

## **Fungal Root Endophytes of Selected Erica species**

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Erica species are the second most dominant Fynbos plant group that associate with a specific group of fungi which form an ericoid mycorrhizal relationship with the plant roots. Little is known about the biodiversity of mycorrhizal fungi in general in South Africa and Ericoid mycorrhizas are no exception. This is a current project whose main objective it to investigate the biodiversity of root fungal endophytes of several Erica species which occur in the Albany Center of endemism. This proposal will focus on determination of the fungal root endophyte biodiversity and the activity of selected fungal isolates which have been collected to date.