

Enhancing the value of ants as an indicator group for global change monitoring in South Africa

Quantifying impacts of global change on biodiversity is important to South Africa's response to ongoing development and climate change. Recent evidence of potentially catastrophic global declines in insect diversity and abundance, render it more vital than ever to include invertebrates in assessment and monitoring programmes. Ants are widely used as biodiversity indicators and are being used in several long-term programmes in South Africa. However, their effectiveness is limited by several factors including 1) limited accessible data on ant diversity and distributions in South Africa and 2) incomplete taxonomic knowledge. As part of ongoing work towards enhancing the value of ants as indicators in South Africa, we will contribute to resolution of these issues by 1) making additional data from the AFRC ant collection publicly available and 2) carrying out a taxonomic revision of *Cardiocondyla* including description of at least six new South African species. Outputs will include 1) 750 pinned specimen and 2250 wet sample records of ants in the publicly accessible AFRC collection uploaded to AntWeb and GBIF, 2) publication of a revision of *Cardiocondyla* with description of at least six new South African species and an updated identification key, updated/new species pages for at least eight South African *Cardiocondyla* species, with DNA barcodes for at least 30 specimens representing at least eight South African *Cardiocondyla* species.