

**Title:** Systematics, ethnobotany and chemotaxonomy of *Alepidea* (Apiaceae, Apioideae, Saniculeae)

**Description:** *Alepidea* is one of the last taxonomic priorities within southern African Apiaceae. The poor taxonomic state of the genus means that some of the species previously recorded to be used and or traded medicinally have been incorrectly identified and so attributed to the wrong species. These discrepancies in both the taxonomic and ethnobotanical literature have implications for the conservation status of the species. Several species within the genus are important medicinal plants and are traded in large numbers informally. As a result many of the species are now highly threatened in the wild. This study aims to revise the taxonomy of all the species (including those that extend into Tropical Africa) and explore the biogeography, chemotaxonomy and ethnobotany of this important medicinal genus.

**Field:** Taxonomy

**University for registration:** University of the Western Cape

**Supervisors:** Dr A.R. Magee (SANBI), Prof. J.S. Boatwright (UWC), Prof. B-E. Van Wyk (UJ)

**Level:** PhD