

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

Plant identification and herbarium curation 786 (BOT 786)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	15.00
Programmes	BScHons Medicinal Plant Science BScHons Plant Science BScHons Wildlife Management
Prerequisites	BOT 161 or permission from the Head of Department.
Contact time	2 Block weeks, 2 practicals per week, 3 Block weeks
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Principles of identification, classification and nomenclature; identification of plants; family recognition; collection of plant specimens for identification; herbarium as a source of information. Variation in seed plants and breeding systems. Legal and ethical aspects of plant collection and permit requirements. Specimen preparation, including pressing, sterilisation, mounting, labelling and data capture. Introduction to herbarium databases. Herbarium curation and upkeep, including nomenclatural and taxonomic updates and classification systems, and aspects of pest control and health and safety. Practical work involves an excursion.

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