

MY VISIT TO THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC): BIOSYSTEMATICS DIVISION

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Ms Sivuyisiwe Situngu and Prof. Eddie Ueckermann

During the month of September 2015 I had the opportunity to visit and learn from Professor Eddie Ueckermann from the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) Biosystematics Division in Pretoria. Prof. Ueckermann is the manager of the Arachnology Unit at the ARC. His research focus is on biosystematics of predatory and parasitic mites and his expertise has been very helpful in my study when it comes to identifying the mite species found inside domatia of various plant species in South Africa. My visit to the ARC facilities was an amazing opportunity and a great learning experience. I had lots of fun looking at the different morphological characters used to classify different species and learning acarine terms. The visit opened my eyes to the various research opportunities available in the field of acarology and it fueled my passion to further explore the intricate and astounding world of mites.