



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Makhanda 6139 South Africa

MSc opportunity in river/estuarine ecology

Project: Invertebrate diversity in the East and West Kleinemonde estuaries

Researchers: Prof. Nicole Richoux, Dr Candice Owen, MSc candidate

Project description: The East and West Kleinemonde Rivers together provide a unique opportunity to investigate diversity in small temporarily-closed estuarine systems that are adjacent to one another (only 400 m apart). Previously, researchers have studied the invertebrate (e.g. Bernard & Froneman 2005; Wooldridge & Bezuidenhout 2016), fish (e.g. Reddy et al. 2011), and whole communities (e.g. Whitfield et al. 2008) in one or both of these systems, often in relation to mouth dynamics. However, considering that these systems are increasingly dominated by closed mouth conditions, we expect that the invertebrate communities have changed over the past several decades since these studies were completed. This MSc opportunity will investigate the current invertebrate diversity in the two estuaries and compare their survey results to those previously published. The successful MSc candidate should have a solid background in coastal, river or estuarine ecology. The research will involve both field collections and laboratory analyses. Only those students eligible to be registered for an MSc at Rhodes University, Makhanda, Eastern Cape, will be considered. The candidate is expected to write a project proposal and apply to the NRF and Rhodes University for an MSc bursary. The study will commence in early 2023.

Enquiries: Interested applicants should submit their brief statements of interest and CVs (including contact names and email addresses of two academic references) to Dr Candice Owen at c.owen@ru.ac.za or Prof. Nicole Richoux at n.richoux@ru.ac.za.

References:

- Bernard & Froneman (2005) ECSS 63:73-81
- Reddy et al. (2011) Afr Zool, 46:2, 239-245
- Whitfield et al. (2008) Afr J Mar Sci, 30:3, 453-473
- Wooldridge & Bezuidenhout (2016) Afr J Aqu Sci, 41:1, 19-28

Closing date: 24 May 2022