

## **Unveiling endophytic bacterial communities in the fynbos biome**

**Dr A. Valverde, University of Pretoria**  
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Several studies have shown that plants actively recruit beneficial soil microorganisms. However, those studies have focused on agricultural ecosystems and on symbiotic rhizobia and mycorrhizal fungi, yet there is evidence that other groups of soil microorganisms can affect plant growth and health. The aim of this study is to begin deciphering the endophytic communities associated with fynbos plants, with a focus on bacteria and their activity. This might have implications in a context of global change, since it has been shown that plant adaptation to certain stressors (e.g. drought) is facilitated by genetic changes in populations of closely associated microbial communities.