

# XVII CONGRESS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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The XVIII Congress of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA) took place at the North-West University at Potchefstroom from 30 June to 3 July 2013. More than 100 oral presentations and 40 posters were presented during the congress. The topics were diverse and presentations were given on insect behaviour and ecology, integrated pest management (IPM), agricultural entomology, biodiversity and conservation, biological control, insect-plant interactions and forensic entomology. The programme included three remarkable plenary sessions given by Professor Zeyaur R Khan on the Push-Pull technology, Dr Brian Barnes from the ARC on the Sterile Insect Technique, and weed researcher Dr Helmuth Zimmermann on biological control in South Africa.



During registration, organizers welcomed us with a light dinner, including "insect snacks" such as stinkbugs, caterpillars and termites.



Kwabena Baffoe and Sarai Olivier-Espejel during the poster session.

A total of 12 FABI members attended the conference. Dr Brett Hurley, Hardus Hatting and the postgraduate students Katie Termer and Amy Wooding gave oral presentations on different aspects of the woodwasp, *Sirex noctilio*. Dr Jeff Garnas talked about barcoding and the importance of pseudogenes in studies focussing on the molecular diversity of insects. Dawit Degefu and Gudrun Dittrich Schroeder explained their current research on genetic diversity of *Coryphoderma tristis* and *Leptocybe invasa*, respectively. Finally, Eston Mutitu's oral presentation focused on the population growth of *Thaumastocoris peregrinus* in Kenya. PhD students Kwabena Baffoe, Marc Bouwer, Daniela Pineda and Sarai Olivier-Espejel presented their work during the poster sessions, which included biological control, semiochemicals, cryptic species and patterns of insect colonization.

This Congress was a great opportunity to learn from other entomologists and students around South Africa. It also provided a platform to share our own research and meet outstanding scientists. We thank the CTHB and TPCP at FABI as well as the University of Pretoria for financial support, which enabled us to attend the conference.