

Curriculum Vitae

Ché Weldon

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Education

- 2005 Ph.D., North-West University
Title of dissertation: Chytridiomycosis, an emerging infectious disease of amphibians in South Africa; Promoter: Dr. Louis H. du Preez; Co-promoter: Dr. Rick Speare
- 1999 M.Sc., University of the Free State
Master of Science, focusing on amphibian husbandry
- 1997 B.Sc. Honours, University of the Free State
Zoology, focussing on amphibian-parasite interactions
- 1996 B.Sc., University of the Free State
Bachelor of Science, with majors in Zoology and Microbiology

Professional Experience

- Since 2007 Senior Lecturer in Zoology, North-West University
- 2006 Post-doctoral Fellowship, North-West University
- 2001-2005 Research Assistant, North-West University
- 2000 Fieldwork Assistant, Avian Demography Unit, Southern African Frog Atlas Project
- 1997-1999 Teaching Assistant, University of the Free State, Department of Zoology and Entomology

Grants, Fellowships and Research Funds (past 5 years)

- 2008 WWF Developing a conservation management plan for threatened frogs of South Africa. [co-principle investigator, R130 000 over 3 years]
- 2007 The Royal Society/NRF. UK-South Africa Science Networks. Assessing the ability of species introduction and extinction risk to *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. [co-principle investigator; £ 6,000]
- 2006 Research grant (co-investigator) awarded by the Volkswagen-Stiftung for a Cooperative Research Project in Sub-Saharan Africa for studying the conservation and sustainable use of Madagascar amphibians [€150,000 over 3 years]

- 2006 South Africa-Nigeria Collaboration research grant (co-principle investigator) awarded by the Dept. Science and Technology, Government of South Africa for assessing the threat of the amphibian chytrid fungus to amphibians of Nigeria [R100,000 over 2 years]
- 2005 Research grant (co-principle investigator) from Conservation International to study the distribution of the amphibian chytrid fungus in Madagascar [€1,000]
- 2004 Research grant (co-investigator) from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for investigating amphibian chytrid fungus among frogs of the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania [\$20,000]

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (past 5 years)

- Weldon C., Du Preez L.H. and Vences M. 2008. Non-finding of the amphibian chytrid fungus in Madagascar. *Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali* (in press).
- Andreone F., Carpenter A.I., Cox N., Du Preez L., Freeman K., Furrer S., Garcia G., Glaw F., Glos J., Knox D., Köhler J., Mendelson III J., Mercurio V., Mittermeier R.A., Moore R.D., Rabibisoa N.H.C., Randriamahazo H., Randrianasolo H., Raminosoa N.R., Ramilijaona O.R., Raxworthy C.J., Vallan D., Vences M., Vieites D.R., Weldon C. The challenge of conserving amphibian megadiversity in Madagascar. *PLoS Biology* May 2008 Vol 6(5) e118.
- Smith K.G. and Weldon C. 2007. Comment on Knapp and Morgan (2006). A conceptual framework for detecting oral chytridiomycosis in tadpoles. *Copeia* (4): 1024-1028.
- Smith K.G., Weldon C., Conradie, W. and Du Preez L.H. 2007. Relationships between size, development, and *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* Infection in South African tadpoles. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms* 74: 159-164.
- Weldon C., De Villiers A.L. and Du Preez L.H. 2007. Quantification of the African clawed frog trade from South Africa, with implications for biodiversity conservation. *African Journal of Herpetology* 56: 77-83.
- Weldon C. and Du Preez L.H. 2006. Quantitative measurement of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* in amphibian skin. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms* 72(2): 153-161.
- Mendelson III J.R., Lips K.R., Gagliardo R.W., Rabb G.B., Collins J.P., Diffendorfer J.E., Daszak P., Ibáñez R.D., Zippel K.C., Lawson D.P., Wright K.M., Stuart S.N., Gascon C., Da Silva H., Burrowes P.A., Joglar R.L., La Marca E., Lötters S., Du Preez L.H. Weldon C. et al. 2006. Mitigating global amphibian extinctions: A call for fundamental changes in policy and actions. *Science* 313: 48.
- Du Preez L.H., Solomon K.R., Carr J.A., Giesy J.P., Gross T.S., Kendall R.J., Smith E.E., Van der Kraak G and Weldon C. 2005. Population structure characterization of the clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*) in corn-growing versus non-corn-growing areas in South Africa. *African Journal of Herpetology* 54(1): 61-68.
- Weldon C., Du Preez L.H., Hyatt A.D., Muller R. and Speare R. 2004. Evidence for the origin of the amphibian chytrid fungus. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 10 (12): 2100-2105.

Books

Conradie W., Du Preez L.H., Smith K.G. and Weldon C. 2006. Field guide to the frogs and toads of the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site. North-West University, Potchefstroom.

Book Chapters

Weldon C. and Du Preez L.H. 2004. Amphibian population declines and infectious disease. In: Minter L. R., Burger M., Harrison J. A., Braack H. H., Bishop P. J., and Kloepfer D. (Eds). Atlas and Red Data Book of the Frogs of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. SI/MAB Series #9. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, pp. 11-12.

Weldon C. and Du Preez L.H. 2004. *Kassina senegalensis* (Dumeril and Bibron, 1841) In: Minter, L. R., Burger M., Harrison J. A., Braack H. H., Bishop P. J., and Kloepfer D. (Eds). Atlas and Red Data Book of the Frogs of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. SI/MAB Series #9. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, pp.154-156.

Du Preez L.H., Weldon C., Cunningham M. and Turner A. 2004. *Bufo gutturalis* Power, 1927. In: Minter, L. R., Burger M., Harrison J. A., Braack H. H., Bishop P. J., and Kloepfer D. (Eds). Atlas and Red Data Book of the Frogs of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. SI/MAB Series #9. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, pp. 67-69.

Presentations at Professional Meetings (past 5 years)

2008

- African Amphibian Working Group Symposium, Arusha, Tanzania (3 contributions)

2007

- Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Conference. Phoenix AZ, USA
- Integrated Research Challenges in Environmental Biology meeting (IRCEB). Phoenix, AZ
- Zoological Society of South Africa Symposium. Potchefstroom, SA (3 contributions)

2006

- A Conservation Strategy for the Amphibians of Madagascar – Workshop. Antananarivo, Madagascar.
- Integrated Research Challenges in Environmental Biology meeting (IRCEB). Phoenix, AZ (3 contributions)
- Herpetological Association of Africa Symposium, Potchefstroom, SA (4 contributions)

2005

- Integrated Research Challenges in Environmental Biology meeting (IRCEB). Phoenix, AZ
- Microscopy Society of Southern Africa, Pietermaritzburg, SA
- World Congress of Herpetology, Stellenbosch, SA (2 contributions)
- Parasitological Society of Southern Africa Congress, Magoebaskloof, SA

2004

- Integrated Research Challenges in Environmental Biology meeting (IRCEB) Phoenix, AZ
- Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Afdeling Biologiese Wetenskappe Kongres, Potchefstroom, SA
- Herpetological Association of Africa Symposium, Port Elizabeth, SA

Membership of Academic Societies

- Herpetological Association of Africa (HAA)
- Zoological Society of Southern Africa (ZSSA)
- African Anuran Working Group (AAWG)
- Parasitological Society of Southern Africa (PARSA)

Professional References

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