



Prof Bernard Slippers

## ASSAf announces prestigious award to Young Scientist

Prof Bernard Slippers received the first AU-TWAS Young Scientists' National Award in South Africa.

The AU-TWAS Prize for Young Scientists in South Africa is managed by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), on behalf of its partners, the African

Union Commission (AUC), the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and the Department of Science and Technology. This AU-TWAS award scheme aims to recognise and honour talented young scientists in Africa. Through this award, the AU and TWAS jointly recognise and acclaim an outstanding scientist in

South Africa. The criteria are that the recipient must be under the age of 40; he/she must live and work in South Africa, and have an outstanding record of research paper publication in internationally recognized science journals. The award pertains to the science fields of life and Earth Sciences and Basic Science, Technology and Innovation.

Prof Slippers is an Associate Professor in Genetics at the University of Pretoria (UP). He is a research leader of the Tree Protection Co-operative Programme and Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI). His research focuses on the molecular ecology and evolution of insects and micro-organisms that affect tree health, and the anthropogenic influences thereof.

Prof Slippers received a PhD from UP and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Swedish University of Agriculture in Uppsala. He regularly participates in international scientific meetings and has published widely in international peer-reviewed journals and other scholarly works. He has been involved in the supervision and co-supervision of numerous postgraduate students and participates in advising governmental and private organizations on tree protection issues in South Africa, Indonesia, Europe and the USA.

## UP academics elected to SAYAS

Several young researchers were elected as Founding Members of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS). Ms Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology officially launched SAYAS and inaugurated the founding members on 27 September 2011.

From the Faculty of Natural and

Agricultural Sciences, Prof Bernard Slippers from the Department of Genetics at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) and Prof Andrew McKechnie from the Department of Zoology and Entomology and a core team member of the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, were elected.

Other UP academics elected to the SAYAS team are Prof De Wet Swanepoel from the Department of Communication Pathology in Humanities, Prof Rangan Gupta from the Department of Economic and Management Sciences and Prof Matheiu Rouget from the Department of Plant Science in Natural and Agricultural Sciences.