

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	18002
Project Title	Enhancing taxonomic capacity to underpin tropical biodiversity conservation (SE Asia)
Country(ies)	Thailand, Cambodia, and Lao PDR
UK Organisation	Harrison Institute
Collaborator(s)	Prince of Songkla University, Royal University of Phnom Penh, National University of Laos
Project Leader	Dr Paul Bates
Report date	12 October, 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1HYR
Project website	http://www.harrison-institute.org/research/CRM_R3_Darwin_taxonomic%20network.html

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).

Progress is following the timetable as laid out in Section 18 in the application form.

- training programmes in field, lab, and museum techniques have commenced
- the four PhD students have selected research topics; have put together their supervisory team (local and international); have started collating literature and specimens and planning field work
- a pdf library of over 1000 scientific papers has already been assembled, this will be greatly expanded over the next 3 years and transferred to the host institutions
- some specimen collecting has already led to enhanced research collections in the host institutions
- Paul Bates and one Darwin student (Pipat Soisook) made presentations about the project at an international conference in Prague
- one international workshop was hosted in association with Bristol University at the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) in July, 2010; another is to take place on 21-22 October also in PSU, with more planned
- scientific papers have been submitted on various aspects of their taxonomic work by all four students to international journals (this is ahead of schedule)
- discussions concerning MoUs between PSU and its Cambodian and Laotian collaborators have commenced
- ideas for a protocol for network collaboration have been discussed and will be published on the Taxonomic Network website
- the Taxonomic Network website has been designed and is waiting to be uploaded. This is additional the project website (see address above).

