Forest Patch on LYNEDOCH farm, Baviaans River Valley, Bedford.

This small patch of what can best be described as woodland/ Forest by virtue of its hybrid condition as influenced by man's chopping activities down the years, lies at the head of what is called Grootkloof on this farm, and is the last patch of such forest up this otherwise dry valley in which the lower slopes receive a much lower precipitation than the upper heights under which the patch of forest persists by vibtue of the extra moisture it receives from passing cloud.

The forest patch is 27 km NW of Bedford town, and at about 1 000 m a.s.l.

The mixed species consist of Sneezewood, <u>Staeroxylon</u> <u>oblicuum</u>; Cape Chestnut, <u>Calodentrum capense</u>; Gwarri <u>Euclea undulata</u>; wild Pear, <u>Apodytes dimidiata</u>, <u>Cassine aethiopica</u>; <u>dimidiata</u>; <u>Suddleia saligna</u>, <u>di</u>

Many bushes known in Bushclump veld, e.g. <u>Scutia myrtina</u>; <u>Carissa</u> sp. etc.etc. grow amongst the trees. *dre partel* here the forest nature (i.e. canopied) has been

here the forest nature (i.e. canopied) has been destroyed by felling, a grassy cover now persists, with many herbs, especially around the bases of the trees growing in what is now the woodland community. Under the canopied parts another type of grassiness persists, with forms of lowgrowing onderbos.

The feature of tree growth in this forest patch is the size and number of Sneezewood trees, many of which are still of large size. From the stumps left by the axe the population of this tree in this small patch which was probably only about 10 to 20 acres (4 to 8 ha), very high. The wastefulness of those days is shown by the way stumps have been left staunding up to half a metre high in some places. One such felled tree, and a very large one, lay where it had fallen where it had fallen when felled. Obviously, the woodcutters had omitted to remove it at the time of dragging the trees from the forest for later treatment as fence poles. The stump from which it had been severed was still there too, the axes marks clearly vsisible .