

## **Psoralea pinnata complex**

**Dr A. M. Muasya, University of Cape Town**  
**IBSG13050718086**

The lack of unambiguous species delimitations and nomenclature is a major impediment for users of biodiversity information. This is more pronounced in plant lineages that have experienced recent and rapid diversification, where there is a tendency to lump a large number of species under a general name. The predominantly Southern African genus *Psoralea* is a young lineage (c. 2 million years old, 75 species) that has rapidly diversified within the Fynbos biome and related habitats. All *Psoralea* species bearing 5–9 foliolate leaves tend to be lumped within *Psoralea pinnata* complex, but this complex is thought to contain at least 25 species among which only 7 are formally named. We propose to revise the taxonomy (species limits, nomenclature) in this complex leading to scientific papers and species descriptions for popular audience (including the encyclopaedia of life). We plan to sequence a number of DNA markers, including several DNA barcodes, for reconstruction of evolutionary patterns and to contribute these taxa to existing DNA barcode libraries. This project will develop taxonomic expertise (PhD student, citizen scientists), and contribute towards the Red list of South Africa Plants by providing names and descriptions for taxa that are currently listed (as 'sp. nov.').