

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	16-008
Project Title	Conservation of Microfungi: a voice for unprotected and vulnerable organisms
Country(ies)	Armenia, Argentina, Cuba, India, South Africa, Ukraine
UK Organisation	BioNET-INTERNATIONAL
Collaborator(s)	Dra M.C. Camino Vilaró, Prof. S. Nanagulyan, Dra A.I. Romero, Dr I. Rong, Dr K.V. Sankaran, Dr Yu.Ya. Tykhonenko
Project Leader	D.W. Minter
Report date	24 October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
Project website	www.cybertruffle.org.uk/darwin-microfungi

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).

- Project website established (www.cybertruffle.org.uk/darwin-microfungi).
- Project plan discussed in detail with collaborators in Armenia, Argentina, Cuba, India, South Africa and Ukraine.
- Discussions about training courses in Africa opened, but to date no selection of candidates (this part of the project work is a little behind schedule).
- Keyboarding of African fungal records for country websites started (several thousand records from a range of African countries already keyboarded and awaiting editing).
- Trawls begun for specialist group members (some members for each specialist group now identified and invited to participate).
- List of randomly selected species names prepared for proposed Red list sample, and made available on project website. Red list assessment standards, first draft prepared and being circulated for comment prior to publication on the internet.
- Evaluation of those names begun (evaluation of names is different from assessment of conservation status of species: evaluation of names means ensuring each name on the list is an accepted name which really does represent a separate species, and is not merely a synonym of some other name elsewhere on the list. Evaluation of names is necessary before assessment of the conservation status of species can begin).
- Mycologists suitable for making assessments identified and contacted.
- Training in making conservation status assessments started for Cuban and Ukrainian participants.
- Country websites established for fungi of Cuba (www.cybertruffle.org.uk/cubafung) and Ukraine (www.cybertruffle.org.uk/ukrafung) with draft database interface.
- Conservation of microfungi promoted at international congresses: XV Congress of European Mycologists (St Petersburg, Russia), Linnaeus Tercentenary Meeting of the European Mycological Association (Uppsala, Sweden) and Annual Meeting of the Mycological Society of America (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA). A notable success was that, as a result of the symposium "*Fungi and the Rio Convention*", chaired by Dr Minter in Louisiana, the Mycological Society of America (which is the body representing mycology in North America) is now actively considering establishing a special committee for conservation of fungi for North America.

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.

NONE

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

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**