (*Herschelia charpentieriana* or *H. spathulata*)

orchid of wh the long claw of the projecting lip expands into a small limb wh resembles a bared arm & suppliant hand on wh pollinating insects alight

belladonna lily n, E, + (*Amaryllis belladonna*)

alt: maartlelie

beautiful flower cultivated by the early Eur settlers in the Cape coastal region wh is now known as the Tsitsikama Forest & Coast National Park; the plant established itself in the area & is regarded as indigenous; bears flowers fr February to April during wh period it has no leaves; leaves appear as the flowers wilt; bulbs contain a poisonous alkaloid

bell heath n, E, +

several species of heath (fam *Ericaceae*) with pendulous blooms wh resemble tiny bells, eg *Erica blenna*, *E. grandiflora*, *E. propendens*
see also: erica

benefit

the pres p & the pp are spelt with only *one t*, ie benefiting, benefited

beneuk adj/v, D/Afk, x

expletive wh = 'perverse, unreasonable, cantankerous, contrary, crazy'; as a v = 'to spoil, make a mess of, bedevil'

bensli n, Zu, +coll

small fringe worn as a loin cloth by Zu girls; garment made of the leaves of *Gazania linearis*, of wh the underside is scraped away; sometimes applied to the plant; corruption of 'u benhle'

Berg, the n, D/Afk, +coll

frequently used in Natal to mean specifically 'the Drakensberg' (mountains)

berg aster n, D/Afk/E, + (*Lachnaea filamentosa*)

low shrub of the fam *Thymelaeaceae*; overlapping leaves cover the branches at the ends of wh long, white flowers are grouped in heads; eight small outgrowths towards the top of the calyx tube form the 'petals'; found in the mountains around Clanwilliam, Ceres & Tulbagh

bergbruidjie n, D/Afk, x

see: blushing bride

berg damaras n, D/Afk/Hott, +

S W Afr tribe whose origin is unknown; believed to have inhabited the territory before the lighter skinned Hereros migrated; their language contains words wh occur in the languages spoken in the Sudan; they may have come fr n Afr; they regard water as harmful & are consequently very dirty in their habits; the worship of Holy Fire is distinctive of their religion

Bergenaars n, D/Afk, +

alt: Mountain Men

nomadic horde of cut-throats that emerged as a distinctive group fr amongst the criminal elements of a Griqua tribe; broke away fr the Griqua & became brigands in the territories of what were then the Bechuana tribes in the Orange Free State & Lesotho

bergkaree n, D/Afk/Hott, x

see: mountain karee

bergklapper (i) n, D/Afk, + (*Montinia caryophyllacea*)

alt: peperbos, lit: pepper bush

common shrub with erect stems sparsely branched; leathery small dull-green leaves; white flowers wh produce a small woody fruit wh rattles (klapper = rattle n) when the branch is shaken; found in dry areas of the wst Cape Province

bergklapper (ii) n, D/Afk, + (*Tetraria secans*)

tall sedge found on the sheltered mountain slopes fr George to Albany in the Cape Province; leaves long, stiff & flat with a sharp edge; has a large nut-like fruit wh clatters in the dry pod, as the branches sway in the wind

bergkwagga n, D/Afk, x

see: mountain zebra

bergpalmiet n, D/Afk, + (*Tetraria thermalis*)

sedge commonly found on dry mountain slopes of the wst Cape Province; the thick woody stem wh branches just above the ground is covered with rigid, sharp-edged leaves wh resemble those of the true palmiet but are yellow-green in colour

bergseldery n, D/Afk, x

see: blister bush

bergsering n, D/Afk, x

see: mountain karee

bergviool n, D/Afk, + (*Brachycarphaeae flava*, *B. varians*)

alt: blouriet, wild stock

low shrub of the fam *Cruciferae*, often densely covered with white or lilac-coloured flowers; found in sandy areas on the hills & mountains of the wst Cape Province

besembos n, D/Afk, x

lit: broom bush

see: black-stick lily

besemriet n, D/Afk, +

lit: broom reed

various species of *Restionaceae*; the culms are dried & used for making fairly durable garden brooms

besem vendor n, D/Afk/E, x

broom vendor

the Ba make brooms of the culms of the besembos or besemriet & sell them fr door to door in residential areas, calling out 'besem' [' bisə̃m], to announce their wares as they walk along the streets

beshu n, Ba, x

see: moochi, tjangalappie

Beukesbossie n, D/Afk, + (*Lippia japonica* & *L. asperifolia*)

aromatic shrub wh grows to 1m in height; the small, creamy-white flowers grow in dense clusters; widely distributed in the est Cape, Natal & Transvaal in open grassland; a certain Beukes claimed that the plant had medicinal properties, hence the name; used by Ba as a cure for coughs & colds; can cause an ailment known as geeldikkop, in grazing animals

biesrooi n, D/Afk, + (*Bobartia indica* & *B. spathacea*)

plant of the fam *Iridaceae*, wh grows on the dry hillslopes along the coastal belt of the Cape Province; leafless stems & leaves that are almost identical in appearance, sprout fr stout, woody underground stems; flowers appear at the tips of the branches; the plants form tufts & reappear very rapidly after a fire; leaves used for making baskets

bimbrikos n, Ba/D/Afk, ?

jam made fr the ripe fruit of certain species of *Rhoicissus*; *R. capensis* (see bosdruif); *R. digitata*, (see bobbejaandruif); *R. rhomboidea* (see boesmansdruif); 'bimbri' is prob a corr of a Ba name for *R. capensis*, the fruit of wh they mashed into a pulp & preserved for use in lean times

bio café n, E, +coll

alt: tea-room bioscope

tea-room or café attached to a cinema wh offers continuous performances

bird-of-paradise flower n, E, + (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*)

arborescent shrub with acacia-like leaves; the flowers faintly resemble the bird of paradise

birds' brandy n, E, + (*Lantana rugosa* & *L. salvifolia*)

alt: wilde salie

shrub of the fam *Verbenaceae*, with wrinkled leaves & small purple flowers in dense heads at the ends of flower stalks wh rise fr the axils of the leaves; the fleshy purple fruit attracts birds; common in dry areas in S Afr except in the w; in the tropical & sub-tropical areas of the country it is harmful to the natural vegetation & has therefore been proclaimed a noxious weed

bird snake n, E, + (*Theolotornis kirtlandii* & *T. kirtlandii capensis*)

alt: Northern or Southern twig or vine snake

slender, arboreal, back-fanged snake wh, like the boomslang, is one of the few back-fanged snakes whose bite can prove fatal to man; inflates its throat vertically, like a boomslang, when alarmed or molested; well adapted to its arboreal existence as its colouring & the dark brown or black blotches on the body form an excellent camouflage; though called the bird snake, it feeds mainly on chameleons & geckos, rarely preying on nesting birds; shape of pupil of eye unique, ie horizontal & more or less keyhole shaped when incompletely dilated; attains a length of approx 1,5m; *T. kirtlandii* occurs in the nth regions of S Afr, through Central & Ea Afr, & *T. kirtlandii capensis* in Natal, the Transvaal, Central & Ea Afr

bishop bird n, E, +

alt: vink

S Afr common name for several genera & species of weaverbirds (fam *Ploceidae* - subfam *Ploceinae*) ie hard-billed birds that feed on grain & weave nests suspended fr or fastened to reeds, eg Cape weaver (*Ploceus capensis*), Cape widow-bird (*Coliuspasser capensis*), long-tailed widow-bird (*Diatropura progne*) also known as 'sakabula', red-billed quelea (*Quelea quelea*), red bishop bird (*Euplectes orix*)

bitter almond n, E, +

see: red stinkwood

bitter apple n, E, + (*Solanum aculeastrum*, *Solanum sodomaeum* var *hermannii*)

alt: apple of Sodom, gifappel

the vernacular names apply to both species; shrubs of wh stems & leaves are covered with prickles; bear purple flowers; *S. aculeastrum* produces an oval yellow fruit, while that of *S. sodomaeum* is smaller, also yellow, but round & approx 2,5cm in diameter

bitterbossie n, D/Afk, x

see: bitterkaroo (ii)

bitterkaroo (i) n, D/Afk, + (*Pentzia globosa*)

alt: bitterkaroobossie

plant wh closely resembles *P. incana* (see ankerkaroo), but differs fr it in that its bracts are narrower & longer & its leaves sessile & finer; sheep & goats prefer *P. incana* to *P. globosa* wh has a bitter taste, hence the vernacular name

bitterkaroo (ii) n, D/Afk, + (*Chrysocoma tenuifolia*)

alt: bitterbossie

small shrub common in dry areas throughout S Afr; leaves small & narrow; unpalatable to stock; many species of *Pentzia* are nutritious & eaten down to the ground, but this species is left untouched & is frequently the only plant left to flower on heavily grazed veld

bitterkaroobossie n, D/Afk, x

see: bitterkaroo (i)

bitter watermelon n, E, + (*Citrullus lanatus*)

alt: karkoer

similar to the cultivated watermelon but has a smaller fruit wh is very bitter; has been used since the early colonial days as a purgative; not to be confused with the kaffir watermelon or t'sam(m)a

see also: kaffir-watermelon, watermelon

blaasop n, D/Afk, +coll (*Tetraodontidae* & *Lagocephalidae*)

alt: blaasoppie, toby (Natal)

usu small fish wh frequents warm seas; poor swimmer; scaleless with smooth parrot-like beak wh is formed by fusion of the teeth; able to inflate the body with air or water hence the Afk name wh means 'blow up'; flesh very poisonous; a pest to anglers as it rips bait off the hook & cuts lines

black bass n, E, + (*Centrarchidae*)

carnivorous N Amer fresh-water fish introduced to S Afr rivers & dams; male builds a nest, entices a female to lay eggs, then drives her away, & guards the young until they can fend for themselves

see also: large-mouth black bass, small-mouth black bass, spotted black bass

black-bellied korhaan n, E/D/Afk, + (*Lissotis melanogaster*)

ground bird with a distinctive line extending fr the belly to the neck; is able to fly swiftly; feeds on insects; spectacular in flight & drops

down vertically with its wings over its back uttering a peculiar whistle wh ends in a 'pop'

black Bess n, E, +

see: bafaro

black biskop n, E/D/Afk, +

see: biskop

black bream n, E, +

see: galjoen

black-browed albatross n, E, +

see: albatross

black-collared barbet n, E, + (*Lybius toratus*)

bird characterized by a red face & black collar; brown & yellow-tinted on top, sulphur-yellow below; occurs in the est Cape, Natal & Transvaal in open dry areas; feeds on fruit & insects

see also: barbet

black eagle n, E, +

see: dassievanger

black fish (i) n, E, +

see: butterflyfish (ii)

black fish (ii) n, E, +

see: galjoen

black-footed cat n, E, + (*Microfelis nigripes*)

wild cat slightly smaller than a domestic cat but has longer legs; tawny with black spots wh run into stripes on the neck & shoulder; the legs have three conspicuous black bands

black-headed oriole n, E, + (*Oriolus larvatus*)

bird commonly found in well-wooded areas: forest, coastal bush & woodlands; prefers high trees fr wh its loud, clear call can be heard, esp in the early morning

black-headed snake n, E, + (*Aparallactus capensis*)

alt: Cape centipede eater

small back-fanged snake with brown body & black head, fr 30 to 38cm in length; has a preference for living in termite nests; adults eat mainly centipedes while the young live largely on termites; found in the est half of S Afr & nthwards to Tanzania; *A. lunulatus* & *A. guentheri* are found in the nth-est Transvaal; not very poisonous

black jack n, E, + (*Bidens pilosa*)

alt: beggar-tick, knapsekerwel, sweetheart, wewenaars noxious weed of Amer origin, but now widespread in S Afr; has flat, green, deeply lobed leaves & black, arrow-shaped seeds wh adhere to the wool or fur of animals & to clothing

see also: khakibos

black korhaan n, E/D/Afk, + (*Afrotis afra*)

bird commonly found in a variety of habitats fr the sanddunes at the coast to the grasslands of the highveld; the male is very noisy & conspicuous, while the female is shy & difficult to flush

black mamba n, E/Ba (*Dendroaspis polylepis*)

alt: black-mouthed mamba, southern brown mamba

though named *black* mamba & becoming dark with age, this snake is seldom, if ever, black; it is rather dark brown, olive brown or gun-metal; largest & most dreaded of the S Afr venomous snakes; displays truculence & is always ready to attack if disturbed or molested in any way

black monkey-thorn n, E, + (*Acacia burkei* Benth)

alt: haakdoring

tall, deciduous tree with spreading rounded crown; bark fissured & with 'knob-thorns'; sometimes called apiesdoring (monkey thorn) or knoppiesdoring (knob thorn) names wh apply to *A. galpinii* & *A. nigrescens* respectively; in many respects *A. burkei* falls between them

black-mouthed mamba n, E/Ba, +

see: black mamba

black-necked cobra n, E, + (*Naja nigricollis*)

alt: spitting cobra

aggressive, highly venomous elapid snake found throughout Afr; rarely bites, but spits its venom wh may cause blindness if it enters the eyes, but is harmless to unbroken skin

black protea n, E/L + (*Protea lepidocarpodendron*) (fam *Proteaceae*)

protected species of protea with black-tipped flower petals

see also: Protea, protea

black rhinoceros n, E, + (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*)

browsing animal, taller & less bulky than the white rhinoceros; lacks the hump at the back of the neck; rear horn can be as long as, sometimes even longer than, the anterior horn; dull yellow-grey; disposition nervous, irritable & unpredictable

see also: white rhinoceros

black-shouldered kite n, E, + (*Elanus caeruleus*)

common, harmless bird wh feeds on small rodents & lizards; hovers over its prey before it drops down suddenly to catch it; has a preference for open country with scattered trees

black steenbras n, E/D/Afk, +

see: biskop

black-stick lily n, E, + (*Vellozia retinervis*)

alt: besembos, bobbejaanstert

striking species of the fam *Velloziaceae*, wh occurs on koppies in the Transvaal; stems several metres high, tough & upright, draped with fibrous remains of old leaves; the outer covering protects the living stem against extermination in veld fires; when conditions are favourable for growth long grass-like leaves appear at the top of the stem, & large lily-like mauve flowers on slender stalks amongst the leaves; bobbejaanstert = baboon's tail, & is sometimes applied to *V. equisetoides*

black stinkwood n, E, + (*Ocotea bullata*)

alt: stinkblaar, swartstinkhout

evergreen forest tree wh grows to a height of approx 30m, straight

trunk approx 12 cm in diameter & a brown scraggy bark; vernacular name derived fr the dark colour of the bark & the unpleasant odour of the wood when freshly cut

black stork n, E, + (*Ciconia nigra*)

migrates to S Afr fr Eur & Asia; breeds in mountain crags esp in the est Cape Province, est Transvaal & Natal; feeds on large insects, small animals & sometimes on fish

black-throated korhaan n, E/D/Afk, +

see: Karoo korhaan

black vulture n, E, + (*Torgos tracheliotus*)

large, ugly bird, the female is larger than the male; dark brown in colour; wingspan approx 3 m; unlike the common vulture prefers to feed on carrion with its own kind only, but like other vultures gorges itself until it can neither fly nor drink

black wattle n, E, +

see: African wattle

black wildebees n, D/Afk, + (*Connochaetes gnou*)

alt: black wildebeest, swartwildebees(t), white-tailed gnu very dark brown ox-like antelope with buff-white neck mane & partially white tail; both sexes have horns wh are bent downwards, forwards & upwards; fringe of hair on crest, front of face & muzzle whiskered with protecting tufts of hair; once abundant in S Afr, but now almost extinct

blackwood n, E, +

see: African wattle

bleating bush warbler n, E, +

see: kwêkwêvoël

blenny n, E, +

any of numerous usu small fishes of the *Blenniidae* & related families with an elongate, often scaleless body tapering to a more or less

rounded tail; if ventral fins exist they are jugular; the anal & dorsal fins are long; inhabits rocky coastlines, sometimes fresh water; frequently has protective colouration

blesbok n, D/Afk, + (*Damaliscus albifrons*)

alt: blesbuck

S Afr highveld antelope resembling the bontebok; has a white blaze (Afk 'bles') on the face, divided by a dark crossbar between the eyes; body dark, reddish-brown; legs, belly & rump slightly lighter in colour

blesbuck n, D/Afk/E, +

see: blesbok

see also: bok (i)

blesmol n, D/Afk, +

lit: blaze mole

name given to several grey burrowing rodents of S Afr, of *Bathyergus* & related genera; very destructive to root crops

blikoor n, D/Afk, x

lit: 'tin ear'; nickname given traditionally to the Boers of the Orange Free State & the Transvaal; also applied by the Transvaler to the inhabitants of the Orange Free State

blinkblaar-wag-'n-bietjie n, D/Afk, x

blinkblaar = glossy leaf

see: buffalo-thorn

see also: wag-'n-bietjie

blinkvis n, D/Afk x

see: stumpnose

see also: red stumpnose, white stumpnose

blister bush n, E, + (*Peucedanum galbanum*)

alt: bergseldery, wild celery, wildeseldery

slightly woody shrub of the fam *Umbelliferae* found on the mountains of the sth-wst Cape Province; the leaves, large, smooth ternate & compound with tips of last segment serrated, cause

blistering on the skin of susceptible persons, wh occurs soon after contact & may last for weeks; the dried leaves have been used as a cure for dropsy

bloedpens n, D/Afk, +

lit: blood stomach

equiv of lamb dysentery, a disease wh occurs in pregnant ewes

blombos (i) n, D/Afk, + (*Metalasia muricata*)

lit: flower bush

common shrub of the fam *Compositae*; leaves small, twisted & heath-like; has scented flowers wh attract bees

blombos (ii) n, D/Afk, x

see: wild pear

blood flower n, E, + (*Haemanthus coccineus*)

alt: April fool, maartblom, rooikwas, velskoenblaar

species of the fam *Amaryllidaceae*; occurs in sheltered areas of the sth-wst Cape Province; two tongue-shaped leaves appear annually during the winter but die away in the summer; a single, mottled flowering stem grows during March or April; the flowers produce red berries with one seed or several seeds

bloodwood n, E, +

see: kiaat

blouaap n, D/Afk, x

see: vervet monkey

bloubekkie n, D/Afk, + (*Heliophila integrifolia*)

lit: blue little mouth

slightly hairy annual of the fam *Cruciferae* found in the sth-wst Cape Province; bears attractive bright blue flowers in the spring; at maturity the dry fruit splits, exposing a central partition to wh the seeds are attached

bloubokkie n, D/Afk, x

see: blue duiker

bloubos n, D/Afk, + (*Diospyros lycioides*)

alt: swartbos, vaalbos

species belonging to the ebony fam (*Ebenaceae*), most widely spread of the S Afr species of *Diospyros*; does not occur in the winter-rainfall area of the Cape Province & the Kalahari sandveld; there are four sub-species: *guerkei*, *lycioides*, *nitens* & *sericea*; *lycioides* is the most common & the vernacular names are usu applied to it; a many-stemmed shrub wh reaches a height of approx 4m; has a blackish bark, smooth grey-green leaves & cream to white bell-shaped flowers with recurved petals; produces yellow to reddish fleshy berries with one or more hard brown seeds

blouduiker n, D/Afk, x

see: blue duiker

blouer n, D/Afk, x

see: biskop

blouhaak n, D/Afk, + (*Acacia dulcis*)

many-stemmed shrub or small tree occurring in the nth & est Transvaal, usu on sandy or brackish flats, also in Botswana & S W Afr; grows to 5m high & has a scaly, greyish-yellow or smoky bark; the latter shade suggests the common name 'blouhaak' (blue hook) used by farmers in the nth-wst Transvaal to designate this species

bloukeur n, D/Afk, +

shrubby aromatic species of *Psoralea*, eg *P. axillaris*, *P. oligophylla* & *P. verrucosa* wh grow in moist places; blue flowers are produced in great profusion & resemble those of the 'keurboom'

see also: fonteinbos, fonteinhout

blouklapper n, D/Afk, +

see: botterklapper(boom)

bloulelie n, D/Afk, x

see: agapanthus

blouriet n, D/Afk, ?

see: bergviool

blousaadgras n, D/Afk, ?

generally used for a number of species of *Gramineae* with purple to dull blue spikelets wh give the plants a blue appearance

blousuikerbos n, D/Afk, ?

vernacular name applied to two of the larger bushy species of *Protea*, (*P. arborea*, *P. neriifolia*) on account of the bluish tinge wh these shrubs have fr a distance; *Protea arborea*, also known as 'waboom' (lit: wagon tree), is one of the largest species of the genus, attaining 5m; its wood was once used for wagon building in the early colonial days, hence the vernacular name

blousysie n, D/Afk, x

see: blue waxbill

bloutulp n, D/Afk, ?

see: tulip

blue bell n, E, +

see: blue lily

blue biskop n, E/D/Afk, +

see: biskop

blue bonito n, E/Port/Sp, +

see: bonito (i)

blue crane n, E, + (*Tetrapteryx paradisea*)

common crane species, usu found near water; recognised by the swollen head & long trailing secondary feathers; sometimes a garden pet

blue disa n, E, + (*Herschelia graminifolia*)

graceful terrestrial orchid, mainly of the sth-wst Cape, with bright blue, sweetly-scented flowers

see also: disa

blue-eye John Brown n, E, +

see: John Brown (ii)

bluefish (i) n, E, +

see: Hottentot (iii)

bluefish (ii) n, E, +

see: butterflyfish (v)

bluefish (iii) n, E, +

see: blue Hottentot

bluegill n, E, + (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

deep bodied fish resembling the bream, but has a distinct dark flap on the gill cover; introduced fr Amer in 1938 as a forage fish for bass in S Afr dams & rivers

blue-gill sunfish n, E, + (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

N Amer fish originally introduced to S Afr as a fodder fish for basses, but multiplied so rapidly that it supplanted its predator & became over-populated & stunted; distinguished fr the kurper by the continuous lateral line & the gill cover

blue Hottentot n, E/Hott, + (*Pachymetopon grande*)

alt: das, John Brown (S Coast), butterflyfish, fatfish (Est Cape), bluefish, butter bream, (Est London to Transkei), bronze bream, copper bream, damkokker (Transkei to Natal), Hottentot (Knysna) local name in the Cape for an edible, angling, marine fish; has an iridescent blue head & bronzy body, found fr the Cape to Madagascar

blue kurper n, E/D/Afk, + (*Tilapia mossambica*)

popular angling fish wh occurs in the warmer waters of the Transvaal; can weigh up to 2,25kg; an excellent table fish; feeds mainly on algae of the bottom mud, stones & aquatic plants, but also on free-swimming crustaceans & plant matter

blue lily n, E, + (*Agapanthus praecox*)

alt: blue bell, Christmas flower

small species of agapanthus with pale blue flowers; grows in large clusters on rocky slopes facing the sea, particularly at Storms River Mouth; Ba women believe in the medicinal value of the roots, esp in connection with childbirth; a young married woman often wears a necklace made of roots wh are attractive dried, esp when threaded with blue beads; blooms fr December to April

blueskin n, E, + (*Polysteganus coeruleopunctatus*)

alt: cashushu (Port)

fish found off the tropical ea coast of Afr as far s as the Natal S Coast

blue tick n, E, + (*Boophilus decoloratus*)

the male is the principal transmitter of red water & gallsickness to cattle; all species of this genus are declared parasites in S Afr; the female is a great bloodsucker

see also: red-legged tick, winter horse tick

blue tongue n, E, +

alt: autumn fever

disease found in sheep, the name derives fr a characteristic symptom; similar to influenza & horse sickness it once afflicted thousands of sheep; but a vaccine, developed at Onderstepoort in 1910, has brought the disease under almost complete control

blue wildebees n, D/Afk/E, (*Gorgon taurinus taurinus*)

alt: blue wildebeest, brindled gnu

robust, dark greyish-brown antelope with vertical dark stripes down neck, shoulders & flanks; outward & forward bent 'cow-like' horns; long 'Roman-nosed' face, black in front with a black tuft below the chin; black mane droops fr back of neck to withers; frequently whisks its horse-like, black tail

blushing bride n, E, + (*Surruria florida*)

alt: bergbruidjie

delicate species of protea with drooping white & pink flower heads

bobbejaanoor n, D/Afk, ? (*Eriospermum capense*, *E. latifolium*)

lit: baboon's ear

plant of the fam *Liliaceae* with a large roughly pear-shaped tuber; occurs in the coastal belt of the Cape Province & is common in the Cape Peninsula; a solitary, broadly heart-shaped leaf similar to a baboon's ear (hence the vernacular name) appears during the rainy season; in summer when the leaf has died a slender stem is put up wh bears stalked bell-like flowers; the capsule-like fruit produces seeds covered with long white hairs

bobbejaanstert n, D/Afk, ?

see: black-stick lily

bobbejaantjie n, D/Afk, x

see: babiana

boegoe-asyn n, Hott/D/Afk, x

see: buchu vinegar

boegoe-brandewyn n, Hott/D/Afk, x

see: buchu brandy

boekenhout n, D/Afk, +

alt: African beech, bushveld boekenhout, red beech, red boekenhout, swart boekenhout, Transvaal boekenhout
several species of *Faurea* (*F. galpinii*, *F. macnaughtonii*, *F. saligna*); graceful, indigenous tree of the protea fam, named boekenhout (beech) by the Voortrekkers in Natal, prob because it resembles the Eur beech; wood strong & durable, used for furniture, doors, wagons, etc

boerboon (ii) n, D/Afk, +

S Afr tree of the fam *Leguminosae* & the genus *Schotia* of wh all the species are called 'boerboon' (boerbean) as they bear pods; the seeds resemble beans & are sometimes edible

boerkabeljou n, D/Afk, +

see: salmon (i)

boesmandruif n, D/Afk, ? (*Rhoicissus digitata*)

alt: boesmansdruif, -druiewe

lianus plant with simple tendrils; the fruit wh is approx the size of a large pea, resembles a grape (Afk druif); though it is inferior to & smaller than the bosdruif it is edible & can be used for making jam see also: bimbrikos

boesmangif n, D/Afk, x

see: hyena poison

boesmangras n, D/Afk, x

see: bushman(s) grass

bog-wood n, E, +

see: buffalo thorn

bokbaavygie n, D/Afk, + (*Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*)

plant of the fam *Aizoaceae* genus *Mesembrieae*; many-coloured annual; the flowers with daisy-like petals open in sunlight; found mainly in the Bokbaai area

bokbaard n, D/Afk, ?

as Afk equiv of 'goatee' +coll; when referring to several unrelated plants, including some grasses; the inflorescent structure resembles the beard of a goat, as for instance in *Trapogonon porrifolius*, hence the vernacular name

bokdoring n, D/Afk, + (*Lycium afrum*)

low, rigid, spiny shrub of the fam *Solanaceae*, with small leaves, purple, tubular flowers & a round, fleshy fruit almost black in colour; found in dry, sandy places in the wst districts of the Cape Province

bokdrol n, D/Afk, x

alt: bokdrolletjie

pellet of the dung of buck; coll name applied to a peanut dragee by schoolchildren

bokhoring n, D/Afk, +

name applied to the fruit & plant of several wild species of the fam *Asclepiadaceae*, including ghaap, kannetjies & skilpadkos; the fruit &

seedpods are sometimes eaten by children & Ba

Bokkeveld n, D/Afk, +

area in the wst Cape Province, so named because it was formerly populated by many species of buck; comprises the Cold Bokkeveld wh lies at a higher altitude in the Karoo, ea of the Bokkeveld mountains, & the Warm Bokkeveld wh lies at a lower altitude & is a fertile fruit-growing region around Ceres

Bokkeveld heath n, D/Afk/E, +

see: Cold Bokkeveld heath

bokmakierie n, D/Afk, + (*Telephorus zeylonus*)

sth Afr bird of the shrike fam, found as far nth as Angola; its conspicuous call gives rise to its onomatopoei name; has distinctive plumage with a black gorget around the yellow throat

Boks n, D/Afk, +coll

abbr of 'Springboks', sing 'Springbok', a S Afr sportsman who has been awarded national colours in any sport; the pl form is most commonly applied to the S Afr rugby team

Bolander n, D/Afk, +

see: Boland

bomb n, E, ?

spirit bottle measuring 1,125ml, gradually to be replaced in S Afr bars by the litre bottle
see also: bottle, half-jack, nip

bonita (i) n, Port/Sp, +

see: skipjack (iii)

bonita (ii) n, Port/Sp, +

see: katonkel (i)

bonito (i) n, Port/Sp, + (*Sarda sarda*)

alt: blue bonito, Cape katonkel

marine fish found in all but the coldest waters of the Atlantic

bonito (ii) n, Port/Sp, + (*Sarda orientalis*)

Indo-Pacific marine fish found as far s as Durban, but rare; flesh has a strong flavour, but it is tender & tasty

bonsela n, Ba +

see: basela

bont dageraad n, D/Afk, x

see: red stumpnose

bontebok n, D/Afk, + (*Damaliscus pygargus*)

alt: nunni, pied antelope

lit: pied buck

buck closely related to the blesbuck with a similar blaze on the face, purplish in colour with a reddish brown saddle & a white rump, belly & legs; almost extinct in S Afr & surviving only in specific areas of the s wst Cape Province

bontetick adj/n, D/Afk/E, +

see: bont tick

bontkwagga n, D/Afk, x

see: Burchell's zebra

bont-legged tick n, D/Afk/E, + (*Hyalomma aegyptium* var. *impressum*, Koch)

parasitic tick, the male transmits sweating sickness, an acute febrile disease of cattle, sheep, goats & pigs; in calves the disease is characterised by an inflammation of the mouth & nose & by a profuse moist eczema wh resembles sweat, over large portions of the skin; another species of this genus is the small bont-legged tick (*H. truncatum*); all species are declared parasites in S Afr

see also: bont tick

bontrok (i) n, D/Afk, ?

see: streepdassie

bontrok (ii) n, D/Afk,?

see: seebas

bontrokkie n, D/Afk, x

see: stone chat

bont tick n, D/Afk/E + (*Amblyomma hebraeum*, Koch)

alt: bontetick

parasitic tick; the male transmits heartwater to cattle, sheep & goats & the female drains blood & causes painful wounds; all species of this genus are declared parasites in S Afr

see also: screw worm

bookstore n, Amer, +

alt: bookshop

both versions are used in S Afr

boom n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of tree; + in combination, eg boomslang, kaffirboom; but boomalwyn x as the E equiv 'tree aloe' is common usage

boomgrysappel n, D/Afk, x

see: mobola plum

boomsingertjie n, D/Afk, x

see: sonbesie

boomslang n, D/Afk, + (*Dispholidus typus*)

alt: green, brown, black, Cape or back-fanged tree-snake

lit: tree snake

as the name implies, it is mainly an arboreal species wh glides along the branches of trees with exceptional speed; green or brownish-black in colour, 2-3m in length; back-fanged & very poisonous

Border n, E, +

region in the est Cape Province; the name dates back to the time when this area was on the frontier of the independent Ba territories; East London, the 'capital' of the region, began as a military post on

a rise at the mouth of the Buffalo River; in sport 'Border' constitutes a separate 'province'

bos n, D/Afk, x

alt: bossie
Afk equiv of bush
see also: -bosch

bosbok n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape bushbuck

bosbontrokkie n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape flycatcher

bosch n, D, +

alt: bos
commonly used as a collective term meaning 'a wooded area', ie in the general sense of tall-growing bushes, shrubs or forest trees; found in place names, eg Boschkloof, Rondebosch, Stellenbosch
see also: bos

bosdassie n, D/Afk, x

see: tree hyrax

bosdruiif n, D/Afk, + (*Rhoicissus tomentosa*)

plant with lianous rope-like stems up to 0,5m thick at the base, that climbs to the top of the tallest forest trees; fruit resembles a large grape & ripens at the end of autumn to become deep purplish black; used to make jelly or jam
see also: bimbrikos

bosnagaap n, D/Afk, x

see: bush baby

BOSS abbr, E, +

Bureau for State Security, a government agency

bosvlier n, D/Afk, x

see: wild elder

Bot River protea n, D/Afk/L, + (*Protea compacta* fam *Proteaceae*)

species of protea found in the Bot River area

botterblom (i) n, D/Afk, + (*Cotyledon paniculata*)

shrub of the fam *Crassulacea* with a thick fleshy stem wh branches towards the top; leaves bright green in winter, but fall off during the early summer before the flowers appear

botterblom (ii) n, D/Afk, + (*Sparaxis grandiflora* & *S. tricolor*)

alt: witklossie

plant common along the coast of the wst Cape Province fr Namaqualand s-wards; found in damp areas during winter, but also in open bushy places & under trees; flowers white or cream-coloured & faintly scented

botterblom (iii) n, D/Afk, +

alt: gousblom, kankerblaar

common name orig applied to *Ranunculus multifidus* because of its resemblance to the Eur species of *Ranunculus*; later became known as 'kankerblaar', because of its medicinal properties in the treatment of cancer; the name 'botterblom' was then extended to stemless species of *Arctotis*, until all the *Arctotidae* became known as 'gousblom'; 'botterblom' was eventually applied almost exclusively to species of *Gazania*; finally the name was reserved for species of genera allied to *Arctotis*, eg *Arctotheca calendula*, *A. niveum* & *Venidium arctotoides*; in the Pretoria area it apparently refers to *Gerbera discolor*, a herbacious, mat-forming perennial with yellow flowers

see also: gousblom, kankerblaar

botterklapper n, D/Afk, + (*Strychnos pungens*)

alt: blouklapper, bobbejaanklapper, botterklapperboom tree up to 6m high & 22cm in diameter, with corky, fissured bark; the pulp around the large seeds resembles butter in colour & consistency, & is eaten by the Ba who also use the large shells as drinking vessels

bottle n, E, +

a measure of 750ml

see also: bomb, half-jack, nip

bottle store n, E, +

S Afr equiv of 'off licence, off sale & wine merchant' in GB; S Afr also 'off sales' +

boy's meat n, E, ?

term applied to meat purchased for & by the Ba, eg brisket, chuck

braai (i) n, adj, D/Afk, +coll

abbr of 'braaivleis', commonly used in the Cape & the Transvaal; also used as an adj, eg 'braai galjoen' (on a menu), 'braai sandwiches' & as a p p 'braaied'

see also: braaivleis

braai (ii) v, D/Afk, +

to fry meat over the embers of an open fire see also: braaivleis

Braak, the n, D/Afk, +

the village green in the centre of Stellenbosch, used in the early eighteenth century as a military parade ground; now a proclaimed historic monument; *braak* is short for *braakland*, 'fallow land'

brack adj, E +

see: brak (ii)

brak (ii) adj, D/Afk, x

alt: brack

Afk equiv of 'alkaline, brack' commonly used in the early days at the Cape to describe potable water supplies, later extended to describe the soil associated with 'brak'water & eventually the plants frequenting such a habitat, hence the numerous compounds, eg Brakfontein, brakgras, Brakriver

brakdoring n, D/Afk, ?

see: enkeldoring

brakvy n, D/Afk, ? (*Crassula glomerata*)

small annual of the fam *Crassulaceae*, wh grows in damp places; green at first, it becomes reddish with age; has small, regular white flowers; common in the Cape Province

brandblaar n, D/Afk, + (*Knowltonia capensis*)

lit: burn-leaf

plant of the fam *Ranunculaceae* & closely related to the fam *Anemone*, but the almost black fruit is fleshy, not dry; the large leaves contain an acrid sap & cause blistering on the skin; flowers pale green, found in shady places in the sth Cape Province; the name is sometimes applied to kankerblaar & to brandbossie or Karoo violet

brandbossie n, D/Afk, x

see: Karoo violet

brandgras n, D/Afk, +

occasionally used as a general term for all grasses wh flourish on burnt (Afk brand) veld; sometimes refers to *Danthonia lanata* & *Ehrharta dura* wh are rather coarse grasses, but when the mountain grass has been burnt the new shoots afford excellent grazing

brandsiek adj D/Afk, x

see: scab

brandsiekte n, D/Afk, x

see: scab

brandsolder n, D/Afk, x

fire-proof floor in a roof as protection against possible flames fr the thatch, found in most of the old farmhouses of the Cape

breadfruit tree n, E, +

alt: bread palm, bread tree, cycad, kaffir-bread, kaffir bread tree, Modjaje's plam

several species of *Encephelartos*, fam *Cycadaceae*, with stout, round trunks & a crown of long, spiny pinnate leaves; the pith of the cone-like fruit of species such as *E. caffer* & *E. altensteinii* or *E. transvenosus* is used by Ba to make bread; the name also applies to the tree *Artocarpus communis* or *A. incisa*, species found in Polynesia

bread palm n, E, +

see: breadfruit tree

bread tree n, E, +

see: breadfruit tree

Bredasdorp bluebell n, E, +

see: Caledon bluebell

brei v, D/Afk, +coll

[breɪ]

alt: brey

lit Afk 'to knead a skin until it is pliable'; the meaning has been extended & applied to the softening of the *r* in Afk especially that spoken by people in the Malmesbury area of the Cape Province

brey v, D/Afk/E x

see: brei

bridesmaid n, E, +

in S Afr E a young woman, but *not* a child, attending the bride at a wedding; used in Amer as well

see also: flower-girl

brights n, E, ?

GB equiv: main beam

headlights of a motor vehicle when turned up for maximum illumination

brindled gnu n, E, +

see: blue wildebees

bring/take

bring has associations with *coming*; *take* with *going*; eg 'When you *come* again, please *bring* me the recipe you mentioned'; 'When you *go* to the shopping centre please *take* my suit to the dry cleaner'

bronze bream n, E, +

see: blue Hottentot

brosdoring n, D/Afk, x

see: enkeldoring

broshout n, D/Afk, +

vernacular name for various species of tree with brittle wood, eg *Ochna pulchra* (see: lekkerbreek), *Leucosida sericea* (see: ouhout)

brown ear tick n, E, +

see: brown tick

brown hyena n, E/Gk, + (*Hyaena brunnea*)

alt: beach hyena, strandwolf, strandjut

S Afr hyena slightly smaller than the spotted hyena, but has a longer, shaggier coat of dark brown hair, & a thick mane down the back; the hair is paler around the neck, & that on the limbs has irregular horizontal dark bands or stripes; the tail is bushy & slightly truncated; the ears are narrow & very pointed; a nocturnal creature of solitary habits, rarely seen; scavenges along the seashore, hence the alt 'strandwolf'

brown tick n, E, + (*Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*)

alt: brown ear tick

parasitic tick of wh the male transmits East Coast Fever & buffalo disease; the female is a great blood sucker

brusher n, E, +

see: steenbras (i)

buchu n, Hott, +

[bvxv]

alt: boegoe

applied to various aromatic shrubs of the fam *Rutaceae*; the early Hott used the dried leaves as medicine & powdered them, mixed them with sheep fat & anointed their bodies with the mixture; the

name was later extended to include various species of *Agathosma*, *Barosma* & *Diosma* wh, in time, were given special names, eg *Adenadra fragans* (anise buchu), *Agathosma apiculata* (garlic buchu), *Diosma bolusii* (orange buchu), etc.
see also: buchu brandy, buchu vinegar

buchu brandy n, Hott/E, +

alt: boegoe-brandewyn
infusion obtained by soaking the leaves of a certain species of *Agathosma* in brandy, & used medicinally

buchu vinegar n, Hott/E, +

alt: boegoe-asyn
infusion obtained by soaking the leaves of a certain species of *Agathosma* in vinegar, & used for medicinal purposes

bucksail n, E, +

partly a modification & partly a transl of Afk 'bokseil' 'bok' = beam of a wagon, 'seil' = sail of a buckwagon; large tarpaulin or canvas originally used to cover the load of a wagon, now also used to cover a car, etc

buffalo grass n, E, +

alt: buffelsgras, buffalo quick grass
vernacular name applied to grasses supposedly grazed by buffalo; any of several S Afr grasses, in particular, a hairy guinea grass (*Panicum maximum* var. *hirsutissimum*); name also applied to species found in Amer & Australia

buffalo thorn n, E, + (*Ziziphys mucronata*)

alt: blinkblaar wag-'n-bietjie, bogwood, cat-thorn, come-and-I'll-kiss-you, katdoring
semi-deciduous tree with spreading, often dropping branches; leaves shiny; the fruit turns dark red when ripe; the Ba sometimes used the pulp of the fruit to make porridge; the Damaras of S W Afr use it to make coffee; the felled trees were once used for constructing kraals in protection against wild animals, hence the vernacular name

buffelsdoring n, D/Afk, x

see: buffalo thorn

buffelsgras, n, D/Afk, x

see: buffalo grass

buig-my-nie n, D/Afk, x

see: Cape box

buitekamer n, D/Afk, ?

lit: outside room, outer room

room forming part of a dwelling but having access to the exterior instead of the interior of the house; also a room, not attached to the main dwelling but forming part of the outbuildings

bulbul n, Arab, +

small, fruit- & insect-eating bird of the fam *Pycnonotidae* of wh several genera & species occur in Afr & Asia; the Cape bulbul (alt: toppie) (*Pycnonotus capensis*), the terrestrial bulbul (*Phyllastrephus terrestris*) & the sombre bulbul (alt: willie) (*Andropadus importunus*) are amongst the local species; a Persian songbird prob the nightingale (*Luscinia golzii*) wh is often mentioned in poetry

bulldog n, E, + (*Gnathonemus macrolepidotus*)

freshwater fish; one of the odd-looking tropical *Mormyridae*; found s-wards of the Limpopo & Pongola river systems; commonly known as 'snawelvis' (beaked fish) in the Transvaal

bulleye n, E, +

see: angel fish (i)

bull rocky n, E, +

see: bully (i)

bully (i) n, E, + (*Blenniomimus cottoides*)

alt: klipfish, rocky

small fish, up to 20cm in length, found fr Port Nolloth to the Kei River, in shallow water

bully (ii) n, E, + (*Blenniomimus taurus*)

alt: bull rocky

small fish, up to 20cm in length, found fr False Bay to Port Alfred

bully (iii) n, E, +

see: dikkop (ii)

bult n, D/Afk, x

Afk equiv of 'hillock, ridge, knoll'; used in compound place names, eg 'van Heerden's Bult' +