

MARIA CORINTA FERREIRA (1922-2003?),  
“NATURALIST AT THE MUSEU DR. ÁLVARO  
DE CASTRO, LOURENÇO MARQUES [NOW  
MAPUTO], MOZAMBIQUE,” 1949 – 1974

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**Abstract:** *In 1940, the naturalist Maria Corinta Ferreira decided to leave the zoology research centre of the board for colonial research (Junta de Investigações Coloniais–JIC), where she felt gender discriminated as a scientist, and compete for the position of naturalist at the Museum Dr. Álvaro de Castro Museum (MAC) located in Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), Mozambique. By benefitting from the knowledge and the entomological collections of museums and scientific institutes in South Africa, for 25 years (1949–1974) she built up a scientific career as a researcher in entomology and achieved international recognition. As a woman, however, she never reached the upper positions in MAC’s hierarchy or in the Scientific Research Institute of Mozambique (IICM), the pretext being her formal academic credentials, notably the fact that she was given the title of Doctor on the basis of her published research, rather than upon completing a PhD.*

## Introduction

In recent decades the studies of gender have focused on the history of science<sup>1</sup> and museums,<sup>2</sup> which has enabled us to contest the propaganda “invisibility of women in science.”<sup>3</sup> The analysis of the *way* and *how* Portuguese women joined the market of scientific work, in the first half of the twentieth century, and managed their professional careers awakened the interest of the Academy and researchers.<sup>4</sup>

The various approaches have focused mainly on women scientists whose careers developed within scientific institutions and other organisations based in Portugal. Whenever they joined missions in the overseas colonies, their careers became closely associated with the Portuguese colonial history of science.

The above mentioned studies, in turn, fit into another field of analysis that deals with the increasing access of Portuguese women to the universities of Coimbra, Lisbon and Porto between the late nineteenth century and the 1960s and their success in completing degrees, particularly in science.<sup>5</sup> This had repercussions in the scientific labour market from which female workers with university education could be recruited.<sup>6</sup> However, the market for scientific work, dominated mostly by men, was slow to give the same opportunities of access, career and wages to women with degrees in science from Portuguese universities. This was due to stereotypes that assigned “special skills” and “unique talent” to women, which supposedly gave them

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<sup>1</sup>\* IHC/CEHFCi the University of Évora, Évora, Portugal. PhD Student in History and Philosophy of Science, Specialty Museology. Email: luispequito@netcabo.pt Margaret W. Rossiter, *Women Scientists in America*. (Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984), 51–2; Londa Schiebinger, “Feminist History of Colonial Science,” *Hypatia* 19, (2004): 233–254.

<sup>2</sup> Rebecca Machin, “Gender representation in the natural history galleries at the Manchester Museum,” *Museum and Society* 6 (2008): 54–67; Amy K. Levin, ed., *Gender, Sexuality and Museums: a Routledge reader* (New York: Routledge, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> Maria Margaret Lopes; Lia Gomes Pinto de Sousa; Mariana Moraes de Oliveira Sombrio, “A construção da invisibilidade das mulheres nas ciências: a exemplaridade de Bertha Maria Júlia Lutz (1894-1976),” *Género* (Niterói) 5, (2004): 97–109.

<sup>4</sup> Ana Cristina Martins, “A ciência colonial portuguesa no feminino: olhares e práticas na Missão Botânica de Moçambique (1942–1948),” in 8º Congresso Ibérico de Estudos Africanos sob a Árvore da Palavra, Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Autónoma de Madrid, 14 a 16 de Junho de 2012, [online, accessed 12/5/2014].

<sup>5</sup> Ana Simões et al, *Uma História da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa (1911–1974)* (Lisboa: FCUL, 2013), 131–145.

<sup>6</sup> Rossiter, *Women scientists*, 29–72 and 160–217; Susana K. Besse, *Modernizando a desigualdade: reestruturação da ideologia de género no Brasil, 1914–1940* (São Paulo: EDUSP, 1999) 143–181.

particular aptitude for the exercise in certain scientific areas and tasks in the field of research, such as botany and the collection of specimens, to the detriment of others,<sup>7</sup> which by their nature were reserved for men.

My purpose is to discuss, in the context described above, the scientific path of Maria Corinta Ferreira following her graduation in biology from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon,<sup>8</sup> in the late 1940s. Maria Corinta Ferreira chose to work in Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), Mozambique, as a naturalist in the field of entomology, first at the Museu Dr. Alvaro de Castro (MAC) (figure 1), and later at the Instituto de Investigação Científica de Moçambique (Scientific Research Institute of Mozambique) (IICM) in the capacity of Deputy Director. Having arrived in Lourenço Marques in the late 1940s in the aftermath of World War II, Maria Corinta Ferreira encountered a cosmopolitan city and a society where women were less subject to social behavioural pressure and to gender constraints as compared to home. With regard to her position at the MAC she had to face poor conditions for scientific research,<sup>9</sup> with no support from institutions and entities from home and the lack of higher education in Mozambique, which would start in Lourenço Marques only in 1962.

Given the situation, she planned her scientific career based on a close collaboration with South Africa, which was approved by the provincial government, in order to have access to scientific resources that would allow her to keep up-to-date with scientific developments in the field entomology<sup>10</sup> and hence to establish entomology as a scientific area of interest in the MAC.

Her career as a researcher and her professional skills in the area of systematic entomology soon became internationally recognized by her peers and by entomological scientific institutions, while remaining almost unknown to the metropolitan institutions and entities. However, despite her merits, she was passed over whenever opportunities arose for positions of direction at the Museum and at the IICM, for reasons of gender.

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<sup>7</sup> Martins, A ciência colonial, 2–3.

<sup>8</sup> About the women attending the Faculty of Sciences of Lisbon see Simões et al. *Uma História*, 134–136.

<sup>9</sup> António de Figueiredo Gomes e Sousa, “Em Abertura,” *Memórias do Museu Dr. Álvaro de Castro*, 1 (1950): 5–6; Maria Corinta Ferreira, *Breve História do Museu Dr. Álvaro de Castro*, (Lourenço Marques: IICM, 1967), 13.

<sup>10</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira, *Relatório da visita de estudo ao Transvaal Museum, em Pretória* (1966) e (1970), [typed manuscript], Arquivo Histórico Diplomático / MU/GM/GNP/RRI/0727/12869-017.



Figure 1: Museum Dr. Álvaro de Castro c.1950s. (Postal – Lourenço Marques [P.E.A.] Lu Shih Tung)

## Between fieldwork and entomological research

Maria Corinta Ferreira Fontes de Melo Ferreira was born in Espinho, Portugal, on the 27th July 1922. At the age of 23 she obtained a degree in Biological Sciences<sup>11</sup> from the Faculty of Science, University of Lisbon with a mark of 17 (out of 20). In August 1945 she joined the Junta das Missões Geográficas e de Investigações Coloniais (Board of Geographical Missions and Colonial Research) (JIC) as a scholarship holder and from January 1948 she became Assistant Professor at the newly created Zoology Centre of JIC<sup>12</sup>, whose first director was Fernando Frade Viegas da Costa (1898–1983).

While working for JIC and the Centre she conducted studies on the Chiroptera of Portuguese Guinea, from the material collected by the Zoological Mission to Guinea (1945/1946) headed by Fernando Frade. She presented her results at the *2nd International Conference of Western Africanists* held in Bissau, Guinea<sup>13</sup>, and had them published in the Proceedings of JIC<sup>14</sup>.

Under the supervision of Antero Frederico Ferreira de Seabra (1874–1952) Maria Corinta Ferreira specialized in systematic entomology and, throughout 1948, studied a horse flies (Diptera: Tabanidae) of Portugal's

<sup>11</sup> She presented as final course thesis a study about histology of the nervous system of *Physcosoma granulatum*. Present name: *Phascolosoma* (*Phascolosoma*) *granulatum* (Leuckart, 1828).

<sup>12</sup> Processos Individuais nº 658/U [Maria Corinta Ferreira], “Nota biográfica,” Arquivo dos Serviços Centrais do Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (ASC-IICT).

<sup>13</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira, “Os megaquirópteros da Guiné portuguesa,” 2ª Conferência Internacional dos Africanistas Ocidentais, Bissau, 1949, (Lisboa: Junta de Investigações Coloniais, 1950-1952), 5 vols.

<sup>14</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira, “Notas acerca dos megaquirópteros da Guiné portuguesa,” Anais [Junta de Investigações Coloniais: Estudos de Zoologia] 3 (1948): 55–73 and “Notas acerca dos microquirópteros da Guiné portuguesa,” Anais 4 (1949): 189–206.

fauna<sup>15</sup>. At this time Maria Luísa Martins Gomes Alves was studying Lycidae, Cicindelidae, Chrysomelidae and Buprestidae of Portuguese Guinea, as well as the Scarabaeidae of Mozambique that the Zoological missions in the second half of the 1940s had harvested in those territories<sup>16</sup>.

At the end of 1948 Maria Corinta Ferreira applied for the position of naturalist at the MAC, in Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, and secured first place in the tender opened by the Ministry of the Colonies. In February the following year, at the age of 26, she moved from Lisbon to the Mozambican capital to start her new job (figure 2).<sup>17</sup>

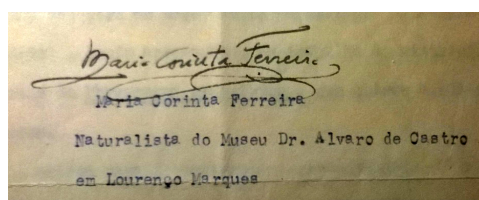


Figure 2: Signature and title she used in the fifties. (IICT-Carta de Maria Corinta Ferreira ao Presidente da JIU, 10/3/1956)

The decision to apply for the job may have been influenced by the unsatisfactory situation of the newly created Centre for Zoology of JIC<sup>18</sup> then directed by Fernando Frade.<sup>19</sup> Fernando Frade joined the first Campaign of the Zoological Mission of Mozambique in 1947 and visited the MAC to study a collection of elephant fetuses. During his visit he became familiar with the Museum's natural history collections and with the difficulties in recruiting scientific personnel. The ambience at the Zoology Centre surrounding the colonial scientific research missions, sent to the overseas territories to pro-

<sup>15</sup> Processos Individuais, ASC-IICT.

<sup>16</sup> Maria Luísa Gomes Alves, "Alguns Lycídeos e Cicindelídeos da Guiné Portuguesa," *Anais* 2 (1947): 47–61 [Trabalhos da Missão Zoológica da Guiné]; "Alguns coleópteros hispídeos (Chrysomelidae) e buprestídeos da Guiné portuguesa," *Anais* 4 (1949): 105–120 [Trabalhos da Missão Zoológica da Guiné]; "Alguns escarabídeos de Moçambique," *Anais* 5 (1951): 179–190 [Trabalhos da Missão Zoológica de Moçambique].

<sup>17</sup> Curriculum Vitae da Investigadora Dr.<sup>a</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira, [dated June 1971], IICT.

<sup>18</sup> Letter from Maria Corinta Ferreira to Alfredo Pimenta, 23 April, 1948. Arquivo Municipal Alfredo Pimenta / AALP / 134-4297/10-29-11-2-44.

<sup>19</sup> Vítor Luis Gaspar Rodrigues, "Fernando Frade Viegas da Costa (1898–1983)," *Viagens e Missões Científicas nos Trópicos, 1883–2010* (Lisboa: IICT, 2010), 144–147. Worked in Zoology Center: Sara Manaças, Maria Luísa Gomes Alves and Amélia Bace-lar. Since the 1930s several women had integrated missions JIC/JIU to the colonies as exemplified by Ester Pereira de Sousa, Ana Maria Carrisso and Maria Pomba Guerra.

cure specimens in order to be studied in mainland Portugal, also weighed on the decision. The departure of Maria Corinta Ferreira for the Museum of Lourenço Marques would provide the Zoology Centre with a permanent qualified collaborator in Mozambique and achieve one of the objectives of the JIC – to maintain close cooperation with the natural history Museums of the Colonies. In the case of Mozambique the latter was never attained for various reasons, including the fact that the missions rarely promoted the contacts and involvement with local institutions of scientific research; indeed the overseas territories were regarded as collection fields for the study of specimens in mainland Portugal<sup>20</sup>.

When Maria Corinta Ferreira began working in Lourenço Marques the MAC was going through serious difficulties, being used “almost exclusively as a showcase of wild fauna specimens, indigenous artefacts and historical objects of Mozambique”<sup>21</sup>. The procurement, organization and study of the collections were at a standstill for lack of scientific staff and the library did not have up-to-date bibliographic resources. Only the taxidermy section, under the responsibility of Alberto Peão Lopes, had some activity in the classification of the animals donated by private individuals. This state of affairs justified the statement made by António Gomes de Figueiredo e Sousa that the Museum did not fulfil, in the light of the *Principles of Museum Administration* (1895) by George Brown Goode (1851–1896), the function assigned to the museums of natural history<sup>22</sup>. On the other hand, she faced a workforce composed only by men<sup>23</sup> – the director, five technicians and six auxiliaries (figure 3); only Maria Corinta Ferreira and the Director A. Rosa Pinto possessed higher education. Her situation as the only female among the personnel only finished at the end of the 1950s with the admission of other women to administration positions.

Amongst the collections of the Museum ornithology and ichthyology were the ones that generated greater institutional and scientific interest and, therefore, were the subject of study by national and foreign researchers. The collection of fish had been enriched and studied in the 1940s by South African ichthyologist J[ames] L[eonard] B[rierley] Smith (1897–1968) in preparation

<sup>20</sup> Nuno Porto, “Luiz Carrisso e depois: museus, “ciências coloniais” e a “ocupação científica” das colónias,” in *Missão Botânica Angola (1927–1937)*, (Coimbra: Imprensa da Universidade, 2005), 127–156.

<sup>21</sup> Sousa, “Em Abertura,” 5–6

<sup>22</sup> Sousa, “Em Abertura,” 5.

<sup>23</sup> This was not always the situation because in the 1920s there worked at the museum as taxidermy helper Berta Pestana, between 1918 and 1922, and Isaura de Sousa, between 1924 and 1928, who belonged to the entomology framework of the Bureau of Agriculture of Mozambique.

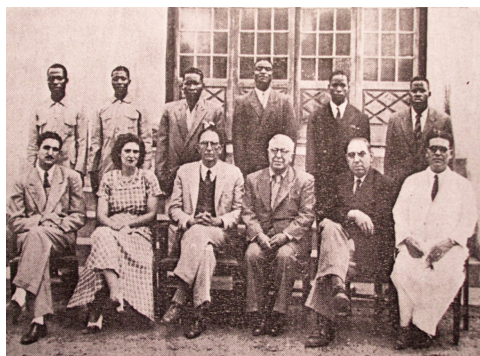


Figure 3: Staff of the Museum in 1950 – the Director António Esquível in bottom centre, to his right the naturalist Maria Corinta Ferreira and the assistant trainer Mussolini Perfume Fajardo left the taxidermist-Chief Alberto Peão Lopes, the conservator José Rebelo da Costa Cabral and the museum guard Alexandre Lopes de Almeida. In the background the auxiliaries [no names, they are also socially invisible]. (*Memórias do Museu Dr. Álvaro de Castro*, n. 1 (1950), p. 13)

of the book *The Sea Fishes of Southern Africa*,<sup>24</sup> which became a world reference. The study and organization of the ornithological collections was under the responsibility of António Augusto da Rosa Pinto, an ornithologist and director of the MAC between July 1947 and January 1959;<sup>25</sup> his expertise in Mozambican birds led to his affiliation, in 1955, to the *Zoological Mission of Mozambique*<sup>26</sup>. In 1960, he reorganised the Department of Ornithology that had been created in the 1950s as part of the MAC.

Less attention was paid to the Entomology section, which included a collection of Lepidoptera and what was left of three important collections from the beginning of the Museum. The collection of medical entomology was organized by José Firmino San'Anna in 1910, during his mission to Mozambique at the service of the Tropical School of Lisbon, with the aim of identifying the transmitter agent, the prophylaxis and treatment of sleeping sickness<sup>27</sup>. The agricultural entomology collection was prepared by William Howard Johnson, director of the Division of Agriculture of the

<sup>24</sup> ([Cape Town]: Central News Agency, 1949).

<sup>25</sup> He was replaced between April 1950 and May 1951 by António Esquível and between November 1956 and August 1957 by Luis Rodrigues Martins when he was on a leave of absence.

<sup>26</sup> Margarida Pinheiro, "As missões Zoológicas e a zoologia tropical" in *Viagens e Missões Científicas nos Trópicos, 1883–2010* (Lisboa: IICT, 2010), 142.

<sup>27</sup> José Firmino Sant'Anna, *Relatório de uma missão de estudo na Zambézia motivada pela doença do sono* (Lourenço Marques: Imprensa Nacional, 1911).

Companhia de Moçambique, from collections obtained between 1908 and 1912. Due to its scientific importance this collection was partly transferred to the Division of Agriculture of Mozambique, when the agricultural engineer José Joaquim de Almeida was the director of the MAC between 1915 and 1919 and concomitantly the director of that Division. The collection of General Entomology, acquired by the Museum from Henri-Alexandre Junod (1863–1934), consisted of the specimens collected by the missionary in the region of Delagoa Bay<sup>28</sup> (Lourenço Marques). Over time these collections deteriorated due to various moves between facilities, the lack of appropriate pest control and prolonged exposure to sunlight, hence losing the scientific value they once had. However, these collections attracted the attention and interest of Maria Corinta Ferreira largely because of her initial training in systematic entomology under the supervision of Antero de Seabra and the work of the first Zoological Mission of Mozambique, which sought “to explore the Entomological fauna of agricultural crops and forestry, to analyse the ecology of the grasslands and wildlife for protection studies”<sup>29</sup>, as well as the plan of the JIC in contributing to the economic promotion of the agricultural sector of the colonies<sup>30</sup>.

With the support of the Director of the MAC, Maria Corinta Ferreira established, as early as 1949, a programme for collecting insects, predominantly various types of Coleoptera (beetles), in the wood sawmills and forests of the Maputo region. In subsequent years the programme extended to include the southern provinces of Save, Manica and Sofala, targeting the enrichment and diversification of the museum’s insect collections and entomological recognition of Mozambique<sup>31</sup>. During the field work she was accompanied by her husband Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira who was also an entomologist. Although their situation was not without precedent it was nevertheless different from that of other couples of scientists of JIC/JIU colonial missions in which the *wives* accompanied their husbands<sup>32</sup>.

The collection of insects contributed to enrich the collections of the MAC

<sup>28</sup> H.-A. Junod, 1899, “La faune entomologique de Delagoa,” *Bulletin de la Société Neuchâteloise des Sciences Naturelles*, 27 (1898/1899) : 176–250; H.-A. Junod, “La faune entomologique de Delagoa: Coléoptères,” *Bulletin de la Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles* 35 (1899), 162–220.

<sup>29</sup> Pinheiro, “As missões zoológicas . . .”, on p. 141.

<sup>30</sup> Cláudia Castelo, “Investigação científica e política colonial portuguesa: evolução e articulações, 1936–1974,” *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* 19 (2012): 391–408.

<sup>31</sup> Ferreira, *Breve História*, 13–15.

<sup>32</sup> Ana Cristina Martins, who addresses the issue of women scientists in the tropics, says many were married to scientists and over a long period of time took (or gained) an invisibility before the careers of their husbands.



and promoted a policy of exchange and offers of duplicate specimens, namely Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae and Cerambycidae, with national institutions and across borders, which increased the numbers to the 200,000 specimens of the early 1970s. At the national level, for example, several offers were made to the University of Coimbra: 43 specimens in 1958, 19 specimens in 1959 and 52 specimens in 1960 to a total of 114 specimens of Coleoptera (Carabidae, Scarabaeidae, Tenebrionidae, and Cerambycidae)<sup>33</sup>. The offer of the collection of Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae, made in 1951 by the Transvaal Museum, stands out among the offers received by the MAC. Consisting mostly of specimens collected at the end of the 1940s by the Museum's expeditions from Pretoria to the Namib and Kalahari Desert regions, the offer contributed to enhance the Entomological collection of the Museum of Mozambique to contain rare species of great scientific value, many of which did not figure in the European collections<sup>34</sup>

Concomitantly with the specimen procurement Maria Corinta Ferreira started the study and reorganization of the scientific and exhibition aspects of the entomological collections of the Museum by replicating the British model followed by natural history museums and Entomological departments in South Africa. The option to split the collections in "reserve collections" e "public exhibition" would allow the Mozambican Museum to meet, at the same time, the status of a "Scientific Institute" and a "Centre of scientific dissemination" inherent to science museums,<sup>35</sup> as well as contributing to "the good resolution of some problems of the province of Mozambique related to the knowledge of its fauna."<sup>36</sup>

The dual organizational criteria that Maria Corinta Ferreira sought to introduce at the MAC combined an exhibition for the general public (public exhibition) with one aimed at a specialized audience (reserve collection). She had in the person of Artur Ricardo Jorge (1886–1975) a defender of its applicability to natural history museums in Portugal.<sup>37</sup> The texts by this

<sup>33</sup> Ana Rufino, "La colección de Coleoptera de Maria Corinta Ferreira ofrecida a la Universidad de Coimbra (Portugal)," in *1as Jornadas Entomológicas del Grupo de Seguimiento de Fauna*, Universidade Complutense de Madrid, 5–9 May 2014. [online, accessed 16 de Março de 2015].

<sup>34</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira, "Sobre uma oferta valiosa de coleópteros tenebrionídeos feita pelo Transvaal Museum ao Museu Dr. Álvaro de Castro," *Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique*, 72 (1951): 28–50.

<sup>35</sup> Artur Ricardo Jorge, *A dupla missão – científica e cultural – dos Museus de História Natural, à luz da Biologia e da Museologia modernas*, (Lisboa: Oficinas Gráficas Casa Portuguesa, 1953), 6–7; Henrique Coutinho Gouveia, "Progresso científico e educação popular. Organização dos museus oitocentistas," *Museu*, IV Série, 16 (2007), 117–124.

<sup>36</sup> Ferreira, "Sobre uma oferta," 29.

<sup>37</sup> *Museus de História Natural. Relatório apresentado ao I Congresso Nacional de*

author—*Natural History Museums* (1943) and *The dual mission, scientific and cultural, of the Natural History Museums in the light of biology and modern Museology* (1953)—were used by Maria Corinta Ferreira to justify the application of that model to the Mozambican Museum.<sup>38</sup>

The first studies conducted by Maria Corinta Ferreira focused on the Tabanidae of the Mozambican fauna<sup>39</sup> and were an extension of the work she had developed in Portugal. However, her scientific interest in insects changed course to the study of different types of Coleoptera. The reason of this change is probably related to her new collaboration with the coleopterologist Charles Koch (1904–1970) during a two-months training course held in 1950, at the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique. The course focussed on the behaviour and life cycle of Coleoptera given the importance of these insects in the agricultural and forest economy of Mozambique; the importance of this work was such that it was reported by the Mozambican press. The newspaper *Notícias*, in its issue of Saturday 17 March, 1951, reported on its front page the importance of the scientific research carried out by a Portuguese lady in Pretoria who was studying “some highly harmful insects to the agriculture of the Union of South Africa and Portuguese East Africa.”<sup>40</sup> The news closed by mentioning that young Maria Corinta Ferreira radiated charm, possessed a remarkable culture—certainly meaning scientific culture—and that she was carrying out outstanding work at the Museum of Lourenço Marques.

The successive visits to South Africa—1951, 1952, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1963, 1965, 1970 and 1971, usually for periods of two to six months—included, in addition to the Transvaal Museum, indispensable as it was “virtually impossible to work in Mozambique without knowing and studying the material from their collections,”<sup>41</sup> the Entomological departments of the South African agriculture services, the South African Museum in Cape Town, the Albany Museum in Grahamstown, the Durban Museum and Art Gallery, the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg and the Kruger Park by

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Ciências Naturais, na sua VI Sessão Plenária, em 11 de Junho de 1941, (Lisboa: Oficinas Gráficas Casa Portuguesa; 1943); Jorege, A dupla missão.

<sup>38</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira and Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, “Museologia,” *Naturália* 5 (1955): 45.

<sup>39</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira, “Lista dos tabanídeos de Moçambique,” *Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique*, 63 (1949): 87–89.

<sup>40</sup> “Uma cientista portuguesa e a imprensa de Pretória,” *Notícias*. *Diário da Manhã*, 17 March 1951, 1 and 4. The news published had as a source the Pretoria News, which highlighted also the educational and professional background of the noted Portuguese scientist in Mozambique.

<sup>41</sup> Ferreira, *Relatório da visita* (1970): 1, AHD.

invitation of the Board of Trustees as a collaborator of the Institute of National Parks of the Union of South Africa. These contacts allowed her to study in depth the entomological collections, establish collaborations with entomologists and conduct studies with South African museums concerning the scientific work and educational role with the community. On the other hand, Maria Corinta Ferreira saw the journeys to South Africa as a way to continue her training and scientific update and to make use of the laboratory and bibliographic resources that the MAC lacked.

In 1956, subsidised by the Provincial Government of Mozambique, she went on a mission to Europe to visit the museums of natural history in Madrid, Genoa, Paris, Brussels, Basel and London, the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, the Zoologische Staatssammlung in Munich and the Institut des Parcs Nationaux du Congo et du Ruanda-Urundi in Brussels, targeting in particular the study of types of insects collected in Africa, the entomological collections of those institutions and aspects of museology<sup>42</sup>. The visit was also used to establish partnerships based on the offer of duplicated collections of insects and of specimens for study in exchange for books and access to studies of entomological collections in the possession of the European museums.

Working on her own in the scientific organization of the entomological collection of the MAC, Maria Corinta Ferreira planned a strategy so that the collections were disseminated through the creation of a network of individual and institutional contacts, successively renewed and expanded until 1974. Several entomologists from various specialities such as J. T. Janse (1877–1970) of the Transvaal Museum, A. J. Hesse (1895–1987) of the South African Museum, Henri Schouteden (1881–1972), Pierre L. G. Benoit (1920–1995) and Pierre Basilewsky (1913–1993) of the Museum Royal de l’Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Elliot Charles Gordon Pinhey (1910–1999) of the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, and Karlis Princis (1893–1978) of the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, used in their studies specimens from the collections of Diptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Myriapoda and Coleoptera belonging to the MAC.

She was further responsible for the creation, in 1950, of the memoirs of the MAC, an idea she brought from South Africa where the museums produced a journal for the dissemination of scientific activities and catalogues of collections they exchanged with other institutions as a way to enrich the documentary holdings of the library. She started from No 3 (1955), the publication of the “Catalogue of the Scarabaeidae at the Museum Dr. Alvaro

<sup>42</sup> Curriculum Vitae (1971), IICT.

de Castro,” which was the first catalogue of the entomological collections to be released publicly.

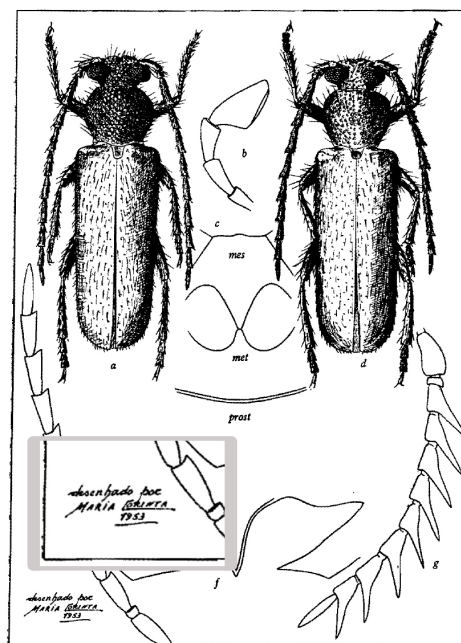
Maria Corinta Ferreira’s scientific production during these 25 years of her career was intense, making her an internationally recognized authority, which is still cited in entomological<sup>43</sup> studies on the various types of beetles from southern Africa. She published over 120 articles in English and Portuguese, as well as monographies on Coleoptera, produced announcements of new species, catalogues and texts in scientific journals and publications for dissemination at home and abroad. She had articles published in the *Revista* of the Faculty of Science of Lisbon, the *Anais* of the Faculty of Sciences of Porto and of the JIC, the *Arquivos* of the Museum Bocage, the *Naturália* of the Portuguese Society of Natural Sciences, the *South African Journal of Science*, the *South African Journal of Agricultural Science*, the *Annals of the Transvaal Museum*, *Durban Museum Novitates* and *Naturalistes Malgache*, to cite but a few and leaving out the journals published in Mozambique by the Museum and IICM. In her articles and in those with C. Koch and G. da Veiga Ferreira, the author revealed a her talent as a scientific illustrator with over 3,000 morphological drawings and of whole insects drawn in ink and pencil-coloured that helped the specialised and non-specialised reader to understand the description of the observed insects (figure 4). This alliance between science and art gave her the autonomy and control in the production of her scientific articles.

In 1951 and 1952 a study on xylophagous insects of the family Cerambycidae, carried out with Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, earned the authors the Thomas Sim award<sup>44</sup> to the annual amount of 50,000.00 *Escudos*, given by Junta do Comércio Externo da Província de Moçambique. The award further included the edition, in English and Portuguese, of their article “Forest Entomology of Mozambique: contribution to the study of xylophagous insects,”<sup>45</sup> which went through various revisions with the addition of new

<sup>43</sup> James du Guesclin Harrison, Systematics of the endemic south-west African dung beetle genus *Pachysoma* MacLeay (Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae), (PhD diss., University of Pretoria, 1999); Rodney Moffett ed., A Biographical Dictionary of contributors of the Natural History of the Free State and Lesotho, (Bloemfontein: Sun Press, 2014) [Ferreira, M. C., on p. 104].

<sup>44</sup> Thomas R. Sim (1858–1938), Scottish botanist and forester, who lived in South Africa and held the positions of the curator and the director of the forestry services of the Natal Colony and carried out work about Mozambique, including one requested by the Governor-General Freire de Andrade which resulted in the book *Forest Flora and Forest Resources of Portuguese East Africa* (Aberdeen: Taylor & Henderson, 1909).

<sup>45</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreir and Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, “Entomologia Florestal de Moçambique: contribuição para o estudo dos insectos xilófagos: Família Bostrychidae,”



(a) *Daramus serricornis* Fairm. (b) Maxillar palpus of *D. serricornis* Fairm. (c) *D. serricornis* Fairm.: mes, mesosternum; met, metasternum. (d) *D. vicinus* n.sp. (e) Antenna of *D. serricornis* Fairm. (f) *D. serricornis* Fairm.: prost, prosternum. (g) Antenna of *Pectotenus scalabruai* Fairm.

Figure 4: Drawings of Cerambycinae in Chinese ink by Maria Corinta Ferreira (*Annals of the Transvaal Museum*, v. 22, n.3 (Nov. 1954), p. 369)

elements and subsequently became a reference work for the study of that kind of insects.

The analysis of Maria Corinta Ferreira's scientific production conveys her intent to contribute to mapping the biodiversity of the Coleoptera of Mozambique and South Africa and a persistence in pure systematic research, as she considered this to be "the key to all scientific progress."<sup>46</sup> Such analysis also shows that in all articles in which Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira was a co-author, Maria Corinta Ferreira's name appears as first author breaking

(Lourenço Marques: Junta de Exportação de Moçambique, 1951) [English edition with the title Forest entomology of Mozambique: contribution for the study of the xylophagus insects]; Maria Corinta Ferreira and Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, *Entomologia Florestal de Moçambique: contribuição para o estudo dos insectos xilófagos: Família Cerambycidae: sub-família prioninae* (Lourenço Marques: Junta de Exportação de Moçambique, 1952). To this study new research will be successively added and gathered in two volumes edited by the Junta de Exportação de Moçambique in 1955 and 1957.

<sup>46</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira, "Contribuição da morfologia para a sistemática," *Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique* 24 (1954): 156.

with the usual *invisibility* of women as regards the scientific production of married couples.

The partnership with Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira facilitated Maria Corinta Ferreira's travels abroad given the legal restrictions imposed by the dictatorship known as New State (1926–1974) that prevented married women leaving the country without their husbands' authorization.<sup>47</sup> The complicity between the couple allowed Maria Corinta Ferreira to have her own schedule of participation in international scientific congresses, which aimed, among other things, to promote the internationalisation of her scientific work. The participation in congresses was a strategic option of Maria Corinta Ferreira to promote her scientific and professional career as she realised that congresses were fora for science dissemination and assertion of the participants' scientific skills.<sup>48</sup> But they were also occasions of gender discrimination visible in the roles assigned to the participation of women.<sup>49</sup>

Further to the publication of articles she participated, either alone or with Gunderic da Veiga Ferreira, in scientific and professional conferences in South Africa, Rhodesia, Australia and Mozambique on behalf of the Museum, of the IICM and of the Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique (SEM). During the 1950s and 1960s she was a regular presence in the meetings of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science (S2A3) and the South African Museums Association (SAMA) albeit the only female representative among the five delegates from Mozambique.<sup>50</sup> An example was the Congress of the S2A3 of 1954, held in Bloemfontein, where Maria Corinta Ferreira, Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, Manuel Simões Alberto and António Gomes e Sousa delivered oral presentations in representation of the SEM. The report presented to the society was signed by Maria Corinta Fer-

<sup>47</sup> Irene Flunser Pimentel, A cada um o seu lugar, a política feminina do Estado Novo, (Lisboa: Temas e Debates/Círculo de Leitores, 2011); Elina Guimarães, "A mulher portuguesa na legislação civil," *Análise Social* 22 (1986): 568–569.

<sup>48</sup> Maria de Fátima Nunes, "Cientistas em Acção: congressos, práticas culturais e científicas (1910–1940) in República, Universidade e Academia (Coimbra: Edições Almedina, 2010), 291–311.

<sup>49</sup> Maria Margaret Lopes, Madalena Esperança Pina and Maria de Fátima Nunes, "XV Congresso Internacional de medicina de 1906, Lisboa, Portugal: uma abordagem de género," in *Ciência, Tecnologia e Género: abordagens ibero-americanas*, (Curitiba: UTFPR, 2011), 99–114.

<sup>50</sup> Leren Barradas although registered may not have been present. On the participation and role of women in congress see: Maria Margaret Lopes, Maria de Fátima Nunes and Madalena Esperança Pina, "Cruzando fronteiras: a construção de uma tradição para 1º Congresso Nacional de Ciências Naturais, Lisboa, 1941," *A Atividade da Junta de Educação Nacional* (Lisboa: Caleidoscópio, 2012), 117–131.

reira and Manuel Simões Alberto on behalf of the group.<sup>51</sup> In this same year she presented two communications<sup>52</sup> to the Congress of Pan Indian Ocean Science Association, held in Perth, Australia, by invitation of Herculano Amorim Ferreira (1895–1974) and Américo Pires de Lima (1886–1966); once again she was the only woman among the Portuguese delegates.<sup>53</sup>

The 30th Annual Meeting of SAMA (figure 5), subject to the theme “The museum: its role in the scientific, cultural and educational field”<sup>54</sup> was organized by the MAC and held in Lourenço Marques in April 1966. The event was widely publicized by the local press and the fact that it was held in the Mozambican capital was due to the scientific prestige of Maria Corinta Ferreira amongst her South African colleagues and was also recognition of the MAC for its museology and scientific level. The success of the initiative can be measured by the attendance of more than 100 delegates, mostly South Africans; of the seventeen communications six were presented by women including Maria Corinta Ferreira. The presentations dealt with themes about the role of museums in general (three), education (one), conservation (one), and institutional history (one).

Out of all the women only two had management positions: Maria Corinta Ferreira and Anna H. Smith, Director of the Africana Museum, Johannesburg. The other were prestigious curators such as Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (1907–2004), of the East London Museum, who in 1938 recognised the significance of, and made known to J. L. B. Smith, the “living fossil” or Coelacanth.<sup>55</sup> In the “world of museums” where men predominated, very few women occupied top positions; the remaining were kept in “invisibility” and involved mainly in areas of scientific research and curation of collec-

<sup>51</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira and Manuel Simões Alberto, “Relatório que à direcção da Sociedade de estudos de Moçambique apresentaram os delegados da mesma Sociedade enviados ao Congresso de Bloemfontein,” *Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique* 93 (1955): 81–86.

<sup>52</sup> “Biological reconnaissance of the territories around the Indian Ocean” and “Some notes on xylophagous insects in Mozambique,” *Proceedings of the Pan Indian Ocean Science Congress*. (2nd), [Perth, W.A.]: Pan Indian Ocean Science Association, [1954?]. Published in Portuguese in *Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique*, 25 (1955).

<sup>53</sup> Present also at the Congress were: Fernando Frade, A. Rosa Pinto, A. Castel-Branco, João Tendeiro and Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira.

<sup>54</sup> “Report and Minutes of thirtieth annual general meeting of the SAMA, Lourenço Marques, 1966 – Agenda and Program,” *South African Museum Association, Archives* [special thanks to Marianne Gertenbach, SAMA (office)].

<sup>55</sup> A lobe-finned fish thought extinct for 65 million years, which he named *Latimeria* after her and which made both of them famous worldwide, see: J. L. B. Smith, *The Search beneath the Sea. The Story of Coelacanth*, (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1956), 28–43.



Figure 5: Group photograph taken in front of the Museum Dr. Alvaro de Castro. Delegates to *30th Annual Meeting of the South African Museums Association* in 1966. Maria Corinta Ferreira is the fifth figure seated from the left. (LPA - Coleção particular)]

tions<sup>56</sup>.

The Congress served also to show the visiting scientists and seek their opinion on the works of expansion of the MAC, planned by the architect João José Tinoco (1924–1983), as well as the renovations made in the exhibition facilities geared towards education of the population.

## A female naturalist who became director of the MAC and Deputy Director of IICM

Despite the success of the permanent exhibition at the MAC with animals classified individually and in biological groups, which guaranteed a high number of visitors per year,<sup>57</sup> the general conditions of the Museum had deteriorated in the second half of the fifties, as had the research conditions of the departments of entomological and ornithological systematics that lacked closets and space for storing their collections.

The report submitted by the Director A. da Rosa Pinto to the IICM, in late 1958, on the state of the MAC was devastating. The exhibition space was insufficient, no works had been done on the building, and the exhibition available to the public had not been renewed for years. Scientific

<sup>56</sup> Jane R. Glaser; Artemis A. Zenetou ed. *Gender Perspectives: Essays on Women in Museums*, (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution press, 1994); Victor J. Danilov, *Women and Museums. A Comprehensive Guide*, (Lanham: Altamira Press, 2005).

<sup>57</sup> In the sixties the average annual visitors amounted to 100,000 people.



research was reduced, the inventory was incomplete, thefts happened often, the library did not work, the budget was small and there were infiltrations of rainwater through the roof damaging the electrical installations and the exhibits.<sup>58</sup>

In the same year, and faced with the lack of scientific personnel to fill the vacancies of IICM, the Institute's Director José Emilio dos Santos Pinto Lopes (1915–1981), Professor of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, recommended that JIU hire Maria Corinta Ferreira to the position of Assistant Professor. Since she did not hold a Ph.D. the access to that position could only be made pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 34 of the Decree 41029 of 15 March, 1957,<sup>59</sup> which provided for the possibility of hiring Assistant Professors based on the candidate's curriculum vitae so long as it included a publication of a scientific level identical to that required for a doctoral thesis. The studies published between 1952 and 1956 under the generic name of *Monograph of the Scarabaeidae of South Africa*<sup>60</sup> were deemed as equivalent based on the opinion of entomologist C. Koch.<sup>61</sup> Nevertheless the bureaucratic process dragged on between late July and 4 November, 1958, when Maria Corinta Ferreira was finally appointed to the position of Assistant Professor of the IICM by the Under-Secretary of State for Overseas Promotion, and hence she became the first woman to be admitted to the Institute's personnel.

At the beginning of 1959 the MAC came under the tutelage of the Scientific Research Institute of Mozambique (IICM)<sup>62</sup> based in Lourenço Marques since 1957, in order to integrate its organisational structure as a section of Department B, equivalent to a research unit, which encompassed biology-related scientific areas. The change was accompanied by a proposal, which failed, to amend the name used until then by the Museum to Natural History Museum Dr. Alvaro de Castro in order to make clear its vocation and to emphasize the break from the recent past.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Anais [Junta ... ], 14 (1959): 68–69.[Relatórios das actividades dos organismos dependentes da Junta de Investigações do Ultramar].

<sup>59</sup> Diário do Governo, I<sup>a</sup> Série, n. 60 de 15/3/1957 [Regulamento dos Institutos de Investigação Científica de Angola e Moçambique].

<sup>60</sup> Estudos Coloniais, 3 (1952): 231–150; Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique, 78 (1953): 3–81; 87 (1954): 83–99; 96 (1956), 53–57.

<sup>61</sup> Processos Individuais, ASC–IICT,

<sup>62</sup> The order of the State Secretary is dated 13 August, 1958 but in fact the Museum only integrated with IICM in January 1959.

<sup>63</sup> The situation was not new and had already happened with The Boston Museum of Natural History when, in 1939, Bradford Washburn was invited to make the museum a more attractive and popular institution. Washburn proposed immediately to change the

In view of the need to give new direction to the MAC, the Director of IICM, who by extension was also the Director of the Museum, appointed Maria Corinta Ferreira as Head of MAC with effect from 25 March, 1959,<sup>64</sup> which meant in practice that she would be in charge of the institution.<sup>65</sup> From then on she combined her career as a naturalist with the Directorate of the Museum, which for the first time in the 46 years of its existence had a woman in charge.

In her new capacity she immediately proceeded to implement measures to solve the problems identified by A. Rosa Pinto, at the time when the Museum was placed under the IICM. For the first time Maria Corinta Ferreira had the opportunity to apply to the MAC, and not just to the entomology collections, the British Museology model used in other South African museums, particularly in the Transvaal Museum and at the South African Museum. The status of the MAC would contribute to assert local identity in colonial Mozambique.<sup>66</sup>

Practical measures were accompanied by the introduction of new guidelines concerning the educational component, namely in the field of natural history, through a greater intervention in the education of high school and technical school students and the development of a line of research in the area of zoology,<sup>67</sup> with emphasis on entomology and ornithology. These purposes would be achieved, on the one hand, through the remodelling and modernization of the permanent public exhibition and the creation of conditions for the access to the collections by researchers<sup>68</sup> and, on the other hand, with the continuation of the general inventory and the edition of catalogues with the name, description of the species and “their systematic position within each order and collection elements including location, date and collector.”<sup>69</sup>

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name to The Boston Museum of Science.

<sup>64</sup> Aviso. Boletim Oficial de Moçambique, IIª Série, n.º 11 de 14 de Março de 1959.

<sup>65</sup> In Angola, contrary to what happened in Mozambique, curators of the museums could hold the position of museum directors, although subordinate to the Director of the Institute of Scientific Research of Angola.

<sup>66</sup> John M. Mackenzie, *Museums and Empire: Natural History, Human Cultures and Colonial Identities*, (Manchester: Manchester university Press, 2010).

<sup>67</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira and Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, “Museus Africanos de História natural: o South African Museum,” *Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique*, 94–95 (1955): 261–309; Ferreira, *Breve história*, 13–19.

<sup>68</sup> The intention was not unprecedented in the Mozambique museological context. The Museum of Mineralogy and Geology Freire de Andrade, reopened on 29 September 1958 “after remodeling the exhibition organization.” *Moçambique: Documentário Trimestral*, 93–96 (1958): 121.

<sup>69</sup> Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, “Catálogo dos tipos de insectos existentes no Museu Dr. Álvaro de Castro,” *Revista de Entomologia de Moçambique* 7 (1964): 197; “Livro

The refurbishment and expansion of the facilities completed in 1966, with the funding from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation,<sup>70</sup> made it possible to move to a new building: the Directorate, the Secretariat, the scientific collections of entomology and ornithology, the sections of research, taxidermy and of support to the Museum were all included. This renewal further allowed extension of the organization applied to the entomological collections to the zoological, geological and prehistory collections. The entomological collections were endowed with better laboratory and reserve conditions for study collections and also with improved facilities for public exhibition aimed at the instruction of the population. The remodelling of the exhibition focused on the entomological collection “mainly on the aspects of comparative morphology, colour and mimesis, habitat and economic interest”<sup>71</sup> and carrying on the organization of the prehistory collections and its “showcases.”<sup>72</sup> And contrary to what had been planned in 1961, it was decided to keep and reorganize entirely the ethnographic exhibition<sup>73</sup> whereas the collections, “not so numerous and varied as could and should be”<sup>74</sup> were, according to Cagigal e Silva, “quite interesting.”<sup>75</sup> It should be noted that the proposed changes were inspired by the permanent exhibitions of the Transvaal Museum and the South African Museum that Maria Corinta Ferreira knew well and considered to be role models based on the high educational and interpretative quality of their exhibitions.<sup>76</sup>

She also promoted the renewal and increase of the Museum staff by contracting two entomology researchers, a trainee and nine assistant technicians, helpers, designers, and translators.<sup>77</sup> She initiated a programme of internal

n. 1- Registo das aves. Coleção de estudo” [manuscrito], Arquivo do Museu de História Natural, Maputo, Moçambique.

<sup>70</sup> “Relatório dos trabalhos realizados em 1966 e Plano de Trabalhos para 1967” [typed manuscript], 3, Arquivo do Museu de História Natural, Maputo, Moçambique.

<sup>71</sup> Ferreira, Breve história, 11.

<sup>72</sup> “Relatório dos trabalhos realizados em 1964 e trabalhos para 1965” [types manuscript], 60. Arquivo do Museu de História Natural, Maputo, Moçambique.

<sup>73</sup> Ferreira, Breve história, 11.

<sup>74</sup> Manuel Simões Alberto, “Notas sobre algumas colecções etnográficas do Museu Dr. Álvaro de Castro,” *Memórias do Instituto de Investigação Científica de Moçambique* 5 (1963): 111.

<sup>75</sup> Processo M184/93. Trabalho efectuado em Moçambique. Relatório [1966] Maria Madalena de Cagigal e Silva [typed manuscript], 15. Arquivo Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian.

<sup>76</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreir and Gunderico da Veiga Ferreira, “Museus Africanos de História Natural: o South African Museum,” *Boletim da Sociedade de Estudos de Moçambique* 94-95 (1955): 259-309.

<sup>77</sup> Ferreira, Breve história, 14.

training and the preparation of a file with 400 works of Museology to serve as a basis for the creation of the *Museology Manual* for the internal use of the institution.<sup>78</sup> According to Maria Corinta Ferreira it was necessary that the “technical staff has some knowledge of natural sciences, in addition to the manual preparation, including modelling, drawing, preparation of skins, skeletons, mountings, etc.”<sup>79</sup>

In the 1960s she worked with the successive IICM directions towards reorganizing and redesigning the MAC in order to give it an international projection as a centre of scientific research in the field of Entomology. The first results emerged in 1964 with the publication, in the *Journal of Entomology of Mozambique*, of the “Catalogue of the types of Scarabaeidae at the Museum Dr. Alvaro de Castro,” organized by Gunderico da Veiga Ferreir.<sup>80</sup> This catalogue further completed and updated the *Catalogue of Scarabaeidae at the Museum Dr. Alvaro de Castro* published in the mid-1950s by Maria Corinta Ferreira in the *Memoirs of the Museum Dr. Alvaro de Castro*.<sup>81</sup> It was part of the project launched by SAMA in 1958 and rejuvenated in 1962, to edit a list of zoological and botanical type specimens preserved in the collections of the museums of southern Africa. Nineteen institutions, including museums, establishments and research institutes from Kenya and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Mozambique and South Africa,<sup>82</sup> participated in this project.

The difficulties experienced by Maria Corinta Ferreira when joining the workforce of IICM as Assistant Professor were repeated in 1962 when she requested the director of IICM Manuel Gomes Guerreiro for a promotion to the category of researcher. Despite her qualifications, length of service, equivalence to a doctorate given on the basis of published works and opinions on her curriculum made by full professors and renowned entomologists, which should have given her a title equivalent at least to Associate Professor in Portuguese (and other) universities, acceptance of her bid was hindered by opinions that would not admit exceptions as there were “individuals with the necessary academic qualifications.”<sup>83</sup> More than a matter of qualifications,

<sup>78</sup> Anais, [Junta . . .], (1959): 71–72.

<sup>79</sup> Maria Corinta Ferreira “O Museu de História Natural de Berne,” *Naturália* 8 (1959): 10–21.

<sup>80</sup> Ferreira, Catálogo dos tipos de insectos, 197–216.

<sup>81</sup> Memórias do Museu Dr. Álvaro de Castro, 3 (1955): 55–86; 4 (1956): 25–40.

<sup>82</sup> South African Museums Association, A List of Zoological and Botanical Types preserved in collections in Southern and East Africa, v.1 – Zoology. Part. 1. (Pretoria: South African Museums Association / South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, 1958), iii.

<sup>83</sup> Ofício do Secretário Provincial, Ário Lino Azevedo, ao Ministro do Ultramar

the real issue was a matter of gender and authority. The male-dominated body that authorized the entry into the scientific labour market reacted to an uncommon situation by not recognizing, administratively, the scientific value of Maria Corinta Ferreira, which academia and her peers had validated, claiming to need a formal qualification conferred by a University. But this would not be the last of her ordeals.

In 1971 Xavier da Cunha, Director of the IICM appoints Maria Corinta Ferreira as Deputy Director,<sup>84</sup> pending approval from the JIU. The approval was slow to come, even for a second position in the hierarchy, on the grounds that a restructuring of the Junta was underway. The following year Jorge dos Santos Veiga, who had meanwhile replaced Xavier da Cunha as Director of IICM, without the said restructuring having been an obstacle to his appointment, renewed the request<sup>85</sup> because the JIU had claimed that it was a job and not a function and as such the appointment required a dispatch from the Minister for the Overseas Colonies.<sup>86</sup> The ministerial dispatch finally came through on 29 October, 1972 and in January 1973 Maria Corinta Ferreira was nominated Deputy Director of IICM. Given that a Directorship of IICM should have, in view of the regulations in place, been held by a Full Professor, the access to the position of Deputy Director is the recognition by her peers, of a scientific and professional career of excellence at the service of IICM.

## Conclusion

After joining the MAC as a naturalist, Maria Corinta Ferreira soon realized that her career as a researcher would gain from an approach to South African museums given the poor working conditions in Lourenço Marques and even a certain attitude of *abandonment* from mainland Portugal towards the local scientific community. In most cases visiting missions just passed the colony by and although sometimes the missions recruited local investigators, the research centres were allowed little involvement because scientific research was reserved for the centres on mainland Portugal. As a result of this approach

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(Lourenço Marques, 3 de Setembro de 1962), Processos Individuais, ASC-IICT.

<sup>84</sup> Letter from the Director of IICM, Xavier da Cunha to the President of JIU's Executive Committee, Lourenço Marques, 8 September, 1971. Processos Individuais, ASC-IICT.

<sup>85</sup> Letter from the Director of IICM, Jorge dos Santos Veiga, to the President of JIU's Executive Committee, Lourenço Marques, 13 January de 1972. Processos Individuais, ASC-IICT.

<sup>86</sup> Official letter informing the IICM Director of the permission from the Overseas Ministry, Lisboa, 29 November 1972. Processos Individuais, ASC-IICT.

to South Africa Maria Corinta Ferreira guided her career around two main lines: the first was a personal one geared towards research and specialization in Coleoptera of the southern African sub-region, given that the insects do not know borders, and becoming an internationally recognized taxonomist. Her promotion to the board of IICM allowed her a formal research career, although she faced bureaucratic difficulties for not holding a formal Ph.D. and also for being a female scientist of international renown in a labour market usually reserved to men. The second line of action had an institutional character related to the confirmation of entomology as a scientific area of the MAC. Following her appointment of *encarregada* (responsible) of the Museum, the collection, the study, conservation and scientific organization of collections became the basis of all her activities inherent to a natural history museum, with reference to the British model used in South Africa's museums. The appointment to Deputy Director of IICM turned out to be a personal victory as it meant the recognition of her professional career and the merits as a science researcher although Mozambican society was more tolerant and permissive with regard to gender it was not more egalitarian in relation to the job market; women did not have the same rights as men, either in careers or in wages, by virtue of the labour law issued by the New State. Maria Corinta Ferreira is a good example of a woman who knew how to avoid *invisibility* and to impose herself as a scientist.