

# SKAPHION

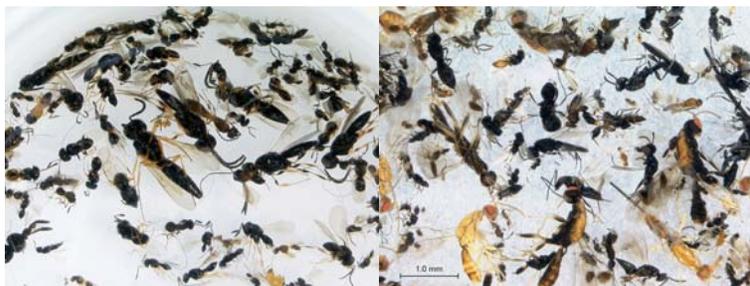
## PBI at the Iziko Museum, Cape Town.



Beryl (left) & Aisha (right) hard at work.

**Beryl Goci** and **Aisha Mayekiso** are hard at work extracting and sorting Hymenoptera from **Simon's** African samples in the **Platygastridae Parataxonomy Laboratory at Iziko South African Museum**. Currently samples from Uganda (2005) and fresh material from West Coast Fossil Park (120km North of Cape Town) are being processed. Both **Beryl** (nickname **Speech** because she is so quiet) and **Aisha** have previously been trained and employed by **Simon** as wasp parataxonomists. **Aisha** has also been extensively trained as an ant parataxonomist by **Brian Fisher** and has visited the USA three times for specialist training. Both never expected in their wildest dreams to one day be peering down microscopes at tiny insects. **Aisha** had her heart set on becoming an air hostess and **Beryl** was convinced a career in human resources was her calling. **Aisha** grew up in Cape Town and **Beryl** hails from Mdantsane near East London in Eastern Cape Province. Both are proud mothers.

*Welcome to the project, ladies!!*



Malaise catch, Uganda

Malaise catch, West Coast Fossil Park

## Notes on collection holdings - from Norman

We recently received two wonderful gifts: Excel files containing a summary of the scelionid holdings of the *Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet in Stockholm* and the *Los Angeles County Museum*. These came to us from *Hege Vårdal* and *Brian Brown*, to whom we give our greatest thanks. The files will be a great help in locating specimens and types for our work. They also reminded me that, a couple of years ago, **Lubo** had given me a file (a paper file) with notes on the types, some for specific authors, others for collections. These included the types of *Jean Brèthes* and *J.-J. Kieffer*, and the museums in *Berlin, Stockholm, Vienna, Budapest, Amiens, Elbeuf, Genoa, Naples, Florence, Verona, and the California Academy of Science*. I've posted these files on the wiki, go to **Descriptive Taxonomy/Notes on Collection Holdings**. Alternatively, send me an e-mail and I can send the pdf files directly to you.

## Note on travels

**FOSSILSx3** **INSECTSARTHROPODSAMBER** **Luciana Musetti** and **Norman Johnson** will be attending the **FossilsX3**, an international conference focused on the study of fossil arthropods, in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain (Basque Country) from 4-8 May. The agenda and the meeting details can be viewed at [http://www.fossilsx3.net/Jornadas\\_ing.htm](http://www.fossilsx3.net/Jornadas_ing.htm). Afterwards, we will visit the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle* in Paris for three days. We'll report on the meeting and on our visit to the museum in the next Skaphion.

**Chris Darling** will be travelling to Vietnam on May 2. Afterwards, he says, perhaps a short visit to Cambodia. Have a safe trip, Chris!

**Charuwat Taekul** will be presenting his research project, entitled "Review of the genus *Fusicornia* Risbéc", at the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, DC on May 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Send us your news:** travel, new collections, promotions, lectures, classes, publications. It all goes into our annual reports! E-mail any contributions to **Norm** at [johnson.2@osu.edu](mailto:johnson.2@osu.edu)

The **Platygastridae PBI Project** is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation to Norman Johnson (Ohio State University) & Andrew Austin (University of Adelaide, Australia). Planetary Biodiversity Inventories (PBI) is a Special Biennial Competition in Biodiversity Surveys and Inventories, Directorate for Biological Sciences, Division of Environmental Biology.

