Head of Department: Professor J.J. Midgley

Departmental Profile

Botany is a vibrant department, which strives towards the development of a centre of excellence for research and teaching of the ecology, evolution, physiological ecology and systematics of marine and terrestrial plants of southern Africa. The department includes two research units, the Bolus Herbarium and the Plant Conservation Unit, and is also home to the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism Chief Directorate: Marine & Coastal Management. Research thrusts include plant population, community and reproductive ecology, systematics, floristics, biogeography and evolutionary biology of the unique Cape Floral Kingdom and its response to different land use practices, ecology and economics of marine and freshwater algae, the ecophysiology of plant responses to pollution and global change, the physiology of plant nitrogen-fixing symbioses and dendrochronology and palaeoecology. The Plant Conservation Unit focuses on sustainable land use, restoration and palaeoecology/environmental history with an emphasis on the conservation of the vegetation of the winter rainfall region of South Africa, while the Bolus Herbarium is researching the taxonomy of and curating a specimen collection of over a third of a million southern African species. The staff is also active on Research Councils, policy-making forums and advisory committees.

Departmental Statistics

Permanent and long-term contract staff

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professors</td>
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<td>Associate Professors</td>
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<td>Senior Lecturers</td>
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<td>Scientific Staff</td>
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<td>Technical Support Staff</td>
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Honorary Staff

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Students

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Research Fields and Staff

Permanent staff

Professor Jeremy Midgley
Head of Department; plant ecology; evolutionary biology; forest ecosystem dynamics.

Professor John J. Bolton
Phycology; marine and freshwater biology; mariculture.

Professor William J. Bond
Plant ecology; evolutionary biology; conservation biology; fire and community dynamics.

Dr Samson B. Chimphango
Physiology; nitrogen fixation.

Associate Professor Michael D. Cramer
Physiology; ecophysiology; plant nutrition.

Dr Edmund February
Senior Lecturer: palaeoecology; ecophysiology.

Dr Lindsey Gillson
Deputy Director of the Plant Conservation Unit: conservation ecology; palaeoecology; theoretical ecology; landscape history.

Professor Terry Hedderson
Plant systematics; bryology; molecular systematics; life history traits.

Professor M. Timm Hoffman
Director of the Plant Conservation Unit: plant ecology; conservation biology; community ecology; biodiversity.

Dr A. Muthama Muasya
Senior Lecturer: plant systematics; molecular systematics; biogeography.

Dr Anthony G. Verboom
Senior Lecturer: Plant systematics, ecophysiology, biogeography.

Honorary Professors

Professor Richard Cowling
Plant ecology; conservation biology; community ecology; biodiversity.

Professor John S. Donaldson
Biodiversity.

Professor Peter Linder
Systematics; taxonomy; evolutionary biology.

**Honorary Associate Professors**

Associate Professor Robert J. Anderson
Phycology.

**Honorary Research Associates**

Dr N. Allsopp
Ecophysiology

Dr N. Bergh
Systematics

Dr P. Carrick
Restoration ecology

Dr B Harding
Phycology

Dr S. Higgins
Ecosystems Ecology.

Dr A.G. Rebelo
Ecology.

Dr R. Rohde
Environmental Historian.

Dr G. Scott
Systematics.

Dr A. Seydack
Forest Ecology.

Professor C. Stirton
Plant Systematics.

**Contact Details**

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Research output

Chapters in books


Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals


