

The 11th African Small Mammal Symposium

Africa's Small Mammal Biologists Tackling Africa's Big Problems

Sunday 3rd July to Friday 8th July 2011, Kwaluseni, Swaziland

THIRD CIRCULAR

The Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Swaziland, Swaziland is proud to host the 11th African Small Mammal Symposium (ASMS). ASMS will be held at the Kwaluseni Campus of the University of Swaziland from Sunday evening 3rd July to Friday afternoon 8th July.

Call for Abstracts and Registration announcement, with information on accommodation and important dates.

Call for Abstracts

The submission of abstracts opens 15th November 2010, and closes on 8th April 2011. Participants are invited to submit abstracts of oral and poster presentations within one of the following symposia (with chairpersons in brackets). If you do not indicate the symposium of your choice, we will assign your presentation to an appropriate one for you.

- Afrotheria (G. Rathbun & P.J. Stephenson)
- Bat Ecology & Ecosystem Services (P.J. Taylor & A. Monadjem)
- Anthropogenic Impacts on Small Mammals (M.C. Schoeman)
- Integrated Pest Management
- Systematics & Phylogeography
- Disease Ecology
- Ecology & Conservation
- Small Carnivores & Primates
- General

Abstracts must be submitted via email to: ASMS@uniswacc.uniswa.sz (with "Abstract" in the subject line). Please adhere to the following style and format for abstracts.

IMPORTANT: any abstracts not conforming will be returned to the authors.

Title: bold letters, font size 14, font Arial, left aligned

Authors: list all authors; underline the name of the presenting author, font size 14, font Arial, left aligned

Institutions: list the institutions (including addresses) of all the authors, in italics, font size 12, font Arial, left aligned

E-mail: provide the email address of the presenting author only, font size 12, font Arial, left aligned

Abstract: maximum of 300 words, font size 11, font Arial, left aligned

Example of an Abstract (do NOT insert the box around the abstract):

Population dynamics of the endemic Swazi murid *Aethomys swaziensis* in a wetland habitat

Pamela Nkosi¹, Sibongile Shongwe¹ and Musa Hlophe²

¹*Department of Biological Sciences, University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni Swaziland*

²*Swaziland National Trust Commission, P.O. Box 12, Lobamba, Swaziland*

The ecology of the Swazi veld rat *Aethomys swaziensis* is virtually unknown. We obtained data on the population dynamics of this species by trapping three consecutive nights per month on a 10x10 grid over a 3-year period. We captured 253 individual rats, with a female:male sex ratio of 3:1. Rat numbers increased in late summer, declining sharply through late winter and spring to an annual low in early summer. Scrotal males were only captured in Oct-Mar, whereas perforate and lactating females were captured in Nov-April. Our study provides the first insights into the ecology of this enigmatic species and we hope to win the student prize as a result of our endeavours.

IMPORTANT: A maximum of two oral and two poster presentations will be considered per presenting author (with a limit of three presentations in total).

Call for Registration

Registration opens on 23rd November 2010. Early registration ends on 21st March 2011.

Registration fees

Early registration: E2,750¹

Late registration: E3,300

Full-time student: E1,800

Late registration: E2,000

¹ The Swazi Lilangeni (SZL) is on par with the South African Rand (ZAR). Conversion rate (on 22nd November 2011): US\$1 = ZAR6.96103

Daily registration: E800

Accompanying persons: E1,000 (this excludes attendance to plenaries and symposia, teas, coffees and lunches; includes icebreaker, mid-conference excursion and airport pickup).

Registration fees include the following: attendance to all plenaries and symposia; all teas, coffees and light lunches; icebreaker cocktail; conference dinner; mid-conference excursion; pickup from the airport (only for arrivals on the 2nd or 3th July 2011) to either Esibayeni Lodge or the University of Swaziland and return to the airport (only for departures on the 8th or 9th July 2011).

Please fill in the accompanying registration form and email it to the ASMS email address: ASMS@uniswacc.uniswa.sz

IMPORTANT: Your registration will only be accepted once your payment has been received. Please see the attached registration form for details of how to pay.

Information on accommodation

Recommended accommodation is either at Esibayeni Lodge Accommodation or at the student's halls of residence at the University of Swaziland (Kwaluseni Campus).

Esibayeni Lodge

Esibayeni Lodge is a comfortable hotel situated close to the Manzini International Airport. It is about 10km from the conference venue at the Kwaluseni Campus of the University of Swaziland. A daily shuttle will ferry participants between the lodge and the conference venue at set times. The cost of a room (with breakfast included) is E385/per person per night. The lodge has agreed to block book 50 single rooms for delegates of ASMS. The rooms will only be held until the end of March 2011, and participants will be booked on a first-come first-serve basis. Bookings will have to be made directly with the lodge (and not through the Local Organising Committee). Please book early to avoid disappointment. For further information and details on the lodge and its facilities check out their website: www.esibayenilodge.co.za (or email: esibayenilodge@swazi.net or tel: (+268) 518 5150).

Student rooms

Several hundred student rooms (in student halls of residence at the University of Swaziland) are available at E240/per person², excluding breakfast. Breakfast may be bought at the UNISWA cafeteria which is a short distance (< 5 min) walk from the halls of residence. Alternatively, delegates may purchase their own food from a large Pick-and-Pay supermarket about 1.5 km from the campus. The rooms are rustic and the toilet facilities are shared. The rooms are within 5 min walk of the conference venue.

Important Dates

Registration opens: 23rd November 2010

Deadline for early registration: 21st March 2011

Abstracts open: 23rd November 2010

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 8th April 2011

Other information

Official letters of invitation are available on request. Please send your request for such a letter to Mr. Francis Makamba at ASMS@uniswacc.uniswa.sz

A fourth circular will be distributed in due course announcing funding opportunities (Regular updates will be posted on the conference website at www.ASMS.uniswa.sz).

IMPORTANT: To register your interest and add your name to the circulation list, please send an email with your contact details to ASMS@uniswacc.uniswa.sz .

Local organizing committee:

Prof. Ara Monadjem, Department of Biological Sciences, UNISWA, Swaziland (Co-chair)

Dr. Themb'a Mahlaba, Department of Biological Sciences, UNISWA, Swaziland (Co-chair)

Dr. Sithembile Kunene, Department of Biological Sciences, UNISWA, Swaziland

Mr. Francis Makamba, Department of Biological Sciences, UNISWA, Swaziland

Dr. Steven Belmain, Natural Resource Institute, University of Greenwich, UK

Prof. Peter Taylor, Department of Ecology & Resource Management, University of Venda, RSA

Prof Herwig Leirs, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Dr. Nico Avenant, National Museum, Bloemfontein, RSA

Dr. Corrie Schoeman, Biological and Conservation Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, RSA

Mr. Duncan MacFadyen, E. Oppenheimer & Son, Marshalltown, RSA

² We are currently negotiating a better rate. We will inform delegates as soon as we have further information