

A note on synchronous flowering of *Hypoxidia rhizophylla* (Baker)

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Of the three species of plants in the family of Hypoxidaceae found in Seychelles, *Hypoxidia rhizophylla* is the most widespread on Silhouette island. The plants are found at all altitudes and grow closely together in large patches. They differ from *H. maheensis* in having the ability to root from the leaf tips. Flowers are produced at the base of the plant and the putrid scent is characteristic of fly-pollinated flowers (Wise 1998).

On 12th August 2001, a synchronous flowering of *H. rhizophylla* was seen on the Jardin Marron trail on Silhouette. During the ascent of the trail at 14.00hrs. no flowers were seen. On the descent of the trail at 17.00hrs. flowers were counted on 34 plants. Colour varied from pale yellow to deep magenta with the majority being close to orange. Flowering occurred during a period of low rainfall (32mm over 12 days), following a period of 23 days in which only 6mm were recorded.

On 6th May 2002 on the same trail two flowering plants were found at 9:00hrs., one with a single very deep maroon flower, the other with two stems with two deep ochre flowers on each stem. On the way down, there were many flowers in the population found flowering in August 2001. Most of these had two flowers, and all deep maroon. The only exception was a plant higher up the path, which was deep ochre, with 4 flowers. This is in contrast to the earlier observation when flowers were pale yellow or orange and single. These observations were made 8 days after the last significant rain (9mm).

References:

Wise, R. 1998 *A Fragile Eden*. Princeton University Press.



Fig. 1. *Hypoxidia rhizophylla* solitary flower, 12th August 2001