

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-008
Project Title	The Darwin Initiative Centre for Bat Conservation in China
Country(ies)	China
UK Organisation	University of Bristol
Collaborator(s)	Professor Shuyi Zhang, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Report date	31 October 2006
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Project website	http://www.bio.bris.ac.uk/research/bats/China%20bats/Research%20Centre.htm http://www.bio.bris.ac.uk/research/bats/China%20bats/index.htm

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).

We now have 3 papers accepted for publication in refereed scientific journals on the diversity, taxonomy and ecology of Chinese bats, with a fourth having been revised and under further review. The papers are:

Li, G., Jones, G., Rossiter, S.J., Chen, S.-F., Parsons, S. & Zhang, S. Phylogenetics of small horseshoe bats from east Asia based on mitochondrial DNA sequence variation. *Journal of Mammalogy* 87(6). Proofs corrected.

Jones, G., Parsons, S., Zhang, G. Stadelmann, B, Benda, P. & Ruedi, M. In press. Echolocation calls, wing shape, diet and phylogenetic diagnosis of the endemic Chinese bat *Myotis pequinus*. *Acta Chiropterologica* 8(2). Proofs corrected.

Li, G., Wang, Y., Zhao, H., Helgen, K.M., Lin, L., Jones, G. & Zhang, S. Echolocation calls, diet, and phylogenetic relationships of Stoliczka's trident bat *Aselliscus stoliczkanus* (Hipposideridae). *Journal of Mammalogy*. Accepted: undergoing minor revisions.

Thabah, A., Li, G., Wang, Y., Liang, B., Hu, K., Zhang, S. & Jones, G. Diet, echolocation calls and phylogenetic affinities of the great evening bat *la io* (Vespertilionidae): another carnivorous bat. *Journal of Mammalogy*. Revised, back with referees.

One of the postgraduate students funded by the Darwin Initiative grant (Li Gang) is an author on three of these papers' lead author on 2 of them.

In July Professor Jones visited Beijing and Shanghai for discussions with Professor Zhang about the project. We spent most of our time at the Bat Research Centre 100 km west of Beijing. The Centre has received support from this Darwin Initiative award for establishment of display material there, and the Centre now bears the Darwin Initiative logo. Over the summer, the Centre hosted PhD and masters students, a BBC film crew, scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a group of school children. We also visited a local primary school where we plan to purchase some rooms for development of an education centre. Negotiations

regarding purchase of this site are now reaching a close.

In September, the two PhD students funded by the award visited Bristol, and are still present at the time of writing. They attended the annual conference of the Bat Conservation Trust held in Reading. Li Gang has been working in Bristol on phylogenetics of Chinese bats. Jinshuo Zhang has been collating information on Chinese bats, and adding new information on echolocation calls, distribution and ecology that will form the basis of an extensive website on Chinese bats. Sample pages can be seen at

<http://www.bio.bris.ac.uk/research/bats/China%20bats/index.htm>

active links at the website include ones to the Research and Conservation Centre, and a test page on the biology of *Myotis ricketti* which is a template for pages on other species. Pages are almost complete for a further 40 species. Jinshuo Zhang is preparing material for two papers on the distribution and status of Chinese bats.

In addition, the Education Officer, Junpeng Zhang, has begun development of education material including a website on Chinese bats, written in Chinese (www.bats.org.cn)

In the Annual Report, we were asked to provide a time bound strategy for establishing the Education centre near Beijing. We now anticipate the following schedule:

November 2006: purchase of site

April 2007: opening of site with first school visits

Links with Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden in Hong Kong are still ongoing: Kadoorie has produced a leaflet entitled 'Focus on Hong Kong Bats: their conservation and the law', and we will use this as a model for a leaflet we will produce for the Education Centre.

The Annual Review mentioned using savings in the budget to fund part-time local administrative support: despite the delay in establishing the education centre, there are no major changes to the budget to fund this. The Education Centre will still receive funding from Professor Zhang's grants at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and once the site is completed immediate running costs beyond the lifespan of this award will met by Professor Zhang (the centre will also include a research base).

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.

We are still experiencing delays in establishing the education centre, but are confident that these will be resolved soon. The Darwin Secretariat is aware of the delays and has approved the necessary budget carry-over to this year. These changes were discussed in the last Annual Review.

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

Not since Annual Review.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: **yes, in Oct 2005-February 2006**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: yes, in Oct 2005-February 2006

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

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.**