

LEIGH-ANN ROBYNNE DE WET

Date of birth: 01 September 1982

QUALIFICATIONS

2004 - BSc (Botany and Entomology)	Rhodes University
2005 – BSc (Hons) with Distinction (Botany)	Rhodes University
2007 – MSc (Botany)	Rhodes University

THESIS

Pollinator mediated selection in *Pelargonium reniforme* Curtis (Geraniaceae): patterns and processes.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March 2007 - March 2009: NERC Research Assistant, Rhodes University, Grahamstown

The position involved the set-up, maintenance and conducting of a large common or garden experiment determining the effects of global climate change and specifically drought, on grasses and grassland composition.

April 2009 – Current: Environmental Consultant/ Botanical Specialist, Coastal & Environmental Services, Grahamstown

- Conducting Botanical Field Surveys and writing botanical specialist reports.
- Conducting specialist faunal and floral studies, with specific reference to estuaries, riparian zones, wetlands, coastal forests, grasslands and savannas.
- Compilation\assisting with regard to the compilation of the following reports\studies; Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Basic Assessments, Scoping Reports, Environmental Management Plans, Baseline Surveys and Botanical Surveys.
- Also general assistance with regard to administration, co-ordination, project management and report production activities related to CES projects.

CES PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

- GS Cementos Project, Mozambique, vegetation specialist
- FQM Copper Project, Zambia, vegetation specialist
- Kalagadi Manganese Smelter EIA, vegetation and fauna specialist.
- Laguna Bay Prefeasibility Assessment – vegetation specialist
- Nooitgedagt Pipeline Vegetation Assessment – Vegetation specialist
- Coega/PPC Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist
- Cookhouse Windfarm BA – ecological specialist
- Cookhouse Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist
- Grahamstown Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist
- Middleton Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist
- Nanagha Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist

- Haverfontein Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist
- Poortjie Wes Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist
- Beaufort West Windfarm EIA – ecological specialist
- G7 Renewable Energy Prefeasibility Assessment – ecological specialist
- Tsitsa River Basin Land Use and Environmental Management Plan – developing land use options and management plans based on available data and public consultation.
- Round Table for Sustainable Biofuels Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement and EIA – developing international guidelines for the RSB.

NOTABLE ACHEIVEMENTS

- SRC representative on the Rhodes University Environmental Committee (2006)
- Group Leader of the youth branch of the Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots (2005 – 2006)
- Head demonstrator (2005 – 2006) at the Botany Department, Rhodes University: Facilitation and training of undergraduates in Botany.
- Best young botanist second prize for a presentation entitled: "Population biology and effects of harvesting on *Pelargonium reniforme* (Geraniaceae) in Grahamstown and surrounding areas" at the SAAB conference (2005)
- The Putterill Prize for conservation in the Eastern Cape

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

South African Association of Botanists (SAAB) conference, Bloemfontein. 10-14 January 2005

- Population biology and effects of harvesting on *Pelargonium reniforme* (Geraniaceae) in Grahamstown and surrounding areas, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Thicket Forum, Grahamstown, May 2005

- Harvesting of *Pelargonium reniforme* in Grahamstown; what are the implications for populations of the plant?

South African Association of Botanists (SAAB) conference, Port Elizabeth 16-19 January 2006

- Pollinator-mediated selection in *Pelargonium reniforme* as described by Inter Simple Sequence Repeat markers.

Southern African Society for Systematic Biology (SASSB) conference, Kruger National Park 14 - 17 July

- Pollinator-mediated selection of *Pelargonium reniforme* and two floral morphs described by inter simple sequence repeat markers.

Population biology of *Pelargonium reniforme*. Annual general meeting. Botanical Society of South Africa, Albany branch. 17th July 2004

Harvesting of *Pelargonium reniforme* in Grahamstown; what are the implications for populations of the plant? Annual general meeting Botanical society of South Africa, Albany branch. 30th July 2005

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

L. de Wet. (2005). Is *Pelargonium reniforme* in danger? The effects of harvesting on *Pelargonium reniforme*. Veld & Flora. December. 182-184.

L. de Wet, NP Barker and CI Peter (2006). Beetles and Bobartia: an interesting herbivore-plant relationship. Veld & Flora. September. 150-151.

de Wet LR and Botha CEJ. Resistance or tolerance: An examination of aphid (*Sitobion yakini*) phloem feeding on Betta and Betta-Dn wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) (2007). South African Journal of Botany 73(1): 35-39.

Ripley BS, de Wet L and Hill MP (2008). Herbivory-induced reduction in photosynthetic productivity of water hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes* (Martius) Solms-Laubach (Pontederiaceae), is not directly related to reduction in photosynthetic leaf area. African Entomology 16(1): 140-142.

de Wet LR, Barker NP and Peter CI (2008). The long and the short of gene flow and reproductive isolation: Inter-Simple Sequence Repeat (ISSR) markers support the recognition of two floral forms in *Pelargonium reniforme* (Geraniaceae). Biochemical Systematics and Ecology 36: 684-690.