

Glossary

afromontane forest: high altitude forests above 900 m, usually in rainfall areas of over 750 mm per annum, with a multi-layer understorey and almost no ground layer. The term 'Afromontane' seems to be now considered inappropriate and the terms 'Afrotemperate forest' and 'Mistbelt forest' seem to be replacing it (Mucina *et al.*, 2005).

bushveld: known also as 'savanna'. It is dominated by woody vegetation with a conspicuous grassy understorey. Densities vary from open woodland to dense thicket-like bushveld.

evergreen forest: usually occurring in the higher rainfall areas where the majority of species retain green leaves throughout the year, even during winter.

grassland: usually above 1,000 m in altitude where the predominant vegetation cover is made up of grass species.

lebombo forest: resembles Afromontane forest yet is drier. Includes scarp forest (Mucina *et al.*, 2005), and *Androstachys* forest and thicket.

riverine forest: usually occurring below 800 m, restricted to the major rivers and the lowveld

with a multi-layer understorey and almost no ground layer.

shrub: a perennial woody plant with, usually, two or more stems arising from or near the ground: Differs from a tree in that it is smaller and does not possess a trunk or bole (Van Wyk & Van Wyk, 1997).

suffrutex (pl. suffrutices): A plant woody at the base but herbaceous above; a subshrub, some of which have evolved with this growth habit to escape veld fires (Schmidt *et al.*, 2002). Examples include *Parinari capensis* subsp. *capensis* and *Elephantorrhiza elephantina*, which form dense colonies in grassland and produce fruit and/or flowers at ground level.

thicket: where the dominant vegetation layer is made up of shrubs (often impenetrable), lacking a conspicuous grassy understorey.

tree: a perennial woody plant with a single (usually) main stem and a distinct upper crown (Van Wyk & Van Wyk, 1997).

woodland: usually where scattered trees are tall (at least 8 m in height) with a canopy cover of over 40% and an open grassy understorey.

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