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AfriBUGS

Montage Microphotography
 Service: 2021 rates



AfriBugs is fully equipped for production of microphotographs of small to medium-sized arthropods. Image stacks (usually 20-30 individual images) are acquired using a Leica MZ16 stereomicroscope equipped with a motor focus and dedicated Leica camera, after which fully in-focus images are generated by combining the in-focus portions from each image using LAS Montage V3.8 or Helicon Focus Pro version 7.7.4. Our main experience is with photographing ants and leafhoppers, but we can image any specimens from about approximately 1–20mm in length.



Boloponera ikemkha, Limpopo Province, South Africa; mounted & dry-imaged.



Solenopsis afrc-tz02, queen of undescribed species, Tanzania; mounted & dry-imaged.



Xyphon retinaculum, an introduced leafhopper species collected in Ghana, wet-imaged.

Specimens may be submitted either mounted¹ or preserved in ethanol (preferably 95% or 100%); if in ethanol they may be imaged wet (using a specially developed technique suited for soft-bodied specimens or those in which colours fade on drying) or mounted for dry imaging. If mounting is required a fee will be charged (see below). Images will be supplied in electronic format (JPEG or TIFF) on DVD or via a large file transfer service, or transferred directly to a memory stick. Any special requests e.g. in terms of size, shape, colour and label font for scale bars should be provided when the specimens are submitted.

Montage microphotography fees – 2020 rates

Process	Cost (excl VAT)*	Cost (incl. 15%VAT)*
Mounting – per specimen:		
1. Card point mounting or pinning**	R 53.00	R 60.95
Photography – per specimen:		
1. Single view (e.g. lateral)	R 225.00	R 258.75
2. Collage of three views (e.g. face, lateral and dorsal)	R 620.00	R 713.00
3. Collage of four views (e.g. dorsal, lateral, ventral and close-up)	R 822.00	R 945.30
Submission of images – per job		
1. Upload of images or provision on DVD	R 155.00	R 178.25

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

** - Note that if we are already mounting specimens for a client for identification purposes, there will be no mounting charge for photography

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.

AfriBugs discount and interest terms are as follows:

- If an immediate payment is received (i.e. within 7 calendar days of date of invoice), a 5.0% 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 photography, but the images 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.

¹ For ant mounting techniques see <https://ants.biology.utah.edu/HOWTOMOUNTANTS/mount.html>