



McGregor Museum Kimberley

Botany Department: Collections

The KMG Herbarium consists of the main collection, a map collection and a small wood samples collection.

The main collection, which includes a number of valuable type specimens, comprises mainly of specimens collected in the Northern Cape, and mostly in the area north of the Orange River. This area includes Griqualand West and the Kalahari. Many of these specimens were collected along the Vaal and Orange rivers and in areas around Kimberley that are now developed, and are therefore irreplaceable. The collection now stands at more than 35 000 plants.

Special collections include specimens collected by J.P.H. Acocks, Maria Wilman for her Preliminary Checklist of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Griqualand West, A.A. Gubb for a vegetation map of the Northern Cape, and rare and threatened plants of the Northern Cape collected during research on their conservation status. Collecting trips to expand the collection are now aimed at areas that are under-represented or where plants have not been previously collected.

The area covered by the herbarium is the arid western part of South Africa: the Northern Cape. This area falls within six vegetation biomes, containing roughly 5400 species of which more than 30% are endemic (occur nowhere else in the world). Roughly 1000 species are listed in the Red Data List of Southern African Plants, which means that they are rare, vulnerable or threatened with extinction. Currently our collection only represents an estimated 30% of the flora of the Northern Cape. Through field trips we aim to expand the collection so that it is representative of this whole area.

The map collection is a reference collection used for fieldwork and to map certain plant localities and distributions. It consists of an almost complete collection of 1:250 000 and 1:50 000 maps of the Northern Cape, as well as several geological maps and aerial photographs.

The wood samples collection comprises about 300 named samples of wood squares donated to the KMG herbarium.