

# Curriculum Vitae: Ursula VERBURGT

## MSc. Zoology & African Mammalogy

Name: Ursula Kathrin VERBURGT, maiden name BUETTNER  
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Date of Birth: 09. June 1976 in Erlangen, Germany  
Nationality: German



### EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 1986 – 1994: Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Gymnasium (Secondary School), Oberasbach, Germany; resulting in German Abitur (school-leaving examination, A-level)
- 1996 – 1998: Studying Biology, (foundation studies; 4 semesters), Friedrich-Alexander University (FAU), Erlangen, Germany; resulting in Vordiplom (first academic degree)
- 1998 – 2002: Studying Biology following semesters at FAU:  
major subject: zoology; minor subjects: genetics, palaeontology, geology; resulting in German **Diploma in Zoology** (comparable to MSc)  
Diploma research at the University of Missouri (MU) – Columbia, USA  
Area of research: bioacoustics and behavioural physiology  
Supervisors: Dr Johannes Schul (MU) and Prof Otto von Helversen (FAU, Erlangen)  
Thesis: “Call-Patterns of five local *Neoconocephalus* species (Orthoptera:Tettigoniidae)”
- 2004 – 2005: Masters course in African Mammalogy, University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa; resulting in **MSc degree: African Mammalogy**  
Area of research: conservation and ecology  
Supervisors: Prof Johan du Toit (UP) and Prof Gus Mills (Carnivore Conservation Group (Endangered Wildlife Trust), South Africa)  
Thesis: “Factors influencing juvenile survival in African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) in Kruger National Park”
- 2005 – 2006: Distance education with UNISA, South Africa, resulting in PGCSE (post graduate certificate in secondary education) for Natural Sciences & Biology (FET phase)
- 2010: SASS5 training course for the assessment of fresh-water quality, using the SASS method (**SASS5 certification**)

### WORK OPPORTUNITIES & EXPERIENCES

- As student: Tutoring zoology courses (physiology and anatomy)
- 2000: 6 week internship on social behaviour of Rock-wallabies in Queensland, Australia supervised by Dr. Udo Ganlosser (FAU, Erlangen) and Prof Helene Marsh (James Cook University, Townsville, TESAG)
- 2002: 12 weeks internship within the Blouberg Conservation Project in South Africa (www.blouberg.org); Conservation of endangered reptiles and raptors, Environmental education for local rural people
- 2002 – 2003: Sporadic work for the BAT CONSERVATION GROUP in Erlangen
- 2003: Technical Assistant at the Dep. of Zoology (FAU), research group Dr. Frieder Mayer
- 2004: Scientific translations (German to English) for Prof. Sue Nicolson, Head of Zoology & Entomology Dep. (UP)
- 2004 – 2005: Editorial work on the 3rd edition of: "The Mammals of the Southern African Subregion"
- 2004 – 2011: Participation and contribution to a variety of biological surveys (mainly herpetology and mammalogy) throughout South Africa (e.g. several mining and bio-monitoring projects), involvement included field work, data collection and data processing
- 2006 – 2007: Short term teaching appointments at the Tuks Sports school (High performance Centre), Elmar collage and Girls High in Pretoria, South Africa
- 2007 – 2011: Teaching position for Science and Biology at Courtney House International School following the Cambridge curriculum (www.courtney.co.za)
- Currently: Technical coordinator and specialist for SASS5 (river health) assessments at Enviro-Insight CC, an environmental consulting company (www.enviro-insight.co.za)

## RECENT INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRO-INSIGHT PROJECTS

May 2011 Vergenoeg, South Africa: Assistant during python scoping  
July 2011 Moamba Major, Mozambique: Assistant to herpetologist & mammalogist  
July 2011 Ncondezi, Mozambique: Assistant to herpetologist & mammalogist  
July 2011 Vale, Mozambique: Mammalogist  
October 2011 Paardeplaats, South Africa: Assistant to herpetologist & mammalogist  
November 2011 Blouberg, South Africa: Assistant to herpetologist  
November 2011 Jindal, Mozambique: Assistant to flora & fauna specialists  
November 2011 Thabazimbi, South Africa: Assistant to herpetologist  
December 2011 Anadarko, Mozambique: Assistant to herpetologist & mammalogist  
January 2012 Anadarko, Mozambique: Assistant to herpetologist  
February 2012 Carolina, South Africa: SASS5 specialist & assistant to herpetologist & mammalogist  
February 2012 Newcastle, South Africa: SASS5 specialist & assistant to herpetologist & mammalogist

## PUBLICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Published: **Buettner, UK**, Davies-Mostert, HT, du Toit, JT & Mills, MGL. 2006. Factors affecting juvenile survival in wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) in Kruger National Park, South Africa, *Journal of Zoology* 272, 10-19.

In preparation: Verburgt, L, **Verburgt, UK** & Ferguson, JWH. Paper on the influence of wing structure on sound production in crickets.

Editorial work: Skinner, JD & Chimimba, CT. 2006. *The Mammals of the Southern African Subregion*, 3rd edition, Cambridge University Press.

Elements of fieldwork and data accumulation: Schul, J, Patterson, AC. 2003. What determines the tuning of hearing organs and the frequency of calls? A comparative study in the katydid genus *Neoconocephalus* (Orthoptera, Tettigoniidae). *Journal of Experimental Biology* 206, 141-152.

## LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

German: fluent, native; English: fluent; French: basic; Afrikaans: rudimentary; Sepedi: elementary

## COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE

Office programs, sound and graphic programs on PC and Macintosh, Internet usage, some DOS usage, etc...

## HOBBIES

Diving, rock-climbing, all kinds of other sports, friends, nature, being out-doors, playing music (e.g. saxophone), etc...

## REFERENCES

Prof. Willem Ferguson Director of the Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Pretoria:  
willemferguson@zoology.up.ac.za  
Mrs. Jo Roux Owner and Management of Courtney House International School, Pretoria:  
contact@courtney.co.za