



# AfriBUGS

## Ant Identification Service: 2021 rates



AfriBUGS offers an identification service for Afrotropical ants (Formicidae), subject to the following conditions and constraints:

1. Due to constraints resulting from incomplete taxonomic knowledge, not all ants can currently be identified to species – this is due in part to keys not being available even for described species in some genera and in part to many species not yet having been formally described. Unless otherwise indicated, identifications will be carried out to the maximum level possible within these constraints: if a lower level of identifications is required (e.g. genus only) this must be specified.
2. Specimens may be submitted either preserved in ethanol (preferably 95% or 100%) or mounted on card points<sup>1</sup>. If well-mounted specimens are provided, specimen mounting fees will not be charged, but poorly-mounted specimens on which not all identifying characters are visible will need to be floated off and remounted and a mounting fee with a 20% surcharge will be levied.
3. Raw samples in which ants have not yet been separated from debris and other invertebrates will **not** be accepted. Unsorted but clean ants-only samples are the preferred submission format as sorting by inexperienced personnel may result in significant errors; a fee of R88.00 per sample<sup>2</sup> will be charged for sorting to morphospecies. If sorted material is provided and samples prove to contain multiple species, separate mounting and identification fees will be charged for each species within a sample. During sorting of samples, for a small additional fee, the number of specimens of each species in each sample may be recorded to allow construction of species x sample matrices for analysis.
4. Collection data must be provided with samples submitted; at a minimum this should include country, province, name and GPS coordinates of the site, as well as date, collection method and name(s) of collector(s) [please download spreadsheet for submission of data from AfriBUGS' Services page]. Voucher specimens will be retained in the AfriBUGS collection (AFRC<sup>3</sup>) for future reference and so that updated identifications can be provided if taxonomic changes occur and duplicates where available may be

<sup>1</sup> See <https://ants.biology.utah.edu/HOWTOMOUNTANTS/mount.html>

<sup>2</sup> Based on average of 20-100 ants per sample; if samples are substantially smaller the sorting fee may be reduced or waived, while if significantly larger samples are submitted a higher fee - which will be negotiated prior to sorting - will be charged.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/codens/>

deposited in the South African Museum, Cape Town. Duplicate mounted specimens and sample residues will be returned only on request and costs incurred (e.g. postage & packing) will be at the client's expense.

5. Photographs of specimens taken using a Leica microscope/camera system and generated using Leica LAS Montage version 3.8 or Helicon Focus Pro version 7.5.4 may be provided at an additional cost; please download our brochure from the "services" page of our website ([www.afribugs.com](http://www.afribugs.com)) or send enquiries to [info@afribugs.com](mailto:info@afribugs.com) for details.

## Ant sorting and identification fees – 2020 rates

Process	Cost (excl VAT) <sup>e</sup>	Cost (incl. VAT) <sup>e</sup>
<b>Sorting</b> – per sample:		
1. Sorting to morphospecies <sup>a</sup>	R 88.00	R 101.20
2. Recording morphospecies abundance <sup>a</sup>	R 19.00	R 21.85
<b>Preparation</b> – per specimen:		
3. Card point mounting per specimen for identification <sup>b</sup>	R 53.00	R 60.95
4. Card point mounting per additional specimen to return to client	R 53.00	R 60.95
<b>Identification</b> – per species identified to:		
1. Genus + morphospecies code within samples submitted <sup>c</sup>	R 85.00	R 97.75
2. Genus + morphospecies code matched to AFRC collection <sup>d</sup>	R 144.00	R 165.60
3. Genus + species	R 213.00	R 244.95

**a** - based on average of 20-100 ants per sample; proportionally more will be charged for larger samples.

**b** - generally one specimen mounted per morphospecies in each sample.

**c** - within each genus a unique number will be assigned to each morphospecies isolated from the samples submitted, but this will not be cross-referenced to our reference collection.

**d** - within each genus morphospecies that cannot be identified to species will be checked against our reference collection and assigned a morphospecies code with an AFRC- prefix, allowing cross-referencing between projects.

**e** - VAT at 15% is applicable within South Africa, but need not be added for international clients who do not have offices within South Africa.

## Payment terms

Standard terms are strictly 30 days from date of invoice, with interest payable at 2% per 30 days or part thereof on overdue amounts; see below for further details and discount options.

### Discount and interest terms are as follows:

- If an immediate payment is received (i.e. within 7 calendar days of date of invoice), a 5% discount may be deducted from the invoice total,
- If payment is received after 7 days but within 14 calendar days from date of invoice, a 2.5% discount may be deducted from the invoice total,
- If payment is received after 14 days but within 30 days from date of invoice, the full invoiced amount is due,
- If payment is received after 30 days from date of invoice, the full invoiced amount plus 2% interest per calendar month or part thereof is due; interest will be compounded monthly on overdue amounts.
- In cases where a client's payment record is poor, the final invoice will be submitted on completion of the final identification report, but the report will be submitted to the client only on receipt of payment of all outstanding amounts, including the final invoice.

*Please note that a payment is deemed to have been received only after the funds have been cleared and are available in AfriBugs' bank account.*