

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	475
Project Title	Tropical Andean Butterfly Diversity Project
Country(ies)	USA, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia
UK Organisation	University College London
Collaborator(s)	Venezuela: Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Maracay; Colombia: Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia; Ecuador: Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales, Quito; Peru: Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima; Bolivia: Museo Noel Kempff M., Santa Cruz. USA: McGuire Center for Lepidoptera, Florida; Andes Region: Conservation International, Andes Center for Biodiversity Conservation.
Report date	October 31, 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	Not yet available

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 project was due to start on January 1 2006, but some activities actually started in August 2005 (with permission from Darwin Initiative/DEFRA) since a key staff member was available earlier than anticipated. Basic database structure for recording museum specimen data has been completed (original target date March 2006) and database protocols established. Over 3000 specimens of Papilionidae have so far been databased from the Natural History Museum, with curation where necessary. Planning is underway for the project meeting scheduled for the last week in April 2006, with a number of new contacts made with researchers and institutions outside the primary institution of each Andean country. A list of topics for discussion and resolution at the meeting has been drawn up and will soon be sent to collaborators. Outlines of the student courses to be conducted in each Andean country have been prepared, with draft lecture and practical titles and content, to be circulated shortly to collaborators for comment.

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.

Curation is proceeding more slowly than expected at the McGuire Center in Florida, which is one of the major collections to be databased, due to this collection having recently moved to new premises, the unexpected acquisition of numerous new collections which must be integrated and a temporary shortage of drawer space. There is a target date of mid-June for the collection to be largely curated and databasing will proceed concurrently, but completion of databasing may nevertheless take longer than anticipated.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have

changes been made to the original agreement?	
No. It is too early to predict whether any significant change to project goals or dates will occur.	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no further changes

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

The only thing I would like to raise concerns the **paperwork load engendered by the Darwin Initiative project**. While I understand the absolute necessity of properly accounting for public money spent, I respectfully suggest that the amount of paperwork, difficulties, and restrictions involved in a Darwin Initiative project seem extreme and unusual in comparison to other publicly funded projects I have managed, for comparable or larger grants. Any simplification of these reporting requirements would be very gratefully received by the grantee community, I am sure!

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.**