

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-047
<b>Project Title</b>	Tropical Andean Butterfly Diversity Project– TABDP-
<b>Country(ies)</b>	USA, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia
<b>UK Organisation</b>	University College London
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	<b>Venezuela:</b> Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Maracay (MIZA); <b>Colombia:</b> Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (ICN-UN); Departamento de Biología, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota (UA). <b>Ecuador:</b> Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales, Quito (MECN); <b>Perú:</b> Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima (UNMSM); <b>Bolivia:</b> Museo Noel Kempff M., Santa Cruz (MNK). World Wildlife Fund, Bolivia. <b>USA:</b> McGuire Center for Tropical Lepidoptera and Biodiversity (MCTLB), Florida; <b>Andes Region:</b> Conservation International (CI), Andes Center for Biodiversity Conservation. <b>UK:</b> Natural History Museum (BMNH).
<b>Report date</b>	October 31, 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.mariposasandinass.org">www.mariposasandinass.org</a> (Spanish), <a href="http://www.andeanbutterflies.org">www.andeanbutterflies.org</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).**

### **Project planning meeting Gainesville from 23-30 April 2006**

The first project planning meeting in involving 16 project members from the UK, USA and the five tropical Andean countries. University of Florida contributed \$10,000, permitting additional additional experts to be brought in from each country. The meeting lasted one week and began with presentation of lectures for the planned student courses, to obtain feedback from South American project members. The meeting ended with three days of discussion of project goals and logistics of student courses and databasing of collections in South American countries. During this meeting the infrastructure of the TABD project was developed. José Vicente Rodríguez of Conservation International (CI) attended and as a result the project received a contribution from CI of \$25,000 for databasing in each of 5 countries.

### **Student courses**

The first 2 student courses (Venezuela and Colombia) have been successfully conducted (25-30 Sept and 9-14 Oct 2006, respectively). Each course was attended and taught by three of the four main project members (Keith Willmott, Jim Mallet, Blanca Huertas and Gerardo Lamas), country coordinators and national specialist. Remaining courses are scheduled for November 20-25 (Ecuador and Peru) and December 11-16 (Bolivia). The courses are being held later than originally planned due to commitments of key project members, seasons in field stations and times of year when students are able to attend. The Peru and Ecuador courses have been combined and will be held as a single course in Ecuador, due to lack of suitable field stations in Peru and teaching commitments of key project members.

The courses have been very popular, with 26 students attending in Venezuela and 28 in Colombia. Participants have included: 2 international PhD students (Spain and Mexico), 4 Venezuelan PhD students, 9 MSc students, 24 undergraduate students and 12 graduates including owners of the main private collections from different regions in each country. Three further international PhD students are applying for Bolivian and Ecuador/Peru courses (1 USA, 1 Cuba, 1 Mexico) with others mostly local

undergraduates. In addition, renowned national experts contributed with lectures in each country: Dr Jurg de Marmels, Dr Megan Vanfossen and Giselle Arango (CI, Venezuela) and Luis Miguel Constantino (Colombia). Additional funding was obtained from AndinoNET to run the courses in Colombia and Venezuela (US\$2000). Registration for remaining courses is underway. WWF in Bolivia has contributed \$1600 to assist the student course there, providing travel scholarships for students, course advertising and travel funds to bring in two internationally renowned butterfly experts from Brazil (Dr André Freitas and Dr Jorge Bizarro). Training products consisting of CD-ROMs with c.28 lectures, useful scientific literature and two phylogenetic analysis programs were distributed to all course participants and country coordinators. The Venezuelan course received a half page write-up in El Nacional, Venezuela's major newspaper, and BH, JM and Gonzalo Andrade were interviewed for Associate Press television in Colombia.

### **Database, curation and digital images**

Each country received a Nikon Coolpix 8700 digital camera and Acer laptop computer with a copy of the project database to aid in databasing local Andean collections. A contribution of \$25,000 was received from Conservation International to help databasing collections in each country. Databasing continued in the BMNH (Pieridae, Melitaeini) and FLMNH (Ithomiinae, Papilionidae, literature – 2748 records), ICN-UN (Pieridae) and Jean Francois Le Crom's collection in Colombia, Fr. Francisco Pinas collection and MECN Ecuador (all families) with c. 23000 records available from these collections. Curation continued in the BMNH (Melitaeini), FLMNH (Ithomiinae, Papilionidae, Pieridae) and Andean country collections, with Gerardo Lamas and Keith Willmott assisting in each country. Members of the TABDP team have visited local collections in MIZA, Mauro Costa's personal collection, and the Instituto de Investigaciones Cientificas (IVIC) in Venezuela, as well as the ICN and Le Crom's collection in Colombia. Training of curators is also being conducted where appropriate. Approximately 7500 digital photographs of type specimens of Papilionidae were taken in the BMNH. Type photographs will be made available as a thumbnail image library with the database and online via the project website.

### **Project website and mailing list**

The project website went live in May (hosted free by FLMNH) and is available in both English and Spanish (see above). The website contains background information about the project, student courses, links to publications. Although the web database interface is not yet available it has already been designed and web pages are currently being developed. It is expected to be operational by January 2007. A project mailing list (tabd@ucl.ac.uk) was set up at UCL and currently has 69 subscribers.

### **Other products**

Two Spanish language manuals have been published online (project website) and printed and distributed to country participants to standardise the processes of photography (15pp.) and data capture (21 pp.) available in Spanish. A draft version of the manual of standard field survey techniques has been completed (35 pp.) and is currently being translated into Spanish.

Project team members participated in the foundation of ACOLEP (Colombian Lepidopterists Association) in Bogotá; JM and KW are founding members with BH on the committee

## **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.**

Due to logistical concerns the Ecuador and Peru courses have been combined, possibly resulting in fewer students attending from Peru. Student courses in 2006 are several months later than anticipated, and it is likely that the same will be true in 2007.

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

No. In our opinion, to date these issues do not significantly affect project goals.	
<b>Discussed with the DI Secretariat:</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Changes to the project schedule/workplan:</b>	<b>no</b>

**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](mailto: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.**