

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT

14 February 2017



## CSIR, PRETORIA 3-7 JULY 2017

2017 COMBINED CONGRESS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO BE HELD AT THE CSIR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

The Entomological (ESSA) and Zoological (ZSSA) Societies of Southern Africa hold biennial congresses, which provide an opportunity for scientists, managers, researchers and students in their respective fields to interact with their peers and meet and share ideas with partners in industry.

Members of the ESSA, ZSSA, and any other researchers working in the broad fields of entomology or zoology in southern Africa, are invited to attend the Combined 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ESSA and the 38<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ZSSA in Pretoria, South Africa.

The organising committee aims to facilitate an open and inclusive space for researchers working on all aspects of entomology or zoology in southern Africa to present their work and be exposed to different perspectives.

*The Combined Congress of the ESSA and ZSSA in 2017 is hosted by the Department of Zoology and Entomology at the University of Pretoria,*  
<http://www.up.ac.za/zoology-entomology>



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

### WHEN

The Combined 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ESSA and the 38<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ZSSA will take place between 3-7 July 2017.

### WHERE

CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria, South Africa.

### PLENARY SPEAKERS

The organising committee for the Combined Congress of the ESSA and ZSSA is delighted to announce the participation of the following internationally recognised and respected scientists who will deliver keynote addresses at the meeting.

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Closing date for submission of abstracts:  
15 March 2017

Closing date for early discounted registrations and payment:  
15 May 2017

Closing date for regular registrations and payment:  
15 June 2017



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**Prof. Daniel Simberloff**  
**Prof. Daniel Simberloff (USA)**

An eminent researcher and author of over 350 peer-reviewed papers on island biogeography, reserve design, null models in community ecology, consequences of biological control, assisted migration, and novel ecosystems.

**Prof Phil Stevenson (UK)**

A leader in research on natural resistance in crops to pests, using pesticidal plants (botanical insecticides) as benign and affordable alternatives to synthetic insecticides, and research on pollen and nectar chemistry to determine their role in pollinator behaviour and ecology.



**Prof. Bill Karasov (USA)**

An internationally respected authority on the physiological ecology of terrestrial vertebrates, particularly the ecological implications of how they process energy, nutrients, and toxins.

## SYMPOSIA

The organising committee for the Combined Congress is pleased to announce the following four multidisciplinary symposia that will feature in the scientific programme.

### Annual Research Symposium on the Management of Biological Invasions in Southern Africa

Combining the field of invasion biology with the disciplines of entomology and zoology will create an unusual forum for cross disciplinary interactions between workers in widely different fields.

The programme for this symposium will be organised into sessions on invasion biology topics that are of current interest, such as **invaded ecosystems** including urban environments; **processes** such as spread and control, particularly biological control; **socioeconomic effects of invasions**, covering costs and benefits; and **restoration and rehabilitation efforts**.

Animal and plant invasions will both be covered in the programme.

Please consider attending this rare opportunity to encounter colleagues and ideas from overlapping fields of biology in southern Africa. Abstracts for full length papers (15 minutes), speed talks (3 minutes) and posters are invited from workers in this field.

This symposium will be held over **two days** on **Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 July 2017**. A special registration fee for delegates attending the Combined Congress for only the days this symposium is held has been negotiated (see 'Registration Fees'), which includes lunches, morning and afternoon teas, and the poster viewing function on the evening of Wednesday 5 July 2017. Delegates attending only on the days this symposium is held are also **welcome and encouraged** to purchase a ticket to the gala dinner on the evening of Thursday 6 July 2017 to socialise with their colleagues.

The Annual Research Symposium on the Management of Biological Invasions in Southern Africa is hosted by the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, in partnership with the organising committee for the Combined Congress.

#### Symposium organisers:

**Dr. Danica Marlin**, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand.

Email: Danica.Marlin@wits.ac.za

**Prof. Marcus Byrne**, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand.

Email: marcus.byrne@wits.ac.za

### Southern African soil biota in a changing climate

Healthy, well-managed soil is one of the most valuable assets a country can have and yet there exists gross negligence and ignorance regarding this natural resource in southern Africa and the rest of the world. This is concerning when the growing demand for food security in the context of land degradation, pollution and climate change is considered. Whilst chemicals and physical resilience and functional thresholds for soils are well-studied, this is not the case for the biological component.

It was against this backdrop that the Soil Ecosystem Research Group (SERG) was formed in 2011 to provide a biodiversity research platform through which research on soil organisms can be promoted. It is envisaged that the continued participation of SERG through workshops



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and symposia at ESSA congresses and elsewhere will contribute immensely in creating an awareness of sound soil management in conservation, forestry, agriculture, ecotourism and the environment in general. We will use the opportunity provided by the Combined Congress of the ESSA and ZSSA in 2017 to strengthen our network of researchers, plan future projects and integrate our work into international projects such as the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI).

## Symposium organisers:

**Dr. Charlene Janion-Scheepers**, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State and Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, University of Stellenbosch.  
Email: cjanion@gmail.com

**Prof. Schalk Louw**, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State.  
Email: LouwS@ufs.ac.za

## Social insects in Africa: uniting a cross-disciplinary research community

Social insects are abundant and diverse throughout Africa, where they play a number of important ecological and economic roles. However, the many scientists whose research features social insects are often insulated from participating in broader research questions by remaining tied to their specific research topic, academic institution or geographic region. This symposium will bring together social insect scientists from across Africa with the aim of uniting a community working on a diversity of topics from behaviour to physiology, and ecology to evolution.

The International Union for the Study of Social Insects does not currently have an active Africa section and the ESSA/ZSSA meeting is an ideal opportunity to re-establish this valuable network. There are many unique opportunities to conduct social insect research in Africa. The re-establishment of a regional Africa IUSSI section will support scientists in building collaborative projects across research themes that utilise social insects as their focal taxon. By holding this symposium we hope to draw together the academic community in the field of social insect research in Africa and pave the way for future areas of cross-disciplinary and institutional collaborations.

## Symposium organisers:

**Dr. Heather Campbell**, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria.  
Email: heather.campbell@zoology.up.ac.za

**Dr. Tom Bishop**, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria.  
Email: thomasrhysbishop@gmail.com

## Science for society: conducting research and teaching that truly reaches society

The recent #sciencemustfall challenges to our academic institutions and the rise of the American “anti-vaxxer” movement form part of an apparent global backlash of ordinary citizens against science.

This is more than a symptom of weak basic education, but a canary in the coalmine: we have a growing population of scientifically illiterate people who do not engage in critical thinking, while being able to access vast stores of personalised information at the swipe of a finger.

Government, funders, and lay people are increasingly skeptical of the scientific process, the reasoning behind it, and the usefulness of research not directly translatable into technology or improved human health.

We, as the active scientists, are the ones who have to reach out to the people outside our (putative) ivory towers. This symposium seeks to start an active discussion around building this bridge between science and society, in practical terms.

## The following topics will form the core of the symposium

1. What does critical thinking mean for our students, and ourselves, and how can we bring this into our classrooms/ laboratories/ field trips?
2. How can we perform trans-disciplinary research (taking the best from social science and natural science) to produce truly novel and **relevant** results without reinventing the wheel?
3. What are some successful methods in community engagement?
4. How can we benefit from the challenges and opportunities presented by our rapidly changing, highly connected world (particularly in the age of information overload, with non-experts speaking even louder than experts)?

We hope to bring together speakers who have successfully bridged the gap between science and society through community engagement practices, new teaching and research methodologies. Moreover, by creating this network of practitioners, we will each be able to tap into resources and expertise that we can't gain by each attempting to solve this problem on our own.

## Symposium organisers:

**Prof. Aliza le Roux**, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State.  
Email: lerouxa3@ufs.ac.za / leroux.aliza@gmail.com



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## SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

The organising committee of the Combined Congress also welcomes abstracts for oral and poster presentations within the following broad themes:

- Biogeography, taxonomy and systematics
- Communication (e.g., sensory systems, cues and signals, chemical ecology, traps and lures)
- Conservation of biodiversity and populations: from knowledge to practice
- Diseases, parasites and vectors (animal and plant systems)
- Movement: from mechanisms to consequences (e.g., locomotion, foraging, dispersal, migration, colonisation, population connectivity)
- Nutrients and toxins (e.g., nutritional physiology and ecology, metabolism, fitness implications)
- Population ecology (e.g., population growth and fluctuations, life histories, predation and parasitism, population genetics)
- Reproduction and development (e.g., hormones, mating systems, sexual selection, environmental effects)
- Responses to changing environments (e.g., tolerance of environmental stressors, phenotypic plasticity, climate change, anthropogenic disturbances)
- Sustainable exploitation and production (integrated pest management, harvesting from the wild, insects as food and feed)
- Open session (other aspects that are not catered to in the specific symposia or scientific sessions)

The organising committee reserves the right to reassign abstracts to an appropriate symposium or scientific session according to information provided within the submitted abstract. Also note that a poster presentation may be offered instead of an oral presentation due to limited space in the programme.

## FORMAT FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be submitted electronically through the Combined Congress website.

The closing date for abstract submission is **15 March 2017**. When submitting an abstract, please indicate using the online submission system the symposium or scientific session with which your presentation should be associated.

**Note that only the Annual Research Symposium on the Management of Biological Invasions will permit speed talks.**

Abstracts cannot be longer than **250 words** in length. They must be written in British English. Common names of organisms may be used in the abstract title and body, but species names and authorities must be provided in the body of the abstract on first usage. Ensure that all scientific names in the title and body of the abstract are italicised using the functions available on the submission system.

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the organising committee of the Combined Congress. However, the onus is on the presenting author to ensure that the abstract has been proofread and that the grammar and spelling are correct.

When the work being presented results from a collaborative effort, the presenting author guarantees that all authors have read and approved the submission of the abstract.

## LUNCHTIME WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

During the lunch break on each full day of the Combined Congress, workshops will be run to provide early career researchers with knowledge and skills on how to build their careers.

**These short workshops will cover the following themes:**

- Career paths in entomology and zoology – Advice from employers and experts in various fields and industry sectors on the knowledge, skills and attitudes that have led to their success
- Applications for funding – Where to find opportunities for travel grants and bursaries, and the elements of a successful application
- Career skills – What do employers look for? Elements of a good CV. Essential interview techniques

**Potential presenters for each workshop are encouraged to contact the workshop organisers:**

**Dr. Heather Campbell**, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria.  
Email: heather.campbell@zoology.up.ac.za

**Dr. Tom Bishop**, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria.  
Email: thomasrhysbishop@gmail.com



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## REGISTRATION FEES

Early Registrations Payments before 15 May 2017	
Members	R 3 600.00
Non-Members	R 4 000.00
Students Members	R 2 100.00
Regular Registrations Payments after 15 May 2017	
Members	R 4 000.00
Non-Members	R 4 500.00
Students Members	R 2 400.00
Late/ On Site Registrations Payments after 31 May 2017	
Members	R 4 500.00
Non-Members	R 5 200.00
Students Members	R 2 600.00
Day Registrations	
Members	R 1 500.00
Non-Members	R 1 850.00
Students Members	R 9 50.00
Biological Invasions Symposium Registration	
2 days (Poster viewing function included)	R 1 950.00
Social events	
Student Function	R 80.00
Conference dinner	R 400.00

All delegates are required to register  
online at

[http://www.savetcon.co.za/01\\_ESSA\\_ZSSA2017/index.html](http://www.savetcon.co.za/01_ESSA_ZSSA2017/index.html)

### Registration includes:

- Conference bag
- Welcoming reception
- Poster viewing function
- Lunches
- Morning and afternoon tea, coffee

### Optional extras:

- Student function
- Gala dinner
- Congress polo shirt (female or male cut in choice of two colours with contrasting embroidered logo)

Registration fees are on a sliding scale based on ordinary or student membership of the ESSA or ZSSA. A discounted "early-bird" rate is available if proof of payment is received before 15 May 2017. A special registration fee for ordinary and student

delegates attending the Combined Congress for only the days the Annual Research Symposium on the Management of Biological Invasions in Southern Africa is held has been negotiated.

A day registration rate is also available, which includes conference attendance, morning and afternoon tea, and lunch on the day attended.

### Student function

Organised by the students for the students... This function will be hosted at Aandklas in Hatfield! There will be plenty pizza and drinks to go around, as well as a few desirable bar tabs up for grabs! Be sure to bring your A-game for the much anticipated quiz night! This student function welcomes all students and will take place within walking distance of the budget residence accommodation, so no need to hold back! This optional extra comes highly recommended!

### Gala dinner

A congress dinner is planned for the evening of Thursday 6 July 2017. This is always an enjoyable event where delegates can relax and socialise after a stimulating few days. Awards for best student talk and best poster voted by members of the ESSA and ZSSA will be presented during the congress dinner.

## ACCOMMODATION

There is a range of accommodation options near the CSIR ICC, including hotels and guesthouses. The organising committee will be contacting some of these establishments to negotiate discounted rates and will communicate this information at a later date.

In addition, the organising committee is in the process of negotiating budget accommodation in the student residential accommodation of the University of Pretoria. This accommodation will be available to all delegates who wish to use this more affordable option, which we hope will increase participation by delegates from outside of Gauteng. Transport will also be arranged from the residential accommodation to the CSIR, daily.

You are requested to urgently  
contact the Conference Secretariat  
to express an interest in booking  
budget accommodation. This will help  
the organising committee to reserve  
sufficient rooms at the University of  
Pretoria residences and transport.  
Expressions of interest are not  
binding.



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## ESSA YOUNG ENTOMOLOGISTS' ESSAY PRIZE 2017



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, prepared using a word processor, and should be between 1250-1500 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 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, 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.

In 2017, the top three entrants will have their registration fees for the Combined Congress of the ESSA and ZSSA paid by the ESSA.

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.

### 2017 Essay topic

The topic for the 2017 ESSA Young Entomologists' Essay Prize is:

**Are citizen science initiatives to map the distribution of insect species viable in southern Africa?**

### Entry closing date

Entries for the 2016 ESSA Young Entomologists' Essay Prize must be submitted **before 17:00** (Johannesburg time, GMT+2) on **Friday 14 April 2017**.

### Entry submission

Submit entries to the *Rostrum* editor, Dr Chris Weldon, by email: [cwweldon@zoology.up.ac.za](mailto:cwweldon@zoology.up.ac.za)

Include proof of ESSA membership, residency and age (passport or ID document) with your submission.

### EXCURSIONS

Don't believe the rumour that there is nothing to do in Pretoria! Stay for the weekend to enjoy the diverse range of restaurants and bars, explore the nature reserves dotted around the City of Tshwane, or take a day trip to the Cradle of Humankind, Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve or Pilanesberg National Park.

Take a look at the Combined Congress website to see the wide range of day excursions available from Pretoria. Contact the tour operator directly to make a reservation.



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## PROGRAMME

	<b>Mon 3 July</b>
	ARRIVAL
15:00-18:00	Registration opens
	<b>Tue 4 July ~ DAY 1</b>
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	Welcome and opening address
09:30-10:30	Plenary speaker: Prof. Phil Stevenson
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
11:00-13:00	Concurrent session 1 (8 talks)
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> (Lunchtime workshop: Career paths)
14:30-15:00	Concurrent session 2 (6 talks)
<b>15:00-15:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
15:30-16:30	Concurrent session 3 (4 talks)
<b>16:30-17:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>17:00-18:00</b>	<b>ESSA AGM</b>
18:30-22:30	Student function
	<b>Wed 5 July ~ DAY 2</b>
08:30-09:00	Day registration
09:00-10:00	Plenary speaker: Prof. Daniel Simberloff
10:00-11:00	Concurrent session 4 (4 talks)
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
11:30-13:00	Concurrent session 5 (6 talks)
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> (Lunchtime workshop: Applications for funding)
14:30-15:00	Concurrent session 6 (6 talks)
<b>15:00-15:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
15:30-16:30	Concurrent session 7 (4 talks)
<b>16:30-17:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>17:00-18:00</b>	<b>ZSSA AGM</b>
18:30-20:30	Poster viewing function
	<b>Thu 6 July ~ DAY 3</b>
08:30-09:00	Day registration
09:00-10:00	Plenary speaker: Prof. Bill Karasov
10:00-11:00	Concurrent session 8 (4 talks)
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
11:30-13:00	Concurrent session 9 (6 talks)
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> (Lunchtime workshop: Career skills)
14:30-15:00	Concurrent session 10 (6 talks)
<b>15:00-15:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
15:30-16:30	Concurrent session 11 (4 talks)
16:30-17:00	Closing remarks and thanks
18:30-22:30	Congress dinner and awards
	<b>Fri 7 July</b>
	DEPARTURE & Excursions

## TRADE EXHIBITION AND SPONSORSHIPS

Interested companies should contact the Conference Secretariat for more information and to book exhibition space.

## CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT



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