

10/9/2003

Hello to all,

We've been here in Africa for about a week, and have had some time to explore the area around Cape Town, South Africa, before heading out on our motorcycle tour of the Southern portion of the continent.

After arrival, we spent our first full day at the local botanical gardens, Kirstenbosch. Home to over 9,000 of Southern Africa's 22,000 plant species, it is a wonderland of flora. Hard against the mountains that rise up in the middle of Cape Town, the gardens spill down the mountainside and empty out into the side of a valley. We enjoyed a leisurely afternoon soaking up the sunshine and fresh air, both of which were a welcome change after 48 hours breathing what passes for the atmosphere in airplanes and airports.

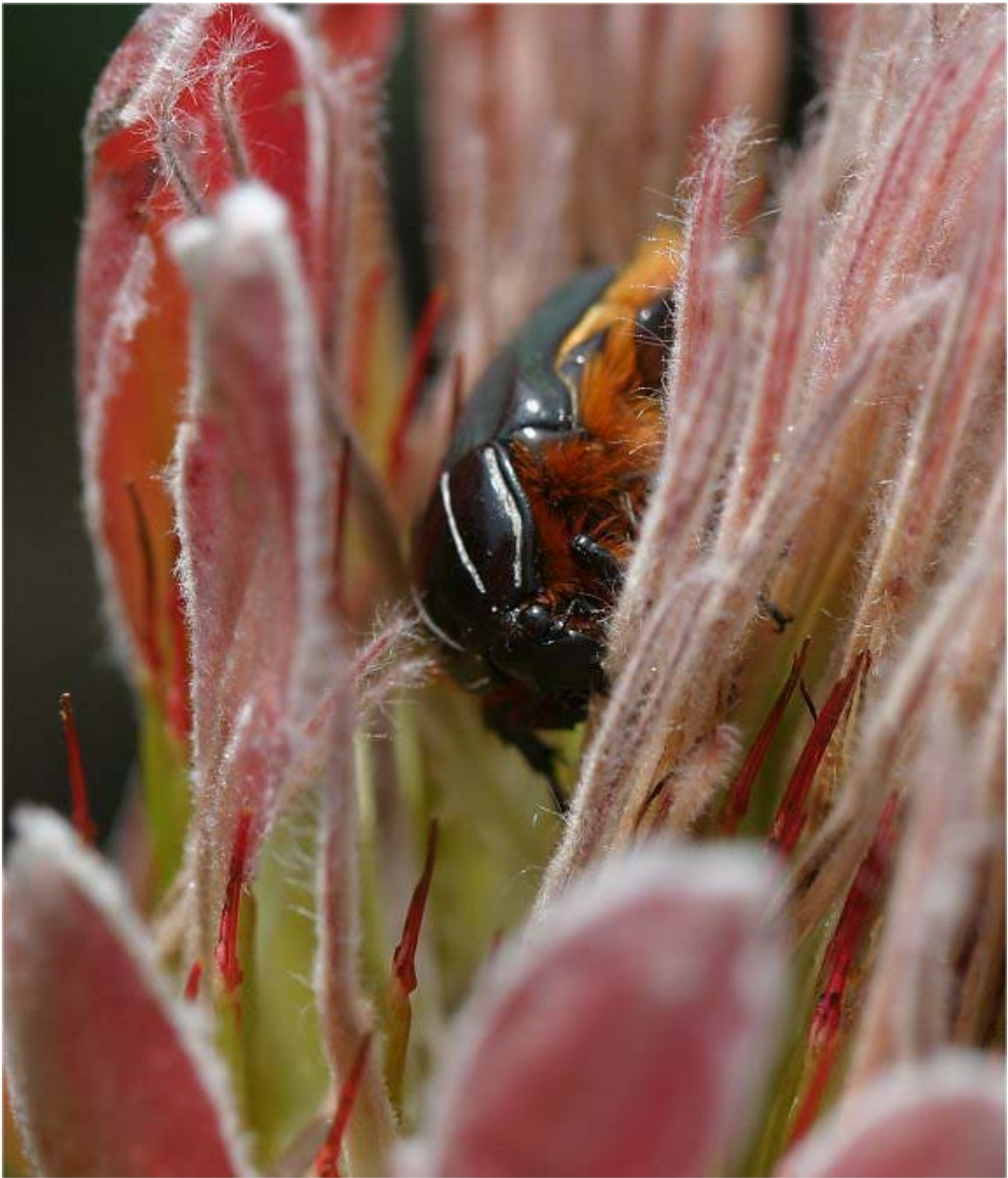
Steph shot the flowers, while I concentrated on capturing the local creatures that live among the plants and flowers.

Following are a few samples.

Be well,
Doug











A sunbird perched on a protea, one of the dozens of protea species represented at the park.



That's a tree branch. The bug is about half as big as my fist.



This one is a bit smaller, it's about 1.5 times as big as my thumb.





I also shot a few plants and flowers :











