



MSc studentship in Genetics

Title

Integrated identification of grapevine mites and their association with plant symptoms

Project outline

Grapevine mites are known to affect the health and productivity of vineyards. *Columerus vitis* hypothetically includes three strains with worldwide distribution (bud mite, erinose mite and leaf blister mite) identified based on grapevine symptoms. However, morphological identification is difficult, morose, and often inconclusive. The aim of this project is to investigate the diversity of grapevine mites in South Africa using genetic analysis complemented by electron microscopy. This research will be conducted in the Molecular Breeding and Biodiversity (MBB) Lab at the Genetics Department, Stellenbosch University. The project has industry support, and offers a studentship for the successful applicant.

Candidate profile

Hons in Genetics or other relevant/related field

Strong interest in transdisciplinary research

Availability to start immediately

Preferential skills

DNA extraction, PCR and sequencing, biostatistical and phylogenetic methods.

Enrolment for the MSc degree

Second semester

Studentship

R70,000 per year

Enquiries

Copies of degree certificates, academic transcripts, as well as the names and contact details of at least two referees should be sent to Dr Barbara van Asch (bva@sun.ac.za).