

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TEAM ON TERMITE ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION VISITS FABI



A team of eight researchers arrived in January for a six-week stay in FABI. The team was led by Profs Duur Aanen (Wageningen University; WU) and Michael Thomas-Poulsen from (University of Copenhagen; UC). Other team members included Dr Nick Bos of the University of Helsinki, PhD candidates Saria Otani of UC, Sabine Vreeburg of WU, René



Benndorf from the Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology, and UC MSc students Ben Colon and Jane de Verges. The research projects of the various team members focused on diverse aspects of the molecular ecology and evolution of the symbiosis between termites, fungi and bacteria. The purpose of the visit was to do field collections of these organisms. Dr Wilhelm de Beer of

FABI hosted the group. The friendship and collaboration between him, Profs Bernard Slippers and Mike Wingfield and the senior members of the international team dates back more than a decade. It has resulted in several publications, the most recent of which appeared last year in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It was a joy and privilege to host them once again.

