

## D. DURICRUSTS

### Field Note D4a8. Pedogenic silcretes – H. Hillslope castles and other features



**Hillslope silcrete castle.**

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Silcrete protrusions are the least abundant silcrete occurrences in the Study Area after silcrete caps and silcrete boulders. These outcrops, which emerge out of the ground, can be seen from a distance.

None of the protrusions has been described before and their formation has never been discussed. This Field Note presents some of the several hillslope silcrete castles and other features in the Study Area. The author distinguished these groups: *castles*, *bulges* and *pinnacles*.

#### **Castles**

Castles are free-standing features (Figures 1 to 5).

#### **Near Boskop**



**Figure 1. Satellite image of a silcrete castle (arrow) south of Boskop.**



**Figure 2. Top and bottom - the silcrete castle(s) south of Boskop.**



**Figure 3. Top and bottom – the silcrete castle south of Boskop.**

**Near Die Plaat**



**Figure 4. Satellite image of a silcrete castle (arrow) north of Die Plaat.**



**Figure 5. Top and bottom – close views of the silcrete castle shown above.**

### **Bulges**

Bulges are similar to castles, except that that they are attached to the slope (Figures 6 and 7).



**Figure 6. A silcrete bulge on the eastern slope of Leeukop.**



**Figure 7. Top and bottom – a silcrete bulge on the western slopes of the hills NW of Spitskop.**



### **Pinnacles**

Pinnacles are present on hill slopes as clusters and as individual features, up to 3 m in height (Figures 8 to 10).



**Figure 8. Top and bottom - a cluster of silcrete pinnacles (on the farm Uitkyk).**



**Figure 9. Top and bottom – individual silcrete pinnacles.**



**Figure 10. Top and bottom – individual silcrete pinnacles**

***Cavernous pinnacles***

These features are 1 – 1.5 m above the ground (Figures 11 and 12).



**Figure 11. Top and bottom – cavernous silcrete pinnacles.**



**Figure 12. Top and bottom – cavernous silcrete pinnacles.**