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Appropriately for a medical journal, writes **Graham Duncan**, the plant illustrated on the January cover is a parasite! It lives off the roots of other plants and its botanical name is *Hyobanche sanguinea*. Its common name is 'Inkplant' because the flowers rapidly turn black or purple if bruised. It belongs to the family *Orobanchaceae*.

Photo: J P van Niekerk



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Getting to the point



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