

Survey and systematics of South African Hymenoptera (wasps, bees and ants)

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As part of the Afrotropical Hymenoptera Initiative (AHI), inventory surveys and systematic revisions will be undertaken on South African Hymenoptera. Interactive identification keys will be produced to the families, subfamilies and genera (in part) of the following taxa: Symphyta, Chalcidoidea, Chrysidoidea, Megalyroidea, Ichneumonoidea and Vespoidea. This subset of the AHI will mobilize data for an economically important component of South African parasitoid, predatory and pollinating wasps and ants through digitization of an additional 3000 catalogue records and dissemination of this baseline data via SABIF/SANBI; will bar code c. 200 species for IBOL/BOLD; will describe c. 50 new species; will develop 200 species pages; and will develop identification resources, through the production of user-friendly, well-illustrated identification keys to 75 families and subfamilies; 51 genera and 130 species. These will include online interactive Lucid keys hosted on WaspWeb (www.waspweb.org). Species pages will be developed on WaspWeb and inputted into SAEOL and EOL. The electronic scientific publications will be rendered with semantic mark up of text and digital object identifiers facilitating interactive access to multiple web-based resources. Given the multiple outputs this proposal is being submitted to the Biodiversity Surveys call component for a two year funding period.