

Date: 2022-10-18

## Postdoctoral Position in the Grain Research Programme @FABI

**Problem identification:** We seek to hire a postdoctoral research fellow to conduct research on the diversity and taxonomy of *Alternaria* (*Pleosporales*) in South Africa, with a special focus on grain crops as a substrate. *Alternaria* is one of the most common foliar fungi and causes a devastating leaf blight in especially sunflower while it produces several unregulated mycotoxins on grains. Knowledge on what species occurs on local grain crops are critical for studying the impact these fungi have on grain production but is largely lacking due to its complex taxonomy that in turn makes species identifications incredibly difficult.

**Required Qualifications:** PhD in plant pathology, microbiology, genetics or closely related field; demonstrated analytical/statistical abilities related to systematics, taxonomy and writing skills; ability to work independently and as part of a team (see <https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/>); publication record; and be able and willing to do physical fieldwork. Preference will be given to candidates with previous research experience post a PhD.

**Responsibilities:** The postdoc will be responsible for: 1) contributing to the design of experiments and future proposals related to *Alternaria*; 2) supervising postgraduate students; 3) data generation, analyses and publication on the diversity and taxonomy of *Alternaria* and other *Pleosporales*; and 4) presenting results at professional, stakeholder and extension meetings.

**Compensation:** The compensation package for this position is very competitive and is dependent on experience.

**Duration:** 12 months, full-time initial appointment with the possibility of two years additional support, conditional on satisfactory performance (evaluated annually) and the availability of funds.

Review of applicants will commence on 21 November 2022 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

**Preferred start date:** February 2023.

**Application Process:** Email to Prof Cobus M Visagie ([cobus.visagie@fabi.up.ac.za](mailto:cobus.visagie@fabi.up.ac.za)) and Prof Bernard Slippers ([bernard.slippers@fabi.up.ac.za](mailto:bernard.slippers@fabi.up.ac.za)): 1) a cover letter that includes your research interests and qualifications and analytical and writing experience; 2) Curriculum Vitae; 3) 1–2 representative publications, and; 4) contact information for three referees

Yours sincerely,



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