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A swannish song?

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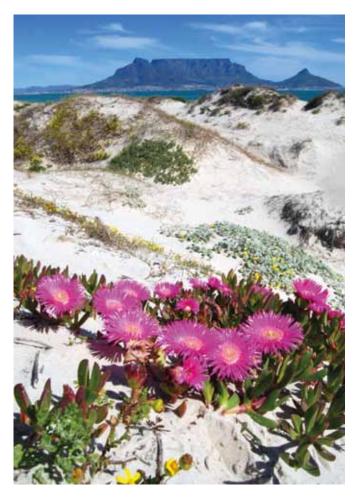
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With Table Mountain in the background, the dunes of the West Coast become a floral splendour in Spring. Because the West Coast is bathed by cold water, it receives relatively little rain, and dunes there are colonised with only low-growing plants and shrubs, in contrast to the dune forests of the East Coast. The foreground of this picture is dominated by the sour fig Carpobrotus acinaciformis. There are several species of Carpobrotus in South Africa, including the yellow-flowered C. edulis. Their sap has traditionally been used as an antiseptic and a treatment for bluebottle stings, and the fruit is made into jam

Photo and text: George Branch Email: mbranch@mweb.co.za

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