Prof. Charles Griffiths

Abbreviated CV (July 2008)

Charles Griffiths was born in Kenya and educated at Blundell's Public School in Devon, UK, before proceeding to Southampton University (UK), where he was awarded a BSc (Hons), followed by a PhD from the University of Cape Town. He has been a member of the University of Cape Town staff since 1970 (age 22), rising through the ranks to full professor in 2007. He has been married to Dr Roberta Griffiths since 1974 and they have two adult children, Melinda (b 1980) and Matthew (b 1986)

His main current research interests are the documentation of marine biodiversity and the impacts of marine invasive alien species. He is author of papers describing over 100 species new to science and of four guide books on South African fauna, including the two best-selling field guides: 'Two Oceans - a Guide to the Marine Life of South Africa' (now in its 6th printing) and 'Field Guide to the Insects of South Africa' (now in its 5rd printing). He has published nine other book chapters, 126 research articles and 40 semipopular scientific articles. He is author of 120 conference presentations and has convened four conferences. Thirty-three MSc and 15 PhD students have graduated under has supervision, with a further five MSc and six PhD students currently under supervision. He is a recipient of the UCT book award 1994, is a Life Fellow of the University of Cape Town, a Team Member of the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Invasion Biology and winner of the Gold Medal of the Zoological Society of South Africa for 2006. He is also editor of the journal African Zoology and a member of the editorial boards of the journals Marine Biology, Koedoe, Smithiana and African Natural History. In his spare time he is a serious natural history photographer and some 2000 of his images have been published in a wide variety of textbooks, magazines, advertisements and calendars.