

Visit of Prof Pedro Crous



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Prof Pedro Crous, Honorary Professor linked to the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB), and currently Director of the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS) in The Netherlands, has recently visited FABI.

The purpose of his visit was to work on certain aspects of a book, written in collaboration with Dr Seonju Marincowitz and Prof Mike Wingfield, on the diversity of saprophytic fungi on leaf litter of *Proteaceae* from the Fynbos biome. This book will greatly add to biodiversity studies on fungi in South Africa, and will also benefit international biodiversity studies considerably. It also adds greatly to the knowledge of the fungi occurring on the *Proteaceae*, as it follows on a recent book on diseases of the *Proteaceae* by Prof Crous and others.

During his visit, Prof Crous also had research discussions with several of the students he co-supervises in the TPCP/CTHB programme, as well as those with similar interests and aims. As Prof Crous is an ardent collector of leaf diseases and is internationally renowned for his work on leaf diseases of numerous hosts, he also collected diseased leaf material from several *Eucalyptus* spp. and native trees. During these short collecting trips, it once again became apparent how little is known about leaf diseases of native plants in South Africa, and how many undescribed diseases and fungi await discovery.