



Plant-pollinator interactions in the South African flora

Thursday 8 May 1 – 2pm

Speaker

Dr. Michael Whitehead

EEG, RSB, ANU & University of
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Location

Gould Seminar Room

(Rm 235) Gould Building (Bldg. 116),
Linnaeus Way, ANU

Contact

E luke.holman@anu.edu.au

T +61 2 612 55082

This lecture is free and open to the public

RSB event information:

biology.anu.edu.au/News/Events.php



As sessile organisms, most plants rely on pollinators to carry out their sexual reproduction. Outsourcing mate choice to more mobile creatures forces plants to evolve flowers and flowering strategies that maximise fitness under the selective regime imposed by pollinators. Pollinators in turn rely on plants for food and other resources. A pollinator's cognition and perception should therefore be honed through a combination of learning and evolution to best exploit the resources provided by flowers. The spectacular floral diversity of South Africa makes it one of the ideal places to study this coevolutionary relationship. I recently returned after a year with a pollination lab at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa exploring these themes in the sensory and evolutionary ecology of pollination. In this talk I will present a combination of results from a sensory ecology project on one of Africa's most charming invertebrates, a collection of natural history tidbits and a slideshow showcasing the natural beauty of a land famous for its diversity.

Presented by

The Research School
of Biology

ANU College of
[Medicine, Biology
& Environment](#)