

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13-003
Project Title	Taxonomic capacity building in support of biodiversity conservation in Thailand
Country(ies)	Thailand
UK Organisation	The Natural History Museum, London
Collaborator(s)	Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden, Chiang Mai. Coordinator Prof. Visut Baimai
Report date	31 st October 2005
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1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The second year of the project started on 1st June 2005 with the main objective of completing collections of Culicidae and Simuliidae from Doi Inthanon National Park and completing species identification, curation and databasing of these two insect families. Additionally, a GIS facility was to be set up. A two-week visit was made in July 2005 by Ralph Harbach, Tony Shelley and Malcolm Penn (GIS specialist) from The Natural History Museum, accompanied during one day by Dr Chaweewan Hutachareern (scientific adviser to QSBG) to assess the project. Drs Chaweewan and Weerachai visited the NHM in August for a tour of the Entomology Department and discussions with the Head of Department (Prof. Quentin Wheeler) on future collaboration.

Collections of Culicidae and Simuliidae have progressed well and most of the diverse habitats in Doi Inthanon National Park have been prospected. Collections will continue to the end of November 2005, followed by targeted collections as required. Dissection and identification of mosquitoes has progressed well and most of the specimens collected to date have been identified to species (over 90). Newly collected material will be similarly processed and labeling and databasing of the collection is proceeding. In comparison, progress on the Simuliidae is less advanced because of a lack of a specialist at QSBG. The employment from June of a freshwater biologist, Dr Jumnonjit Phasuk, has greatly improved the situation and the collection has now been identified (between 21-35 species). Labeling and data basing of specimens will also be a main feature for the rest of the second year. No insect cabinets have yet been made or purchased, but Dr Weerachai (Director of QSBG) has received funding from October 2005 for cabinets to be made in Chiang Mai. He has photographs of the new NHM metal cabinets and has been given a drawer plus unit trays as samples for copying. A GIS facility has now been set up at QSBG.

The project is on schedule with all systems installed and training completed.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

There has been a partial failure of the electricity supply to the new laboratory block in which the DI is housed. This is currently being rectified.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: No.

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: No.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**