

### LEARNED NEWS

**A Plant biodiversity and systematics course at MSc level will be given at the Rijks-herbarium / Hortus Botanicus, Leiden, The Netherlands.**

<b>Objectives:</b>	Students acquire basic knowledge of the theory, methodology, and practice of plant systematics, and learn to conduct independent research on biodiversity.
<b>Subjects:</b>	Biodiversity and pattern analysis; phylogenetic systematics; tropical higher plants, economic botany; fungi; algae; palynology; research project on taxonomy of a plant group.
<b>Modes of instruction:</b>	Lectures, assignments, thesis research.
<b>Student examinations:</b>	Periodical exams, thesis.
<b>Leading up to:</b>	Master of Science degree.
<b>Duration:</b>	18 months.
<b>Next course begins:</b>	September each year from 1998 on.
<b>Deadline for application:</b>	May each year.
<b>Educational requirements:</b>	BSc in biology, botany, forestry.
<b>Fees:</b>	NLG 30,000.
<b>Accommodation:</b>	At additional cost.
<b>Possible scholarships:</b>	University Fellowship Programme covering all costs.

For more information and application form contact Dr. M. C. Roos, phone +31 (0)71 527 3524, fax +31 (0)71 527 3511 (e-mail: roos@rulrhb.leidenuniv.nl).

From next year on this MSc course will be part of an overall MSc programme at Leiden University entitled 'Plant diversity and natural products'. This programme is a joint initiative of Dr. R. Verpoorte (Pharmacognosy) and L. The following four specializations can be chosen:

- Natural products and biodiversity
- Biodiversity and systematics
- Pharmacognosy
- Plant cell biotechnology

Some examples of the courses offered:

- Biodiversity and pattern analysis
- Tropical plant families of Southeast Asia
- Molecular techniques
- Taxonomic data processing
- Biodiversity assessments
- Enzymology
- Pharmacognosy
- Drug development
- Bioprospecting
- Preparative chromatography
- Biosynthesis
- Structure elucidation of natural products
- Plant cell biotechnology
- Biotechnology: from genetics to full products
- The development of new medicines in the pharmaceutical industry: from idea to registration dossier