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Progress report: research on SAM-PK-K10159 (loan 7452)

To Whom It May Concern,

SAM-PK-K10159 (loan 7452) was loaned for study in June 2013. The aims of the research are to determine whether or not the specimen represents a previously unknown species of rhynchosaurian reptile, to carry out micro-CT scanning of the fossil at the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, and to prepare an anatomical and taxonomic description of the specimen for publication in an international peer-reviewed scientific journal. To date, a complete set of scientific drawings, measurements and photographs of the specimen have been prepared, and the specimen was micro-CT scanned in February 2013. Initial results indicate that the specimen represents a new species of the early rhynchosaur genus *Howesia*. I am requesting a one-year extension to the loan in order to provide sufficient time to carry out computer processing of the micro-CT data in order to acquire anatomical data on the braincase and dental morphology and to complete and submit the scientific publication naming and describing a new species for the specimen. This work will be completed (with the work submitted to *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*) before the end of 2013, and I propose to return the specimen to Cape Town in early 2014 prior to the end of the one-year extension, if granted.

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard J. Butler