



## **Training course in taxonomy and systematic of ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)**

Organized at the Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management  
College of Science and Technology, University of Rwanda  
Support by The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science – Belgium

### ***Call for applications***

Opening and closing dates for application submission: 10 September – 20 September 2021  
Training dates: 18 -26 October 2021

### **1. Context**

Ants are among the dominant groups of the Phylum Arthropoda, qualified as biological indicators of environmental change. Some ant species are used by humans as a source of food, whereas others are used in pharmaceutical and biomedical applications. Many ant species play fundamental roles in natural and agro- ecosystem functions, where they provide multiple services including biological pest control, plant pollination, soil bioturbation and seed dispersal. Like earthworms and termites, ants are ecosystem engineers that improve soil properties and soil function through leaf-litter decomposition, and creation of soil pores that facilitate soil aeration and soil water infiltration. Further ants facilitate nutrient transport at different soil horizons and influence food webs in soil ecosystems through the introduction of organic matter in the soil.

However, the collection and identification of this insect group is not easy and requires a specific training to fill the gap. By means of the training on ants, local specialists will be less dependent on exterior expertise in this respect and will be able to carry out independent research. The training is organized by the Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (CoEB) based in the College of Science and Technology (CST), University of Rwanda in collaboration with the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science (RBINS). It will take place at the University of Rwanda, Huye campus, Office of the CoEB.

### **2. Scholarship opportunity and profile of participants**

There are for five scholarships available for those who qualify and are interested in this training on ants. Qualified applicants are expected to be active researchers, masters or PhD students, or employees who are confronted with ants on a professional level. Participants must have a minimum level of knowledge in basic entomology in their professional work. We also encourage candidates from private sector who can demonstrate a clear link to entomology in their professional work to apply. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

### **3. Admission requirements**

Scholarships are open to Rwandan citizens who demonstrate a record of substantial work related to the subject of the course. Further all applicants will be subject to an evaluation by internal experts. The training will be in English, so all participants should do the application and demonstrate ability to follow the training in English. Special consideration will be given to women.



#### **4. Instructions for application**

Submit a complete application file including:

- a) One page motivation letter outlining:
  - Why you consider yourself a good candidate for the training,
  - Your experience and knowledge of the subject of the training,
  - The relationship between your current professional activities and the training,
  - The benefits of the training to your home institute ie how will the training results be used to accomplish biodiversity conservation
- b) A copy of your CV which shows evidence of your prior work or experience in entomology as well as any other relevant professional experiences
- c) A recommendation letter from your employer authorizing your participation in the training:
  - confirming the direct benefits to the institution
  - confirming your current position within the institution and indicating a commitment to make a good use of the newly acquired expertise
  - The letter must be dated and signed. The name, position, and address of the authors of the letter must be clearly mentioned

The complete application files should reach the following email address before 20 September 2021 (deadline 19 September – midnight). Email: [coeb1@ur.ac.rw](mailto:coeb1@ur.ac.rw). Only selected applicants will be personally informed of the results of the selection process by 1 October 2021.

#### **5. Scholarship conditions**

One round trip transport fee will be paid to participants from home to the office and expenses related to PCR test will be reimbursed. Accommodation and meals will be provided during the training.

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