



FORUM HERBULOT 2012

[Research into African Geometridae - Quo Vadis?](#)

[Third circular to delegates February 1 2011](#)

Hermann Staude, Martin Krüger and Jürgen Lenz are waiting in anticipation to welcome you to **FORUM HERBULOT 2012**, in **South Africa**.

Date: 12-18 February 2012 (arrival 12 February, departure 18 February, conference 13-17 February).

Venue: Mogales Gate Biodiversity Centre, Hekpoort, Gauteng, South Africa.

Contact Person: Hermann Staude, hermann@busmark.co.za , +27 82 651 9004.

Dear Forum Herbulot 2012 Delegate,

The time is now near and all of us are waiting in anticipation for your arrival.

This is a final circular dealing with commonly asked questions and final arrangements for your arrival.

Weather

The weather at present has stabilized into a typical summer pattern for this time of the year with warm clear to partly cloudy days with afternoon thunder showers lasting under an hour. Temperatures fluctuate from around 12 °C at dawn to around 30°C in the afternoon cooling down to about 20°C after the showers for most of the night - in short perfect collecting weather. There has been good rains in the early season and insects are about in good numbers.

What to pack

As you can see from the above temperatures fluctuate widely every day, so please pack light clothes with thin layers which you can peel off or put on as you feel. Also please bring a light rain coat in case you get caught out there in a storm, which can develop very quickly.

This will be a bush experience for you so please do not pack any formal clothes - we are very casual here in Africa - suits and ties are strictly forbidden. We recommend that you do pack a good pair of hiking boots supporting your ankles as well as a strong pair of denims. There are many thorns in the bush. Also the sun can be very harmful so be sure to pack a good hat covering your neck. Please pack your swimming costume as there is a swimming pool at the bush camp.

Medicines & health

This is a malaria free area so do not take any preventative medicine unless you decide to visit malaria areas afterwards. This time of the year there are many ticks about and mosquitoes, so bring some repellents as well as something to spray onto your boots prior to walking in the bush to prevent ticks from crawling onto you. You may want to pack some Imodium or equivalent if you have a sensitive stomach but generally our northern hemisphere guests do not have problems here as they have in other parts of Africa. A good sun block is strongly recommended. The nearest chemist/pharmacist and shops are not within easy reach so please pack what you normally need. We will only go there in an emergency. There are many questions about dangerous animals in the bush etc. By far the most dangerous activity that you will be engaged in during this week will be your car trip to your airport and from the Airport to MGBC. However, there are venomous snakes, scorpions and spiders as well as rhino, baboon and leopard in the bush where you will be collecting moths. These animals avoid humans and will do you no

harm if left alone. On arrival, you will be briefed on precautions to take and what to do in the unlikely event should you encounter such animals at close quarters.

Food and drinks

You will be spending most of the week in the bush and a full board catering service with breakfast, tea, lunch and dinner is included. It is unlikely that you will go hungry but if your needs exceed the above then you will have to bring with you whatever other snacks you may need. There are no shops in MGBC. Louisa Staude will be taking delegate's partners on daily excursions into the more civilised parts of South Africa, so there might be a chance that they buy something for you at the shops if you ask them nicely. Tea, coffee and water will be freely available. We will have an honesty bar with soft drinks, beers and wines available in the bush camp. Prices will be equivalent to what we paid for these in the shops.

Collecting and collecting equipment

We will erect 10 moth traps of the tower type typically used by South African Lepidopterists in various habitats throughout the property every night for you to use. You will be able to visit these throughout the night using the 4x4 vehicles available. We will also have a large bottle of ethyl acetate and some ammonia available. There are freezing and fridge facilities in both camps for you to use for specimen storage. There is also 220V 50Hz electricity available at both bush camps where you will be sleeping. We will not provide any other collecting equipment such as killing bottles, envelopes, vials, pins etc. these you will need to bring yourself. You are welcome to bring any other collecting equipment you may wish, including traps etc but we do not recommend generators as these make a lot of noise and spoil the bush experience for others. Local conservation authorities have been informed of our conference and have issued us with a letter confirming the legality of collecting and exporting of insects from MGBC. Before departure, you will be given a copy of this letter as well as a letter from MGBC allowing the collecting of insects, which you can use in case you have problems arriving back in your country of origin.

Connectivity

You will be in the bush so do not expect all the modern services you are used to. There is a weak mobile phone signal available in the higher lying areas on the reserve if you are lucky. Sometimes you may even get a weak broadband signal but do not bargain on this. Best would be to tell your correspondents that you are checking out for the week. You can inform your loved ones that the best would be to phone Louisa at mobile number: +27 83 651 9005 in an emergency, in which case she will make sure that you get the message.

Program

Attached you will find a preliminary program of activities for the week. You will see that we have adopted a novel integrated approach combining conference, field and social activities. There will be plenty of time for everything and delegates may select to participate in those activities they want. It would be impolite however, should delegates (excluding their partners) choose not to attend the conference sessions. This will be new to all of us so we may adapt the program as we go along.

Transport from Airport

The majority of delegates will be arriving in two batches. The first the evening of 11 February and the second the morning of 12 February. We will be consolidating delegates from each batch and then transport you by bus to MGBC. The bus trip will take about 1.5 hours from the airport.

For those of you arriving on 11 February: Incoming flights vary from 18h25 - 22h05. There will be somebody at the arrivals terminal with a sign showing **FH2012**. Delegates arriving early will be taken to the SPUR restaurant where they can wait for all to arrive. The bus will leave once we have our flock together. Should anything go wrong and you do not find somebody then you can ask for the SPUR restaurant or phone Hermann at mobile +27 82 651 9004. **Please** text Hermann at this number if you miss your flight for whatever reason as we will try and locate you before the bus leaves. We anticipate that the bus will leave at about 23h00 and will arrive at MGBC about 00h30.

For those of you arriving on 12 February: Incoming flights vary from 08h35 - 11h00. There will be somebody at the arrivals terminal with a sign showing **FH2012**. Delegates arriving early will be taken to the SPUR restaurant where they can wait for all to arrive. The bus will leave once we have our flock together. Should anything go wrong and you do not find somebody then you can ask for the SPUR restaurant or phone Hermann at mobile +27 82 651 9004. **Please** text Hermann at this number if you miss your flight for whatever reason as we will try and locate you before the bus leaves. We anticipate that the bus will leave at about 12h00 and will arrive at MGBC about 13h30.

For those of you arriving at MGBC on your own steam: Please ensure that you arrive at MGBC during the morning of **12 February**. There are still some bank guests on the reserve on 11 February, so you will

not be allowed in on that day. Please ensure that you are there by 16h00 on 12 February as the bus leaving for Hermann's farm will be leaving from that time onwards. A map of how to get there is available from Hermann. Should anything go wrong and you do not find MGBC phone Hermann at mobile +27 82 651 9004. **Please** text Hermann at this number if you are late for whatever reason as we will try and locate you before the bus leaves.

Frame of mind.

This conference has been designed in the spirit of Forum Herbulot with the primary purpose to promote communication and cooperation between Geometrologists worldwide. It has also been designed to provide you with an appetizer of what Africa has to offer to you as a geometrid researcher. Without your active participation we will lose much our geometrid diversity before we even know that it existed. Your efforts could go a long way toward helping us conserve our fragile biodiversity. So get yourself in the right frame of mind so that you can enjoy a relaxing week in the bush with great geometrids and good company.

regards,

The FH2012 team.