

South Africa's fynbos region has intrigued biologists for centuries. It has achieved iconic status as a locus of megadiversity and therefore a place to study the ecological underpinnings of massive evolutionary radiations. Researchers have made great advances over the past two decades in unravelling the complexities of fynbos ecology and evolution, and the region has contributed significant insights into the adaptive radiations of large lineages, conservation science, pollination biology, invasive plant biology, and palaeoanthropology. Lessons from the fynbos offer much of value for understanding the origin, maintenance, and conservation of diversity anywhere in the world.

This book provides the first synthesis of the field for 20 years, bringing together the latest ecological and evolutionary research on the South African global biodiversity hotspots of the Greater Cape Floristic Region—the iconic fynbos and succulent karoo. It explores the historical and modern physical and biological environment of this region, the circumstances and processes which have fostered its remarkable biodiversity, and the role this diversity has played in the emergence of modern humans. It also discusses the challenges of contemporary management and conservation of the region's biodiversity in the face of accelerating global change.

'For new initiates to the Greater Cape Floristic Region (GCFR), this book will be the primary go-to reference; for those more familiar with the region and its biota, much of the material will be familiar, but there are many surprising new nuggets of information. ... This new book commends itself not only to researchers interested in the GCFR or mediterranean-climate ecosystems specifically, but to those interested in the diversity of life on our planet more generally.'

Ecology

Cover image: Fynbos with *Leucadendron laurifolium* flowering and a burnt skeleton of *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* subsp. *viridum*, on the southern Cape Peninsula, South Africa. Courtesy of Dee Snijman from the Colin Paterson-Jones collection.

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