



Bursaries for MTech (or MSc) and/or DTech (or PhD) studies at CPUT (or other Western Cape Universities)

Project title: Reproduction and demography of emerging alien invasive species

Background

For an alien plant species to become invasive it needs to reproduce. Knowledge about the reproductive potential of a species in a novel range is of vital importance in assessing the potential invasiveness of an alien plant species. Surprisingly, very few experimental studies, particularly so in South Africa, have been conducted on the reproduction of alien plants in general. Furthermore, despite the increased attention invasive species have been given within the last few decades, we still understand very little about their population dynamics, especially the factors and processes that contribute to their demographic success over the invasion process.

Focus

Breeding system and demography of emerging alien invasive species will form the main focus of this project. Demography will have a plant focus, but breeding system and pollination studies can focus more on the animal side, i.e. pollinators (see for example Geerts and Pauw, 2009). There is also the option for an urban ecological focus. There are four bursaries available, so scope to develop your own ideas within the broader project.

Requirements

I am in search of students that have the following:

- An appropriate degree for admission
- The ability to work independently in the field
- Full computer literacy
- A Code 08 Drivers license is a strong recommendation

Value: MTechs (MSc): R40 000 can be topped up to R60 000

DTechs (PhD) R60 000 can be top up R80 000

Other options

- Bursaries tenable at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). Also tenable at other Western Cape Universities (CPUT has preference) at which it will be an MSc/PhD but up to the student to then get accepted. Bursary top-ups and conditions might then also change.
- Non SA students may also apply as a small quota of foreign students is allowed.
- Bursaries can be changed to accommodate part time students.
- Option to start in the 2nd semester, but still need to contact me before the deadline.

Deadline: 7 February 2014

If interested, please contact me for further details.

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