

An atlas of South African dung beetle species (Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae)

C. Scholtz, University of Pretoria

Taxonomically review all the dung beetle specimens in the three largest SA collections (180 000 plus specimens) and to collate all the data available on taxonomy (original literature and synonyms), distribution and ecology of the 535 species in SA. To date about 162 000 specimens have been data-based and while the remaining ones are being digitized, the rest are being “cleaned”, locality data converted to decimal degrees and inconsistencies with past data-entry being checked and corrected. The verification of species identity, data-basing, data-cleaning and compilation of the atlas are running concurrently. The data-gathering, -cleaning and bulk of the species pages (about 400 largely complete) are expected to be completed towards the end of 2016/ early 2017, with final checks of accuracy of data and production of the complete atlas expected by mid-2017.