

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

Project Ref. No.	14-015
Project Title	Conservation of Jiaozhou Bay: Biodiversity assessment and biomonitoring using ciliates
Country(ies)	China
UK Organisation	The Natural History Museum
Collaborator(s)	Ocean University of China
Project Leader	Dr Alan Warren
Report date	31 October 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
Project website	n/a

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).

1. A total of 20 OUC staff and students have been working on the project to a greater or lesser extent since April 2008. This includes 5 new postgraduate students who have begun in the last 6 months, all of which are receiving on-the-job training.
2. Five personnel from OUC visited the NHM, and one NHM staff member visited OUC, in order to carry out collaborative research and/or for training purposes.
3. Data collection on the Jiaozhou Bay ciliate fauna has continued. Since April 2008 about 20 species have been isolated from the bay for the first time, 14 of which have been definitively identified. The small subunit rRNA genes for 26 species were sequenced and submitted to publicly available databases.
4. Five papers have been published in peer-reviewed international journals in last 6 months with a further 5 in press and 12 submitted.
5. Data gathering for the investigation on the use of ciliates as bioindicators of marine water quality was completed and data analysis is at an advanced stage of completion. Three papers describing this work are in preparation.
6. Drafting for the monograph “Free-living Ciliates of the Northern China Seas” continued. Ten out of 12 chapters are complete or nearly complete with text appearing in both English and Chinese languages. The manuscript is on schedule for submission to the publisher by the end of 2008.
7. One plenary lecture was presented at the Zoological Congress of North China (Henan Province) in mid-October 2008

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 have been no notable problems in the last 6 months	
Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? n/a	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**