Issue 116
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ROSTRUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Cover image: Karoo Burrowing Scorpion *(Opistophthalmus karrooensis)* from the Meerkat National Park, Northern Cape, South Africa Photo by Terence Bellingan

IN THIS ISSUE

News from the Editor

Early Career Entomologists! Let us know what you would like discussed in our webinar series.

We are already a third of the way into the year and are rushing towards the 24th ESSA congress. A highlight will be a plenary from recently elected Honorary ESSA life member Prof. Johnnie van den Berg. We look forward to seeing you in Bloemfontein, but if the current weather is anything to go by, some extra jackets may be needed.

The ESSA is determined to be a presence not only in South Africa, but within southern Africa in general. Therefore, it is heartening to see that in a season with an exceptional number of new members, there are several applicants from outside South Africa. Also notable in this large number of new members is an increase in applicants outside academia.

Over and above increasing our geographic reach, the society wants to make a difference to both our members and society in general. As such, we are involved with the Yebo Gogga entomological outreach programme. Furthermore, the society is making an effort to support Early Career Entomologists. Two successful webinars have already been hosted this year, and we hope that more will be coming.

In this edition, we report back on the webinars, discuss the African armyworm and armored bush cricket, reveal the topic for this year's Young Entomologists' Essay Prize, as well as advertise a few initiatives. There are several points throughout this document with further information. All underlined points are hyperlinked, and you should be able to either mail the relevant people or obtain more information.

We would like to remind members that nominations for the new society president will close on 5 May 2025. Do not forget to vote once the nominations are finalised.

Please remember that we welcome contributions to *Rostrum* all year round!

Shüné Oliver
Rostrum Editor
shuneo@nicd.ac.za

Special collection

Notifications and Requests

An appeal to African members to consider joining the new IUCN Specialist Group Tiger Beetles

If anyone has an interest in tiger beetle conservation please consider joining the newly formed IUCN Specialist Group Tiger Beetles, where the African continent is currently poorly represented. Please contact Professor David L. Pearson, Arizona State University, USA (dpearson@asu.edu).

Request for samples

I am reaching out to enquire whether your institution or facility is able to supply *Culicoide*s *imicola* midges for use in laboratory and field testing. These midges are required for a study relating to vector control and repellent efficacy, specifically in relation to African Horse Sickness (AHS).

If you are able to assist, I would appreciate it if you could kindly provide the following information:

- Availability of *Culicoides imicola* specimens (female midges)
- Whether the midges can be supplied live
- Packaging, delivery options, and associated costs
- Any permits or documentation required for procurement

Should you not be in a position to assist, I would be grateful if you could direct me to a facility or specialist who may be able to help.
Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. I look forward to your response.

Warm regards,
Leanne Cutting
082 664 7107
info@ollivanders.co.za

A Biblical Plague? The Devastating March of the African Armyworm

Moleseng Claude Moshobane

South African National Biodiversity Institute

While February is often celebrated as the month of love in South Africa, for many farmers and conservationists, it has become a month of heartbreak. This year, the romantic blooms of summer have been overshadowed by a devastating outbreak of the African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*), sweeping across Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and beyond.

The African Armyworm (AAW) may sound like a small problem, but this tiny pest can lead to colossal destruction. These voracious larvae, also known as black armyworms, are the juvenile stage of the noctuid moth *Spodoptera exempta*. Historically devastating across Africa, AAW outbreaks occur when larval populations explode, resulting in dense swarms that devour their way through pastures and staple grain crops.

For farmers, this means more than just the loss of crops—it translates to economic distress, food insecurity, and the collapse of local ecosystems. The pests' migratory nature only adds to the challenge, as swarms can suddenly appear, stripping fields bare before moving on to new feeding grounds.

Heavy infestation African armyworm

Defoliated maize in Mankweng area

The thing about AAW is that apart from maize and other crops it also feasts on a buffet of a variety of grass species and leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. Species like Gonyagrass (*Urochloa trichopus*), Dardy's Oats (*Arundinella nepalensis*), Tanglehead (*Heteropogon contortus*), Guinea Grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*), Slender Knotweed (*Persicaria decipiens*), and Durban Crowfoot (*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*) have been stripped bare. These native grasses, which play a crucial role in sustaining wildlife and preventing soil erosion, now stand as skeletal reminders of a once-thriving ecosystem.

For maize farmers, the situation is nothing short of apocalyptic. Many are already reeling from the devastation caused by the Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)—another invasive caterpillar that has wreaked havoc on staple crops. Now, the AAW is finishing what its cousin started, tearing through whatever green remains.

Feeding on grasses in the area of invasion, outside of Polokwane

Maize flag leaf devoured

This twin assault has prompted some to draw parallels with the biblical prophecy of Joel 1:4: "*What the locust swarm has left, the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left, the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left, other locusts have eaten*."
Is this a modern-day version of the ancient plague, a “worm of biblical proportions”? While the comparison might seem dramatic, for those on the ground, watching their fields turn to barren wastelands, it feels all too real. One local resident, who sounded the trumpet of the African Armyworm in Mankweng, stated that, the residents are scared to sleep because the worms are climbing the walls and windows.

Marching from one farm to the next.

The Armored Bush Cricket foray in Limpopo

Moleseng Claude Moshobane

South African National Biodiversity Institute

In South Africa's semi-arid landscapes, where rainfall is often scarce, the current season's generous showers brought hope to farmers in Masisi, Musina, Muswodi, Folovhodwe and Polokwane. With the promise of abundant maize harvests, spirits were high. But lurking in the shadows of this prosperity was an unexpected adversary—an explosion of armored bush crickets (*Acanthoplus discoidalis*), poised to reap where they did not sow.

These crickets, also known as corn crickets, thrive in regions with dense but low-lying vegetation. In northeastern Namibia, they are already notorious as major pests, ravaging cereal crops like sorghum and millet. This year, the same fate has befallen Limpopo's farmlands, where swarms of these voracious insects have gathered at the edges of maize fields, ready to strike.

Unlike typical crop pests, *A. discoidalis* is more than just a plant eater—it is an opportunistic carnivore. Reports have documented it preying on other insects and even bird nestlings, such as the red-billed quelea. This insatiable appetite, combined with its sudden population explosion, has made it a formidable force, devastating agriculture. What was most intriguing was their association with alien plant species which provided shelter for the armoured bush crickets.

Yet, despite their destructive nature, these crickets are an enigma. In Limpopo, they are largely left unchecked, as they are believed to be toxic by local communities. This is especially true for the head, but the belly is regarded as edible. But just across the border in Zimbabwe, they are seen as a food source, harvested and eaten.

Adult armoured bush crickets (*Acanthoplus discoidalis*) recorded in Masisi village
(Photo Credit: Dr MC Moshobane)

Two adult armoured bush crickets under the canopy of *Calotropis procera* plant (Photo Credit: Dr MC Moshobane)

Three matured armoured bush crickets under *Jatropha gossypifollia* (Photo Credit: Dr MC Moshobane)

Upper view of the armoured bush crickets resting on the trees in Musina area (Photo Credit: Dr MC Moshobane)

Highlights from the XIX ICSZ & XVI ICA 2024 Conference

Charlene Janion-Scheepers (UCT), Juliette Chassain (UCT) and Benjamin de la Fontaine (Rhodes University)

The XIX International Colloquium on Soil Zoology (ICSZ) and the XVI International Colloquium on Apterygota (ICA) took place from 26 to 30 August 2024, in Cape Town, South Africa. This event was notable as the first time these colloquia were hosted on African soil, underscoring the increasing global focus on soil biodiversity research. The conference was organized by Dr Charlene Janion-Scheepers and Dr Juliette Chassain from the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Town. The aim was to foster discussions on critical themes such as soil biodiversity, ecology, and sustainable agricultural practices, and was a great opportunity for South African researchers and students to meet with international experts in their fields. Soil biodiversity is vital for human health and well-being but remains vastly understudied in southern Africa.

Hosting this conference was a landmark achievement for South Africa and the African continent. These meetings have a rich history, dating back to their inception in 1955 and 1970 across various countries, including France, Italy, and Brazil. The conference serves as a platform for sharing historical insights, forging new connections, and initiating future projects. Collaborative efforts are essential to enhance our understanding of soil biodiversity in Africa amidst climate change challenges.

After four days of presentations, poster sessions and workshops, the cold and wet weather in Cape Town cleared up just in time for the international delegates to enjoy a sunny post-colloquium expedition to the Cape Peninsula National Park or a game reserve for a day safari. The perfect opportunity to appreciate the grandiose landscapes and emblematic animals of South Africa, or rather to observe the incredible diversity of ground-dwelling organisms under rocks and litter, much to the amusement of our tour guides.

Conference Overview
The conference featured:
·Five keynote speakers
·59 oral presentations
·50 poster presentations
·A total of 106 participants from 22 countries, with 30 participants from South Africa, 12 of whom were students.

Keynote speakers included, Zoë Lindo (Canada), Hannah Karuri (Kenya), Louis Deharveng (France), Daoyuan Yu (China) and Nokuthula Mbanyana-Nhleko (South Africa). Their presentations emphasized the urgent need for collaboration to tackle challenges facing soil biodiversity. The keynote on each day of the conference was followed with great attention, and our guest speakers shared their thoughts on the future of soil organism research. “We must create awareness among different stakeholders on the importance of soil biodiversity,” stated Hannah Karuri. “This is crucial for promoting soil health and ecosystem services.” Daoyuan Yu highlighted advancements in phylogenomics: "New techniques have changed our understanding of phylogenetic relationships within Collembola". Louis Deharveng noted: "Patterns of morphological traits provide insights into biological functioning but require broader character screening." Zoë Lindo stressed: "The network of global threats to soil biodiversity underscores the need for active policy advocacy." Participants acknowledged significant challenges ahead, particularly the disconnect between scientific knowledge and policy implementation. Lindo urged: "We must strengthen collaborations within our community to develop global monitoring systems accessible to all nations." Finally, Nokuthula Mbanyana-Nhleko shared her inspiring journey toward entomology and her passion for ants, highlighting the need for science outreach and raising awareness on biodiversity throughout South Africa.

The five invited keynote speakers of the ICSZ & ICA 2024 conference. From left to right: Daoyuan Yu (Nanjing Agricultural University, China), Louis Deharveng (Paris Museum of Natural History, France), Zoë Lindo (Western University, Ontario, Canada), Nokuthula Mbanyana-Nhleko (Iziko Museum, South Africa), Hannah Karuri (University of Embu, Kenya).

Awards were presented for outstanding contributions:
·Diana Wall award for Best Student Presentation: Dean Erasmus (UCT, South Africa)
·Erwin Meyer award for Best Student Poster: Alberto Piris Martín (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain)
·Best Overall Posters: Wouter van der Vegt (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands) and Yating Zhang (Nanjing Agricultural University, China)

Workshops included:
·Global soil biodiversity workshop: led by Andrey Zaitsev, on the integration and recycling of soil biodiversity data for the next generation.
·SoilBON Foodweb workshop: led by Anton Potapov, on the global monitoring of soil animal communities and soil food webs.
·OniscidBase workshop: led by Konstantin Gongalsky and Pallieter De Smedt, introducing a worldwide database on terrestrial isopods.
·Early career workshop: focusing on early career researchers (students and postdocs) to reflect on their future career or give advice to the new generations.

Participants of the ICSZ & ICA 2024 conference.

The XIX ICSZ and XVI ICA conference successfully brought together researchers, practitioners, and students from around the world to discuss the vital role of soil biodiversity in ecosystem health. The discussions initiated during this event are expected to have a lasting impact on future research and conservation efforts in biological and soil sciences. The conference emphasised the need to create new collaborations and helped local researchers to gain recognition within the international community in the field of ecological research. In particular, it created links between researchers focusing on the same soil taxa in South Africa and in other countries, fostering the creation of research projects on soil biodiversity in Africa. This represents a major advancement in closing the current gaps in data on soil organisms on the African continent and shed light on South African research.

South African delegates at the ICSZ & ICA 2024 conference, from different universities and institutions throughout South Africa, including UCT, UNISA, Stellenbosch University, University of the Free State, Rhodes University, North-West University, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Witwatersrand and Iziko Museums of South Africa.

ESSA member Lindiwe Khoza at the ESSA exhibition table during the conference.

Early career Entomologists Webinars

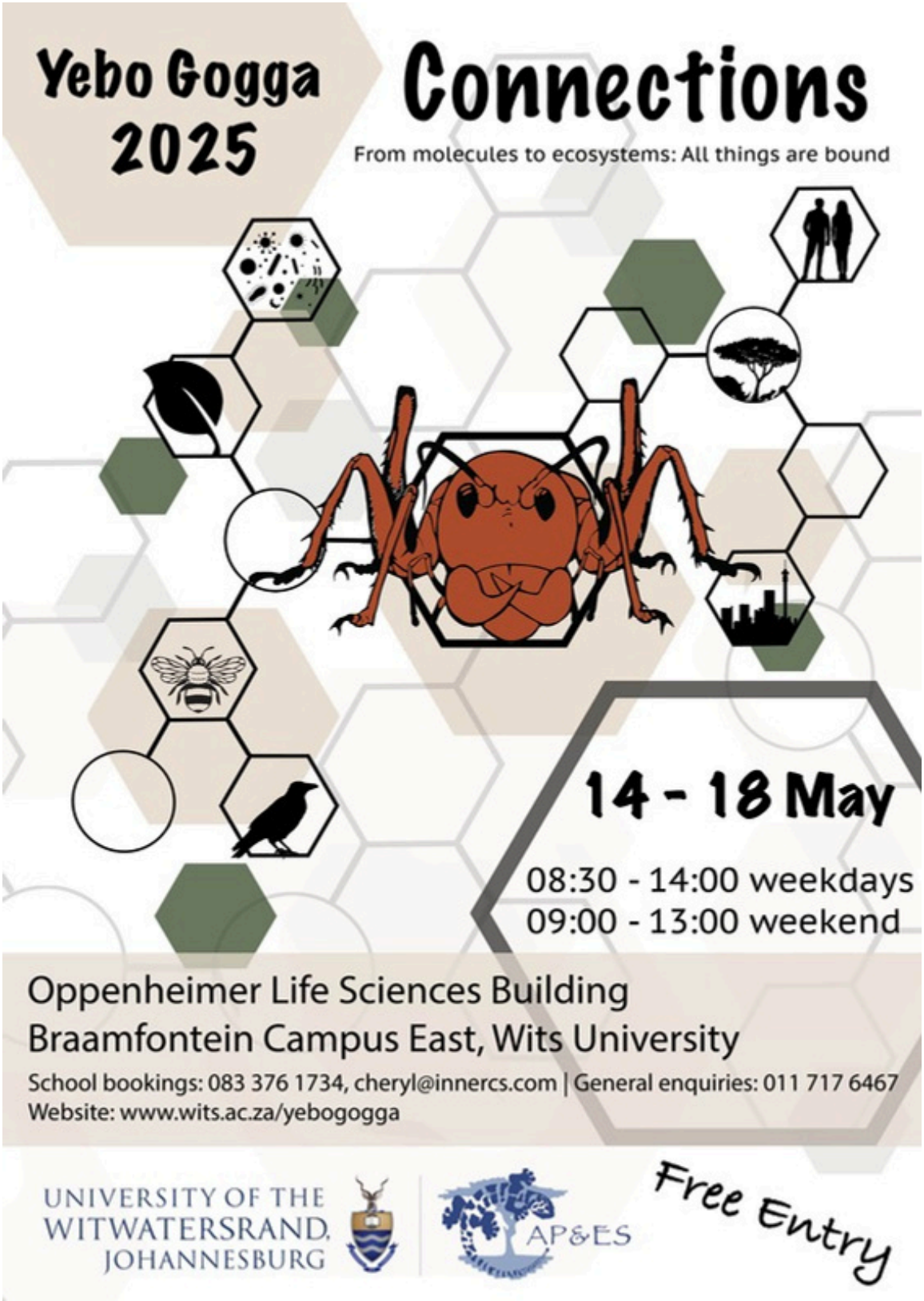
Starting off your career can be scary. For many science students, there is not a clear career path. Unlike doing a medical, commerce, or other “professional” degree, there is no guidance on what to do once you have completed your qualification. This is often where many of our students and young members in the society find themselves. The ESSA recognises this particular challenge, and we wish to address this. The Early Career Entomologist initiative wants to bring together this group and assist with this journey.

One of the activities we are engaging in the presentation of career-specific webinars. To date, we have had two successful webinars. The first was by Prof. Robin Drennan from Wits University. He described why to consider academia as a career path. He highlighted that academia has a range of aspects. It requires creativity and an entrepreneurial spirit. People who would like to expand the boundaries of human knowledge and have the patient temperament required may flourish in this environment. Both webinars have already been uploaded to the ESSA website and can be accessed, along with previous webinars, at https://entsocsa.co.za/webinars/.

This theme was continued and expanded upon in our second webinar. This was a discussion by Dr Megan Mulcahy and PhD candidate Kayla Noeth. Both of them highlighted the variation in their academic journey and transition into industry. Both speakers did not follow the conventional path of going straight to their university courses without a break and going straight into employment. Kayla highlighted how working in industry aided her PhD journey and how her time in academia informed her final industry position. Similarly, Megan also shared her experiences at different institutions in different countries. Both shared their enthusiasm for field work but highlighted the need for creativity and flexibility to deal with the range of practical challenges that come with being in the field. Kayla also highlighted the reality of long and hot days when out in the field. Another fact that came through for both speakers was the importance of collaborating and networking.

Both webinars were well received, and what was clear was that there was a lot of anxiety over employment opportunities and funding. This was highlighted by a word cloud exercise in the first seminar and by the questions in the second. Let us know what other topics you would like covered in this seminar series. Drop us an email directly or fill in the following form:

https://forms.office.com/r/H3PmTiZ8W2
shuneo@nicd.ac.za ; ashley.burke@up.ac.za



Do not forget to visit the ESSA stand at Yebo Gogga 2025. Also join Drs Charlene Janion-Scheepers and Shüné Oliver on 17 May for public seminars.
https://www.wits.ac.za/yebogogga/

Top Honours Students 2024

The society would like to congratulate the following students acknowledged as the top BSc Honours students at their respective institutions in Entomology or with entomological projects. The award includes a year's free membership to the ESSA. Congratulations to all, and we wish you all the best for your future endeavors.

University of Mpumalanga - Nkwibidu Precious Lehong

University of Cape Town – Holly Kellett

University of Pretoria – Erin Conroy

Stellenbosch University – Andrea Bennett

Rhodes University – Oliver Harvey

North West University – Carla Fourie

University of KwaZulu-Natal – Luyanda Hlamaphi

ESSA Competitions and prizes

ESSA Young Entomologists' TRAVEL GRANTS

As part of its aim to promote all aspects of entomology, the Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA) initiated the Young Entomologists' Travel Grants scheme in 2018. The grants are to support young ESSA members from southern Africa to (i) present research results at international scientific meetings or workshops with entomological relevance, or (ii) gain valuable entomological skills and experience by visiting an international research group. By doing so, the ESSA hopes to support the development of professional entomologists, and to broaden the range of skills and global relevance of research undertaken in southern Africa. Each year, a number of ESSA Young Entomologists' Travel Grants, each to the value of up to R25,000, may be awarded.

ELIGIBILITY AND CONDITIONS

To be eligible for an ESSA Young Entomologists' Travel Grant, applicants must satisfy ALL of the following criteria:

• Paid student or ordinary member of the ESSA for a minimum of two consecutive calendar years

• Resident and/or registered as a student or postdoctoral associate/fellow in a country within the Southern African Development Community (SADC; i.e., Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

• Thirty-five (35) years of age or younger, or within five years of completing a PhD (if older than 35) on the closing date for entries

• Accepted to give an oral presentation at an international conference or workshop outside of the applicant's country of residence and/or received notification of willingness to be hosted by an international researcher

The amount awarded will be determined based on a detailed budget provided by the applicant. Return international economy airfares and accommodation are the only allowable expenses in the budget. Conference registration fees and daily allowances must be paid by the applicant.

Applicants awarded an ESSA Young Entomologists' Travel Grant must submit a two-page report, including appropriate documentary photographs, to the ESSA within one month of their return to their country of residence. The report will will be published in *Rostrum*, the newsletter of the ESSA.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must complete the application form here, attach the required documents, and provide a cover letter of no more than one page explaining how receipt of an ESSA Young Entomologists' Travel Grant will benefit their development as a professional entomologist and the discipline of entomology in southern Africa.

Applications must be received no less than two months prior to the proposed date of departure.
Submit entries to the ESSA President, Prof. Chris Weldon,

by email: cwweldon@zoology.up.ac.za

Applications will be assessed by the ESSA Executive Committee based on the following criteria:

• Fulfilment of all eligibility criteria

• Quoted budget realistic and justified

• Quality and persuasiveness of cover letter

ENTRY CLOSING DATE

There is no closing date for applications to the ESSA Young Entomologists' Travel Grants scheme. All applications received no less than two months prior to the proposed date of departure will be carefully considered in each calendar year and grants will be awarded based on the availability of funds.

ESSA Competitions and prizes

ROSTRUM PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

This is the first announcement of the 2025 photographic competition. Entries are to be sent to Shüné Oliver (shuneo@nicd.ac.za), and the entries will be judged by the *Rostrum* editorial committee as well as the ESSA executive committee and ESSA members. Four overall winners will be chosen, and each will be featured on a *Rostrum* cover. Each winner will receive a cash prize of R1000. Entrants are open all year round. By entering this competition, photographers automatically give permission to the ESSA to use their images in *Rostrum*, Neither the ESSA, nor *Rostrum* will use the image for financial gain and the image remains the property of the photographer. Please include your full name and organisational affiliation within the email body. A brief description of the subject matter of the image(s) should also be supplied, including insect identity where possible, to explain how they address the competition theme.Please save each submitted entry as follows: First name Surname_photo name, e.g., Jane Smith_ honey bee1.jpeg

Jacek Zawada
African False Flower Mantis
Harpagomantis tricolor

ESSA Young Entomologists' ESSAY PRIZE

As part of its aim to promote all aspects of entomology, the Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA) initiated the Young Entomologists' Essay Prize in 2014. The prize is to encourage discussion and critical evaluation of entomological issues relevant to Southern Africa by upcoming amateur and professional entomologists.

In each year that the prize is made available, an essay topic on a current issue facing the entomological profession in southern Africa will be set. Essays should be original and thought provoking. Reference to published sources of information should be kept to a minimum but are necessary when claiming a fact or providing evidence and examples. The essays must be written in English and should be between 1000-1250 words in length. Numbered referencing should be used for in-text citations. A list of cited references should be included but does not contribute to the word limit.

Entrants for the ESSA Young Entomologists' Essay Prize must satisfy ALL of the following criteria.
Entrants must be:
• Paid-up student or ordinary members of the ESSA.
• Residents, or registered as a student or postdoctoral associate/fellow, in a country within the Southern African Development Community (SADC; i.e., Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).
• Thirty-five (35) years of age or younger on the closing date for entries.

Entries will be assessed by the ESSA Executive Committee, who may also call upon other members of the ESSA to contribute to the assessment.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:
• Comprehension of the topic
• Clear placement of the argument within the context of southern Africa
• Originality of ideas
• Persuasiveness and coherency of the argument
• Appropriate and effective use of facts, evidence or examples
• Grammar and spelling

The winning entrant will receive a certificate and be awarded a cash prize of R2000. The winning essay will be featured in Rostrum, the newsletter of the ESSA. Readers of Rostrum will be invited to respond to the essay in the following issue. Only one prize will be made in each year that it is available.

It is understood that the winning entry contains the views and opinions of the winning entrant. These views and opinions will not necessarily reflect those of the ESSA.

There are two topics for 2025 is: "**AI in entomology: how can we use this technology in industry and academia?**"and "**The future of entomology: How can entomologists adapt to limited funding**". You have the option of submitting an entry for either of these topics. In this essay, we encourage engagement in a manner that would be of interest to the broader entomological community.
Entries close on 30 November 2025. Entries must be sent directly to Shüné Oliver (shuneo@nicd.ac.za).

New ESSA members

We would like to welcome the following new society members:

Coskun Onur Kucukkaragoz – University of Cape Town
Danya Kloppers – University of the Witwatersrand
Heinrich Hasse – Stellenbosch University
Lintle Mohase – University of the Free State
Robyn Tamryn Dzirba – University of Pretoria
Candice Coombes – Rhodes University
Holly Kellet – University of Cape Town
Andrea Trinity Bennett – Stellenbosch University
Paula Strauss – Grootbos Foundation
Reyard Mutamiswa – Rhodes University
Slindile Sithole – South Africa Sugarcane Research Institute
Elizabeth Joubert – Levubu Centre of Excellence (PTY) Ltd
Kim Daniels – Private
Robert William Taylor – Botswana Wild Bird Trust
Kerry Hunter – KwaZulu-Natal Museum
Zuziwe Mthiyane – Department of Health
Carly Vlotman – Grootbos Foundation
Givemore Munhenga – National Institute for Communicable Disease
Melissa Calitz – Stellenbosch University
Lisa Kleyn – Stellenbosch University
Virgil Joseph – Botswana International University of Technology
Gary Lennox Edwards – University of the Free State
Mactildah Kadivirire – Botswana International University of Science and Technology
Chloë Kayla Meck – Stellenbosch University
Richard Dillon Wimbush – Stellenbosch University
Nicholle Claasen – Stellenbosch University
Juliette Chassain – University of Cape Town
Gaylen Carelse – ExperiCo Agri-Research Solutions
Wilna Pieterse – Stellenbosch University
Ayandisa Zongo – Rhodes University
Thembeka Mkhize – Forestry and Agricultural Research Institute
Nadia Viljoen - Blouberg International School
MK Chandaragi - Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University
Liam Yell - Rhodes University

New ESSA members

Arwenn Kumen – University of Cape Town
Dean Erasmus – University of Cape Town
Matilda Makhubela – University of Mpumalanga
Happiness Madonsela – University of Mpumalanga
Tahnee Bennett – Rhodes University
Maria Kaiser – National Institute for Communicable Diseases
Marlene Van Rooyen-Saayman – Stellenbosch University
Danya Norton – Private
Surietha Esterhuizen – Stellenbosch University
Johan Saayman – University of Pretoria
Tinyiko Shivambu – UNISA

Upcoming events

THE 24th ESSA CONGRESS IS COMING

We are delighted to invite you to the 24th ESSA Congress, which will be held at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein campus. We are particularly excited to welcome our fellow entomologists to this in-person event, with the conference running 8–11 July 2025.

Bloemfontein offers a unique setting for entomological research and exploration. The region's diverse habitats and ecosystems, spanning from grasslands to semi-arid environments, provide a fertile ground for studying various insect populations and their ecological interactions. This biodiversity, coupled with the economic importance of agriculture in the Free State, creates numerous opportunities for impactful research and collaboration. The National Museum in Bloemfontein has significant collections and exhibitions related to invertebrates. Many habitats alone could be visited via the Botanical Gardens and Naval Hill, which sets to highlight the "rich tapestry".

The facilities at the University of the Free State are equipped to host and provide an excellent environment conducive to academic exchange and networking.

Our logo, featuring the carabid ground beetle *Anthia thoracica* (commonly known as the oogpister), symbolises insect conservation and the unique entomological heritage of our host region. These beetles are known for their distinctive appearance and ecological importance. The inclusion of wheat in the logo highlights the intersection of entomology with agriculture, underscoring the critical role that our research plays in supporting and protecting vital industries.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bloemfontein, where you will have the opportunity to engage with leading entomologists, participate in stimulating discussions, and enjoy the vibrant social and academic atmosphere of the University of the Free State.
We hope to see you in Bloemfontein for an enriching and unforgettable ESSA XXIV in 2025!

For more information, keep up to date on the website:

https://essaxxiv.carlamani.com/

Social Media to follow

Don't forget to follow us on social media:

Facebook: The Entomological Society of Southern Africa

X: @entsocsa

Instagram: @entsocsa

Website: www.entsocsa.co.za

The featured social media:

https://thedragonflywoman.com/2012/01/06/instagram/

Instagram: Royal Entomological Society insect week (@insectweek)

Contributions to *Rostrum*

Send all contributions for the next issue of *Rostrum* by email to Shüné Oliver before **1 August 2025**: Shuneo@nicd.ac.za or contact the editor for details about the next issue.