



**7-10 January 2020, University of the Free State, Qwaqwa campus**

## **Abstracts**

### **General**

Abstract submission is currently open and extended 31 October 2019. Early submissions are highly recommended. Abstracts that do not adhere to the set specifications will be returned to the authors for corrections. Final acceptance for either a paper or a poster presentation will be communicated with the authors before or on 15 November 2019. Authors whose oral presentations cannot be accommodated will have the opportunity to present their work as a poster.

### **Oral sessions and Poster categories**

All facets of Botanical Research are covered by the conference theme. Oral sessions will be scheduled based on interest and abstracts received. The following categories are proposed:

- Conservation biology
- Plant ecology
- Ethnobotany / Phytochemistry
- Invasive alien plant biology (please specify if part of the Alien Grass Working Group symposium)
- Plant biotechnology
- Plant anatomy
- Plant physiology / biochemistry
- Plant systematics
- Plant taxonomy
- Pollination biology/Plant-animal interactions
- Montane plant ecology
- Other suggested topics

## Prizes

The following prizes will be presented:

- **Best Poster prize** – no age limit
- **Best Young Botanist** – best oral paper delivered by a young scientist under the age of 30 years. Give your ID number in brackets on your completed abstract.
- **Best oral paper by a PhD student** – current PhD student
- **Best oral paper by an MSc student** – current MSc, Honours or Junior student

Should you like to be considered for any of these prizes, please indicate your eligibility at the top of your abstract as indicated below.

## Oral and Poster presentations

- Each oral presentation will be 15 minutes long with an additional 5 min allocated for questions.
- Each poster will be presented as follows:
  - o A 3 min oral presentation using a maximum of three PowerPoint slides (including title slide) followed by a 2 minute discussion.
  - o Poster sessions during which the author must attend to his poster to answer questions.
  - o Maximum size for posters is A0 (841 x 1189 mm); Portrait orientation

## Abstract book

- Accepted abstracts will be compiled and printed/made available online in an abstract book along with the conference program. However, accepted abstracts of papers and/or posters **NOT** presented at the conference will **NOT** be made available in the final online book.
- Abstracts must be formatted according to the guidelines and example given below.
- It remains the responsibility of the authors to ensure that the abstract is correctly formatted.
- Conference organizers reserve the right to request changes or corrections to abstracts where necessary. Acceptance will be withheld until the quality of the abstract is acceptable for publication in the abstract book.

## **Abstract submissions**

Please e-mail your abstracts individually as an attachment to:

[SAABabstracts@gmail.com](mailto:SAABabstracts@gmail.com)

Include in the email subject line:

- SAAB2020 abstract & presenting author's surname and initials
- Eg. "SAAB2020 abstract Potter H"

We will send you confirmation of abstract receipt within 2 days.

## **Abstract guidelines**

Please format your abstract according to the following guidelines:

- Submit your abstract as a Word (.doc or .docx) file.
- Font type for the whole abstract is Arial, 12 pt.
- Use single spacing.
- Do not use special spacing or tabs.
- Maximum length of abstract excluding title, authors and affiliations is 250 words.
- Abstract must only contain text and not references, pictures or graphs.
- Justify the whole abstract.
- First line
  - o Presenting author's full name(s), surname and e-mail address.
- Second line
  - o Indicate whether it is an oral or poster presentation.
- Third line
  - o Indicate in which category/session your presentation will fit best.
- Fourth line
  - o Indicate for which prize categories you are eligible. Remember, to be in consideration for the Best Young Botanist reward, you must give your ID number in brackets. For students, please also indicate your current level of study (Hons, MSc, PhD).
- Fifth line.
  - o Leave open.
- Sixth line.
  - o Give a concise and informative title for your presentation.
  - o Use:
    - Lower case
    - Text in **Bold**.

- Seventh line.
  - Leave open.
- Eighth line.
  - List the authors.
  - Use:
    - Lower case.
    - Initials before the surname.
    - Full stop after initial(s).
    - No spaces between initials.
    - Commas between authors.
    - No “and” between the last two authors.
    - Underline the presenting author’s name.
- Ninth line.
  - List the author’s full postal addresses.
  - Use:
    - Lower case.
    - Multiple addresses on separate lines.
  - Where more than one institution is represented, use:
    - Superscript numbers after each author’s name.
    - Link the author with the particular institution with the same superscript number before the address.
- Tenth line.
  - Leave open.
- Eleventh line.
  - Give the abstract.
  - Use:
    - A single paragraph for the whole abstract.
    - A line indent of 1 cm for the first line.

**Find example below:**

## **Abstract example**

Lehlohonolo Adams, E-mail: email@gmail.com

Oral

Category: Invasive alien plant biology

SAAB student award: Best Young Botanist (ID 9501234567890), MSc student

### **Reproductive ecology of the invasive firethorn species, *Pyracantha angustifolia* (Rosaceae) in the eastern Free State Province**

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The introduction of Invasive Alien Plant (IAPs) species can have strong adverse effects on the native ecosystem. These species, free of natural predators, often reproduce and spread quickly, displacing native fauna/flora. *Pyracantha angustifolia* (Franch.) Schneid is a declared category 1b IAP in South Africa. This transformer IAP, native to China, is a 2–4m high evergreen shrub with spiny branches. Currently it is the most notorious *Pyracantha* IAP in South Africa (Rosaceae), invading rocky ridges, erosion channels, cliff lines and montane grasslands. We aimed to investigate the invasive potential of the species by determining fruit production, soil seed banks and seed dispersal strategies. The number of fruits produced was determined for 120 trees across three habitats. Trees produced a mean  $\pm$  SE of  $12\,539 \pm 1405$  fruits/m<sup>3</sup> in rocky outcrops,  $26\,363 \pm 1862$  fruits/m<sup>3</sup> in open grassland and  $12\,049 \pm 1088$  fruits/m<sup>3</sup> in riverine areas. Each fruit produces 3–6 seeds (mean of 5 seeds). Soil cores from under and at the canopy edge contained large numbers of intact or partially eaten fruits, whereas very few or no fruits/seeds were found at distances from the trees (1, 2, 4, and 8m from the canopy). Camera traps and direct observation revealed that the main seed dispersers are frugivorous birds (9 species) and fallen fruits are consumed mostly by rodents. We conclude that the spread of *P. angustifolia* is facilitated by high rates of fruit production and dispersal but hindered by low persistence of propagules in the seed bank.