

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Zeeshan A. Mirza
Project Title	Bio-Inventory of Mygalomorph Spiders of India
Application ID	18723-2
Grant Amount	£5000
Email Address	snakeszeeshan@gmail.com
Date of this Report	14/11/2018

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Documentation of mygalomorph spiders				With every survey conducted, I feel that there is more to be discovered.
Compilation of images of species				NA
Outreach and workshop				Lack of funds.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Surveys planned in Jammu and Kashmir had to be cancelled due to sudden unrest in the state; instead we surveyed other areas in Eastern Ghats

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Discovery of new genus and species from West Bengal and Odisha.
- Rediscovery of *Phlogiellus subarmatus* 127 years after its original description.
- Discovery of a new species from Andaman Islands.
- Ten new species of trapdoor spiders of the genus *Idiops*.
- A new species of *Conothele* from Chhattisgarh.
- Tissue samples of most Indian tarantulas for generating barcode sequences.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Most local communities are unaware of the existence of these spiders and would kill one if accidentally encountered. Some local tribal folks that were aware of tarantulas aided us during the survey.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project is far from complete and more dedicated surveys are necessary especially across northeast India and parts of Himalayas. I look forward to applying for funding to continue the project.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Part of the findings have been published in scientific papers and more papers are underway. A book will be published after completing surveys in certain areas.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The project was planned for a year but extended much longer. Areas to be surveyed were far and hence there were a lot of breaks between consecutive fieldtrips unlike surveys in Western Ghats. Surveys could not be conducted during extreme cold as it makes surveying difficult and most species hibernate and are difficult to locate.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Batteries, alcohol, vials, torch, internet	800	800		
Local transport for 8 months	1600	2200	600	Travelling in hilly terrain was more expensive than anticipated.
Food allowance for researchers @ 80 per month x 10	800	800		
Field assistant @50 per month x 8 months	400	200	200	
Fellowship for researcher @ 100 per month 12	1,200	1000	200	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Additional surveys are needed across forested areas of northeast India, Eastern Ghats and western Himalayas to document species.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The Rufford Foundation was acknowledged in every scientific publication that arose from surveys conducted with funds from Rufford.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Ayan Mondal: Survey and Identification of species

Gaurang Gowande: Survey

Rishikesh Patil: Survey

Saunak Pal: Survey

Mayuresh Ambekar: Survey



Andaman



Conothele



Orientothele alyratus



Parachute tarantula



Haploclastus cervinus