

Title: Systematics of *Afroaster*, *Conyza* and unplaced relatives in southern African Astereae (Asteraceae)

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University for registration: University of the Western Cape

Level: Doctoral

Additional information:

This project is composed of three subprojects and will deal with the most urgent phylogenetic and associated taxonomic gaps within the southern African members of the tribe Astereae.

1. Molecular analysis shows that all of the African species of *Conyza* (Astereae: subtribe Conyzinae) are misplaced and rather belong in the subtribe Grangeinae (Brouillet *et al.* 2009). Conyzinae are thus entirely New World and Eurasian. As a result the generic placement of the African species is unknown. Additional phylogenetic and morphological data is required to determine whether new genera are required to accommodate the African species or if they could be included elsewhere.

2. *Afroaster* has recently been described to accommodate the African species previously included in *Aster*. Detailed studies are required to clarify generic relationships and placement of some anomalous species.

3. Two southern African genera, *Heteromma* and *Engleria*, have not been included within any of the current generic level phylogenies for the tribe. Their subtribal position, generic relationships and circumscriptions will be determined.

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