

Department of Zoology & Entomology

Year projects 2026

PROJECT SUPERVISOR	PROJECT TITLES
ENTOMOLOGY	
Dr Nontembeko Dube duben[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Response of arthropods to <i>Cestrum parqui</i> invasion 2. Response of arthropods to <i>Xanthium strumarium</i> invasion 3. Efficacy of <i>Xanthium strumarium</i> as biopesticide for <i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>
Dr De Villiers Fourie fouriedv[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Assessing the efficacy of a novel transgenic soybean cultivar against <i>Helicoverpa armigera</i> using open-field trials with artificial infestation 2. Baseline assessment of insecticide efficacy and emerging resistance in field-collected maize cutworms (<i>Agrotis</i> spp.) using standardized bioassays. 3. Diversity and abundance of beneficial flying arthropods in Bt vs. non-Bt maize and soybean agroecosystems.
Prof Charles Haddad Haddadcr[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Revision of the dark sac spider genus <i>Pronophaea</i> Simon, 1897 (Araneae: Corinnidae) 2. Revision of the South African species of false button spiders (Araneae: Theridiidae: <i>Steatoda</i>) 3. Responses of litter-dwelling spiders to exotic versus indigenous tree species in central South Africa
Dr Vaughn Swart swartvr[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Dipteran diversity at Tswalu Kalahari Reserve 2. Temporal variation in Dipteran diversity in Sorghum fields and their surroundings 3. Quantifying arthropod functional diversity: a case study approach to the agroecosystem function index in South African croplands
ZOOLOGY	
Dr Hennie Butler butlerhj[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Aardvark burrows: a potential resource for animals in arid and semi-arid environments. 2. Behaviour adaptations of animals for thermal regulation. 3. Muridae and invertebrate diversity as bioindicators of grassland integrity in the central Free State.
Prof Daryl Codron codrond[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Allometric scaling of stable isotope turnover rate and fractionation effects in arthropods 2. Stable isotope variance in Frankenstein's monster 3. Bias in diet partitioning from isotope mixing models
Ms Lindi Heyns Heynsl[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Community perceptions of protected area conservation benefits 2. Understanding edge effects at protected areas
Dr Candice Jansen van Rensburg JvRensC[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Biodiversity study of free-living and plant-parasitic nematodes from a Nature Reserve in the Free State Province 2. Biodiversity study of aquatic invertebrates from a Nature Reserve in the Free State Province
Dr Edward Netherlands netherlandsec[at]ufs.ac.za	1. Morphometric and molecular insights into Haemogregarine blood parasites across various vertebrate hosts 2. Molecular and morphological characterisation of Trematodes in <i>Amietia poyntoni</i> from the Free State Province

	3. Screening scat samples from South African dwarf chameleons (<i>Bradypodion</i>) for parasite diversity
Dr Milad Rashidifard rashidifardm@ufs.ac.za	1. Molecular and morphological characterisation of root-knot nematode associated with potato in Free State
Prof Liesl van As vanasll@ufs.ac.za	1. Fish parasites of fish fauna in Orange River System, with a focus on Free State Province 2. Hybridisation between the Orange River mudfish <i>Labeo capensis</i> and moggel <i>Labeo umbratus</i> in selected aquatic systems, Free State Province
Dr Luther van der Mescht vandermeschtll@ufs.ac.za	1. Comparison of three sampling methods for assessing tick diversity in a South African hotspot 2. Validation of software for quantifying larval mortality in <i>Rhipicephalus decoloratus</i> using the larval immersion test to assess acaricide resistance 3. Validation of the micro-agar larval development test for detecting anthelmintic resistance in nematodes of veterinary importance in sheep in South Africa 4. Prevalence of tapeworm, <i>Dipylidium caninum</i> , in fleas collected from domestic cats and dogs in South Africa