

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Rediscovering the neglected insects of Mauritius
Country	Mauritius
Organisation	University of Plymouth and Mauritian Wildlife Foundation
Project Ref. No.	162/12/005
Report date	31 October 2003

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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).

To date Milestones 1 and 2 have been successfully completed. Our candidate Saoud Motala was successful in gaining a place on the MSc in Advanced Methods in Taxonomy and Biodiversity at Imperial College & The Natural History Museum. Saoud arrived in the UK at the beginning of October at the start of the project and commenced his MSc on the 6 October. We have a project planning meeting scheduled on the 12 November with staff in the Entomology Group at the NHM to discuss the training needs of Saoud and identify strategy for his thesis. The thesis will be undertaken using material collected during the preliminary phase of the project, probably studying the taxonomy of endemic dung beetles found in Mauritius, samples of which were collected during the preliminary phase of the study.

Publicity for this project has included: UK: local radio, local and regional newspapers, University of Plymouth's 'Up Front' magazine. Mauritius: radio and press reports.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

There have been no notable problems or unexpected developments.

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

None – I have received excellent and helpful support during all stages of this project.