

Table S2: Data collected from Taxonomists through questionnaires

Gender	Age	Highest qualification	Current status	Professional status	Affiliation	Taxonomic specialisation	Biome type	Years of experience	Species described	Unknown species	Papers Published	Collaborators	Income	Funding
Female	50-59	PhD (Prof)	Active	Academic taxonomist (SA)	University	Legumes, Boraginaecea, caprypholiaceae	Savannah, grasslands	20	rev 6 genera + 30 species	~2000	61	3	40 000-5000 and 80 000-90000	200 000 a year (past 10 years)
Male	50-59	PhD (Prof)	Active	Academic taxonomist (SA)	University	Grasses, daisies, legumes	Grasslands, Fynbos	25	n/a	~200	177	two to three	n/a	4 million +
Male	60+	PhD (Prof)	Active	Academic taxonomist (SA)	University	Fabaceae, Apiaceae		35	85 new apecies	~ 1000	449	none (except students)	5000-10 000 dollars	1,2 million
Male	40-49	PhD	Active	Academic taxonomist	University	Oxalidaceae	Forest, Fynbos, Succulent karoo	15	13	~ 1000	40	three to four	40 000-50000	R200 000
Male	50-59	PhD (Prof)	Active	Academic taxonomist	University	Cyperaceae, Dioscoreaceae, legumes, Rupiaceae	Fynbos	25	90 species + 3 genera	Explains in text	73	2-3	10 000-20 000 dollars	~ 2 million
Male	50-59	PhD (Ass. Prof.)	Active	Full-time taxonomist (SA)	Research Institution, University	ASPHODELACEAE, ASTERACEAE , Caryophyllaceae, Colchicaceae, Ranunculaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Thymelaeceae	Fynbos, Succulent karroo	30	100	relatively a few	300	3	20 000-30000	Cant estimate
Male	50-59	Diploma	Active	Academic taxonomist	Public Institution	Ledebouriinae	All biomes except fynbos, forest	12	5	cant say	8	5	40 000 - 50 000	nil
Male	50-59	PhD	Active	Academic taxonomist (In SA but a Non SA)	University	Orchidaceae	All biomes	14	10	~2000	25	5	20 000 - 30 000	1 million

Male	20-29	Masters	Active	Full-time taxonomist (SA)	Research Institution	Astaraceae, Malvaraceae, Rhamnaceae, Polygalaceae	Fynbos, Nama Karro, Succulent Karoo	7	8	~ 1 million	8	4	20 000-30 000	~ 350 000
Male	40-49	PhD (Prof)	Active	Academic taxonomist	University	Nyctaginaceae, Araceae, Prototulbaghia, Araceae	Savannah, grasslands	19	8	~ 2000	20	5	20 000-30 000	5 million
Male	50-59	PhD (Prof)	Active	Academic taxonomist (SA)	University	Colophospermum mopane, Stemonuraceae, Icacinaceae; Pennantiaceae	Savannah	25	6	~3000	21	3	5 000- 10 000	none
Female	30-39	PhD	Active	Academic taxonomist	University	Nyctaginaceae, Aizoaceae, Molluginaceae		8	1	Many	9	1	20 000-30 000	60 000
Female	30-39	PhD	Active	Full-time taxonomist (SA)	Research Institution, University	Fabaceae, Geraniaceae, Santalaceae	Grasslands	13	13	~2000	23	3	20 000 - 30 000	400 000
Female	40-49	PhD	Active	Full-time taxonomist	Research Institution, University	Aloes, ferns and lycophytes	All	11	4	a few 100	67	4	30 000 - 40 000	600 000
Female	30-39	Masters	Active	Student, full-time taxonomist (SA)	Research Institution, University	Santalaceae, Iridaceae, Orchidaceae	All except (forest, Desert)	2	2	Not sure	2	4	10 000 - 20 000	450 000
Male	50-59	Masters	Active	Academic taxonomist (SA)	University	Hyacinthaceae	Albany thicket	25	12	Don't know	20	2	10 000 - 20 000	nil
Male	50-59	PhD (Ass. Prof.)	Active	Academic taxonomist (SA)	University	Campanulaceae	Fynbos, Grassland, Nama karoo, Succulent karoo	20	7	100	24	1	20 000 - 30 000	50 000

Female	60+	PhD (Ass. Prof.)	Active	Academic taxonomist	University	Asteraceae, Lamiaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Hyacinthaceae, Hypoxidaceae, Campanulaceae	Grassland	30	10 + some new genera	no idea	23	2 or 3	20 000 - 30 000	2 million
Female	40-49	PhD (Ass. Prof.)	Active	Academic taxonomist (SA)	University	Thymelaeacea, Fabacaeae, Phaseoleae	Savannah, Fynbos	23	15	~ 2000	32	8	50 000 - 60 000	120 000 (per year 8 years)

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