



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

## African biogeography - field course in South Africa, 4 credits

Course period: Sept. 5- Sept. 19, 2015 Main location of the course: South Africa	Last day for application: March 31, 2015
Course leader/Address for applications: Bengt Oxelman /bengt.oxelman@gu.se	
Course description (Advertisement for Ph.D. students): In this course, South African ecosystems, biodiversity patterns, geological and climatic history coupled to phylogenetic histories of selected important groups will be studied. Field work logistics, including application procedures for collecting permissions and plant collecting techniques will be covered. Each student will be given the task to prepare sampling strategies for a specific plant group. Tony Verboom, University of Stellenbosch, will give a lecture about South African botany and biogeography. Per-Ola Karis, Stockholm University, will be excursion leader. Students are expected to cover parts of travel costs themselves, but there will be some possibilities to get support.	
Responsible department and other participating departments/organisations: Biology and Environmental Sciences, Göteborgs Botaniska Trädgård, Universitetet i Stellenbosch	
Teachers: Bengt Oxelman (Course leader and main contact) Per-Ola Karis Mari Källersjö Tony Verboom	
Examiner: Bengt Oxelman	

Faculty of Science  
Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences



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*Third cycle education*

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**1. Confirmation**

The syllabus was confirmed by the Head of the Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences 2015-02-02”

The course plan is valid from 2015-02-02.

Disciplinary domain: Science

Department in charge: Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences

Main field of study: Systematic Botany

**2. Position in the educational system**

Elective course; third-cycle education.

**3. Entry requirements**

Students should be admitted to third cycle education. Students with PhD subjects related to the course should be given priority.

**4. Course content**

South African ecosystems, biodiversity patterns, geological and climatic history coupled to phylogenetic histories of selected important groups. Field work logistics, including application procedures for collecting permissions and plant collecting techniques. Each student will be given the task to prepare sampling strategies for a specific plant group.

**5. Outcomes**

**1. Knowledge and understanding**

The students should get an overview of biodiversity patterns and the underlying biogeographic history for selected groups of plants in South Africa. They should also get an overview of current threats to the Flora

**2. Skills and abilities**

To deal with relevant collecting permission aspects, and to field collect plant material for herbaria and genetic studies.

**3. Judgement and approach**

To become familiar with field work in a foreign country.



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### **6. Required reading**

To be announced

### **7. Assessment**

Account on given plant group, including observations and collections. Herbarium labels.

### **8. Grading scale**

The grading scale comprises Fail (U), Pass (G)

### **9. Course evaluation**

Course evaluation is carried out together with the Ph.D. students at the end of the course, and is followed by an individual, anonymous survey. The results and possible changes in the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and to those who are beginning the course.

### **10. Language of instruction**

The language of instruction is English.