

NRF-SAIAB Seminar Series 2025

Thursday 14 August 2025, 10:30am (SAST)

Venue: Lecture Room, NRF-SAIAB, Somerset Street, Makhanda

Zoom Registration link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/ayB5S54cTtai22lQicctvg>

Passcode: 200496

Dr Tadiwa Mutizwa

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, NRF-SAIAB

Hidden in the Riffles: The Amazing Diversity of Suckermouth Catfishes (Mochokidae, Chiloglanis) in the Zambezi River, Southern Africa



Suckermouth catfishes of the genus *Chiloglanis* Peters 1868 are small riffle-dwelling fishes endemic to Africa. This genus is very diverse with over 69 species distributed across most river systems in Africa. Despite the high species richness in *Chiloglanis*, currently, only ten valid species occur in southern Africa, all of which have relatively narrow geographic distribution ranges. The present study investigates hidden species diversity within *Chiloglanis*. This talk presents preliminary results from ongoing work that supports the description of at least eight new *Chiloglanis* species from the Zambezi River system. These results add to the growing evidence of high levels of undocumented diversity within previously neglected small riffle-dwelling taxa in southern Africa. Additionally, the talk highlights the urgent need for conservation of habitats such as montane streams that not only play a pivotal role in providing water resources but also harbour high levels of endemic biodiversity.