

Project Update: February 2017

Sampling was scheduled to commence as soon as the wet season began in November 2015 however this was not the case because funding was received on the 8th January 2016. The greater part of the year 2016 was spent seeking permission to sample millipedes across all the sites in South Africa. Since millipedes can be easily be collected during the wet season when they are surface active, we only began sampling in early December 2016 which was a late start to the rainy season due to the drought. So far we have collected 111 *Dorotogonus* specimens from the sites in Mpumalanga and Limpopo. We are still awaiting permission to collect from the remaining sites. As such sampling is still in progress. Upon the next wet season (November 2017-February 2018) we will proceed to sample in the remaining sites which include the sites in KwaZulu-Natal, North-West, Gauteng, Eastern and Western Cape. We have trained local students who are also assisting with the collection of *Dorotogonus* specimens. Currently I am identifying the *Dorotogonus* specimens to species level.



Dorotogonus specimen collection (left) and *Dorotogonus* specimen identification (right)



Diploma in Nature Conservation students Bongani and Mbali from a local university assisting with *Dorotogonus* specimen collection in Barberton, Mpumalanga, South Africa.