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Sid Cywes writes: *Disa uniflora*, known as the 'Pride of Table Mountain', is the flagship genus of South African orchids and is only found in the mountains of the Western Cape. It also serves as the emblem of the Western Province Rugby Club.

Jon Ray, an English priest and later a lecturer at Cambridge, was first to describe it as *Orchis Africana flore singulare herbaceo* in 1704. In 1747 Jan Ange collected some specimens that were sent to botanists in Europe by Governor Ryk Tulbagh. In 1767 Professor Bergius of Stockholm coined the generic name *Disa* and called the specimen *Disa uniflora* as it only had one flower. Today *Disa uniflora* is grown successfully in cultivation in many countries and used extensively in hybridisation.

Photo: Sebastian van As



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