



## Twelfth International Symposium on Pollination (ISPXII)



16 - 20 October 2023

Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens, Cape Town, South Africa

### **CLOSE-FOCUSING CAMERA TRAPS: A VALUABLE NEW TOOL FOR POLLINATION STUDIES**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Camera traps allow for remote recordings of animal behaviour in places and at times that are not suitable for direct human observations. I discuss applications of close-focusing camera traps in pollination studies, with special reference to issues of cost, sensitivity, reliability, battery life and resolution of cameras. The most sensitive camera traps use video motion detection (VMD), but addition of close-focusing lenses to cameras with passive-infrared (PIR) detection can bring sensors close enough to the subject to allow cameras to be triggered by some insect pollinators. Close-focussing enables recordings of sufficient resolution to allow identification of some insects to species level. Camera traps with capability for night-time video recordings using infra-red illumination have provided important recent breakthroughs in our understanding of the behaviour of nocturnal pollinators such as bats, rodents and moths. Close-focusing camera traps therefore have tremendous potential to improve our understanding of plant-pollinator interactions which are not easy to study using traditional methods.