

# Forum Herbulot Newsletter 2 (1)

March 2011



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### Editorial

The Forum Herbulot Newsletter is a forum for all geometridologists for posting questions and loan requests, for announcing information and calls for cooperations. New, important literature on Geometridae is presented as well as new projects, expeditions, collections a.s.o. The newsletter is sent to all registered members of Forum Herbulot via e-mail. Therefore, contributions in the newsletter cannot be regarded as publication in the sense of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Please communicate all information you want to have included into the next issues of the newsletter to Axel Hausmann (Axel.Hausmann@zsm.mwn.de). This issue 2 (1) is focused on the forthcoming Forum Herbulot 2012 in South Africa.

### First Circular on the Forum Herbulot 2012 (by Hermann Staude)

Hermann Staude, Martin Krüger and Jürgen Lenz would like to welcome you to FORUM HERBULOT 2012, in South Africa on

#### Research into African Geometridae - Quo Vadis?

**Date:** 12-18 February 2012 (arrival 12 February, departure 18 February, conference 13-17 February).

**Venue:** Mogales Gate Biodiversity Centre, Hekpoort, Gauteng, South Africa.

**Contact Person:** Hermann Staude, hermann@busmark.co.za , +27 82 651 9004.

#### Motivation

There has been an upsurge of scientific interest in African Geometridae in recent years. This comes not a moment too soon as African Geometridae, like many other organisms in Africa, are at a turning point. We are down to the last bits of habitat for many species. As raw materials become increasingly scarce with rapidly growing economies, especially China, mining operations in even the remotest regions of Africa are advancing at an alarming rate. Many of the international mining companies are sensitive to the environment and conduct environmental impact assessments prior to development. But you cannot assess what you do not know. FORUM HERBULOT 2012 will be focussed on the state of our scientific knowledge of African Geometridae and will hopefully highlight much needed research, a prerequisite for the effective conservation of African Geometridae.

You are invited to present a paper on the above and related topics or to simply attend the conference and to discover the many research opportunities that await you in this field.

#### Climate

February is in the middle of our rainy season and is a time when one can find the highest abundance of moths. Typical weather this time of the year are sunny to partly cloudy days with late-afternoon showers and cool evenings. Completely overcast days with continual rain are rare. Temperatures range from 22-34 °C mid afternoon to 14-18 °C at night. The highveld air is light and seldom very humid. This is a malaria free area.

#### Conference and field trip

FORUM HERBULOT 2012 will be different to previous conferences in that the conference and field trip will run concurrently over five days. Mogales Gate Biodiversity Centre (MGBC) is a



private Nature Reserve of more than 3000 hectares, owned by Standard Bank, which lies on the northern escarpment of the South African highveld plateau. 146 species of Geometridae have been found on the reserve (see FH website for illustrated list). Many mammals (50+species) and birds (250+ species) occur on the reserve but there are no Lion, Buffalo or Elephant making it safe to walk around freely on most of the reserve. White Rhino are present in a part of the reserve but delegates will be informed of the area where they occur, which should only be accessed by vehicle. MGBC spans seven vegetation zones (700+ plant species) comprising the grassland, savannah, and forest biomes (for further information visit [Mogalesgate.co.za](http://Mogalesgate.co.za)) (pictures taken 18-02-2011):



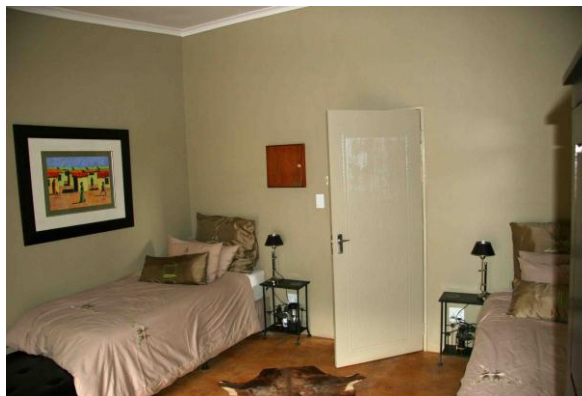
Conference facilities exist on the reserve and the conference will be held here (25°55'57,32"S/27°38'30,6"E).





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The reserve has accommodation for 22 delegates in the bush camp, with a recreational and dining area, where most meals will be had (25°56'18"S/27°38'19"E).



Further accommodation for 25 delegates will be available at the adjacent Weavers Roost Resort (25°55'20,03"S/27°37'55,09"E).



Accommodation in both camps is very basic but clean. For those delegates that wish to have more luxury accommodation there are a number of hotels in the area ranging from three to five star ratings. The cost of such accommodation, however, is not included in the Conference fee.



For additional accommodation see:

[Maropeng.co.za](http://Maropeng.co.za)

[Mountgrace.co.za](http://Mountgrace.co.za)

[dehoek.com](http://dehoek.com)

[valleylodge.co.za](http://valleylodge.co.za)

In the area, we will be erecting a number of 'Beach umbrella type' moth traps spread across the different vegetation types for the duration of the conference. These can be visited by delegates using the 4x4 vehicles available on the reserve and supplemented by additional 4x4 vehicles. This will ensure that delegates will be able to move freely from trap to trap preventing overcrowding at any particular trap. Collecting and export permits will be procured for attending conference delegates.



### **Programme**

The conference programme will be finalised later but will take on a more leisurely pace with the presentations spread over four days instead of the customary two. Plenty of time will be allowed for collecting and post collecting activities. The conference will kick off with a traditional African Braai (barbeque) at the home of Hermann Staude, who lives nearby, on Sunday 12 February. It will culminate in a visit to the largest collection of Lepidoptera in Africa, which is held at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria as well as the famous Cradle of Humankind museum at Maropeng and end in a Gala Dinner in the Tumulus restaurant at Maropeng on Friday 17 February (see [maropeng.co.za](http://maropeng.co.za)).

### **Costs**

Standard Bank, the owners of MGBC, have kindly agreed to sponsor the conference by only charging for basic direct costs for the use of the conference facility for the week. Busmark will sponsor all airport shuttle costs and the use of a bus with driver for the duration of the conference. These sponsorships have made it possible to keep the conference fees to an absolute minimum. You will be responsible for your flight costs to O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, where you will be picked up. The conference fee of approximately 400.00 Euro per delegate for the five days will cover all your local costs apart from personal needs.



The fee includes: accommodation, all meals, conference fees, game and moth collecting drives, Gala Dinner and museum visit. Alcoholic drinks are excluded.

The accommodation included in the above offer is limited and varied. This will have to work similar to a theatre booking - 'all seats are good but some are better than others'. There is accommodation for a maximum of 47 delegates. This will be booked on a first come first served basis. You can book your place by confirming your participation in writing and by paying a deposit of 200 Euro. This accommodation will be reserved for our overseas guests, local delegates will find alternative accommodation, including the use of camping facilities on the reserve. To book your place for the conference and to make arrangements for the deposit payment please contact Hermann Staude by e-mail [hermann@busmark.co.za](mailto:hermann@busmark.co.za), CC Axel Hausmann, e-mail [Axel.Hausmann@zsm.mwn.de](mailto:Axel.Hausmann@zsm.mwn.de).

### Post Conference Tours

There will be no formal FH post conference tour, due to the unique concurrent conference and field trip.

We will advise and assist those delegates who wish to take the opportunity of visiting the many splendid areas that South Africa has to offer after the conference on an individual basis. Please be advised that collecting and export permits differ from province to province and that the permits we will organise for the conference are only valid for the province of Gauteng. Individuals will need to make their own application for such permits should they wish to collect in other provinces. We would be happy to provide the contact details of the authorities and provide letters of recommendation. Procuring permits can be a lengthy process and you are advised to make your plans rather sooner than later should you want to collect in other provinces after the conference. Delegates who wish to spend more time in the Transvaal Museum will be accommodated as far as possible on an individual basis after the conference. If you are interested please contact Martin Krüger ([kruger@mitsong.org.za](mailto:kruger@mitsong.org.za)).

### Launching a DNA barcoding campaign 'Lepidoptera of Europe' (by Axel Hausmann)



international  
BARCODE  
OF LIFE



A campaign for DNA barcoding of all European Lepidoptera was initiated in June 2010 under the leadership of Rodolphe Rougerie (Canada), Erik Nieuwerkerken (Netherlands), Marko Mutanen (Finland) and Axel Hausmann (Germany). So far there are 5,500 European Lepidoptera species on BOLD database. The challenge is to get suitable vouchers for the missing half. For that purpose, step by step, missing lists of 'desiderata' will be published in the web. Again, everybody is invited to participate. This new campaign will be officially announced at the next SEL congress in Luxemburg on Thursday, May 12, 2011, at the end of a workshop with many presentations on DNA Barcoding of Lepidoptera. (cf <http://www.socourlep.eu/index.php?id=4>)



### News from the McGuire Centre, Florida (by Charlie Covell)

After the post conference tour of the 6th Forum Herbulot to Honduras, the Geometridae of Honduras are identified and databased for a preliminary list for that country. Further neotropical geometrids are identified and organized in the McGuire Collection holdings. We have completed the placement in our collections of the donated Nearctic Geometridae from Bob Belmont and Ron Leuschner and actually we are working on the Moths Of North America fascicle on Sterrhinae for completion in 2012.

### Recent literature on the Geometridae

- Bodner F, Brehm G, Homeier J, Strutzenberger P & K Fiedler 2010. Caterpillars and host plant records for 59 species of Geometridae (Lepidoptera) from a montane rainforest in southern Ecuador. – Journal of Insect Science 10 (67). URL: <http://www.insectscience.org/10.67/>
- Hausmann A, Haszprunar G, Hebert PDN 2011. DNA Barcoding the Geometrid Fauna of Bavaria (Lepidoptera): Successes, Surprises, and Questions. – PLoS ONE 6 (2): e17134. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0017134
- Strutzenberger P & K Fiedler 2011. Temporal patterns of diversification in Andean Eois, a species-rich clade of moths (Lepidoptera, Geometridae). – Journal of Evolutionary Biology. Doi: 10.1111/j.1420-9101.2010.02216.x

As mentioned in the editorial, we encourage everybody to communicate to us any new and important references for this section. Please use the exact formal criteria for citations as presented here, since we have not the resources to do large-scale editing.

The Forum Herbulot Newsletter appears irregularly one or several times per year and will be posted on the Forum Herbulot webpage [www.herbulot.de](http://www.herbulot.de). Old issues can be accessed there. Membership in the Forum Herbulot initiative is free. For information contact Axel Hausmann [Axel.Hausmann@zsm.mwn.de](mailto:Axel.Hausmann@zsm.mwn.de)