

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15/025
Project Title	Capacity building for biodiversity studies of freshwater insects, Argentina
Country(ies)	Argentina
UK Organisation	Natural History Museum, London
Collaborator(s)	La Plata Museum, Argentina
Project Leader	Stephen J. Brooks
Report date	26 October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	

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).

Visits: Two scientists plus Darwin-funded staff member from Argentina visited Natural History Museum, London. Received training in GIS methods, studied NHM collections (Chironomidae and Ceratopogonidae), discussed databasing, and future project strategy.

Collections: Planning completed for forthcoming fieldwork season (Nov 2007-March 2008) in north of Nahel Huapi National Park. Proposed sites visited and mapped; Park Rangers briefed and logistical assistance agreed.

Most material collected during last year's field season stored, labelled and sorted to main taxonomic groups and many identified. Species lists compiled for major insect groups.

Meetings: with Department of Environmental Education of Parques Nacionales; participation in Congreso Latinoamericano de Parques Nacionales 30/09 – 06/10/2007

Courses run under the Darwin Initiative banner: Planning completed for a 3-day workshop on collecting and identifying freshwater invertebrates with teachers and school students (for 27, 28 and 29 November) and a similar course for over 20 fishermen (21, 22 and 23 November).

Postgraduate course at Esquel University on morphology and function of freshwater insects (17/09/07 to 26/09/07)

Post graduate course on chironomids at Mar del Plata University (16-20 July).

Organisation of postgraduate course on freshwater insects in Bariloche University.

Organisation of 3 days workshop for primary schools in Bariloche, in collaboration with Dept of Environmental Education of Parques Nacionales.

Publications: Taxonomic paper of Ceratopogonidae published in Transactions of the American Entomological Society

500 copies of introductory guide to Argentina freshwater invertebrates produced for use in schools

2000 copies of leaflets about aquatic insects from northern Patagonia. The product is part of a series of leaflets about regional fauna and flora that Parques Nacionales distribute to tourists within the park.

A web page dedicated to the project, to be hosted at La Plata Museum, is under development and is expected to be on line shortly.

Equipment: Digital imaging equipment installed

Using resources from the Darwin Initiative three laboratories are now fully equipped and are in regular use for freshwater biodiversity studies. One is situated in Bariloche under the auspices of Parques Nacionales, one is situated in La Plata Museum and a third is situated in the Estacion Biologica Puerto Blest.

Education: One Darwin-funded technical assistant beginning PhD thesis on Chironomidae based on material collected in this project; one Darwin-funded technical assistant completed undergraduate project based on Simuliidae collected in this project.

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 in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no 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**