

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Peter Smetacek
Project title	Inventory and comparison of moth communities inhabiting different forest ecosystems in the foothills of the Kumaon Himalaya, INDIA
RSG reference	21.05.06
Reporting period	Sept. 06 to Dec. 07
Amount of grant	£4817/-
Your email address	petersmetacek@rediffmail.com
Date of this report	May 30, 2008

1. Please 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
Obtaining moth specimens	Spring/early summer brood		Late summer, Monsoon, autumn broods	The moths of the spring/early summer brood hardly emerged due to inclement weather
Identifying moths		Roughly 350 species not identified, the remaining identified		These will eventually be identified, when relevant literature is located.
Determining those species new to Science		One new genus to be erected, at least two new species and the undescribed sexes of a few described species to be described		Awaiting further inputs, e.g. literature, expert comment, etc.

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

Two unforeseen difficulties arose: the first was the weather, which was cold, with rain and hail during spring 2007. This negatively affected the emergence of moths from their pupae and as a result, there were practically no moths on the wing during the first four months of 2007.

The second difficulty was obtaining a suitable site on rent. In the proposal, I intended to establish a high elevation station in the village of Shyamkhet. However, no suitable site was available on rent. Therefore, a station was set up first in Jilling Estate and later in Gagar, which is on the crest of the hill above Shyamkhet.

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

Three most important outcomes of the project were:

- a) Clarification of the altitudinal distribution of many moths of this area.
- b) Record of many previously unreported/unrecorded moths from this area, substantially increasing the total number of moth species known from this area.
- c) The discovery that the same forest type, sub-tropical broadleaf evergreen, with Himalayan Oak as nodal species, actually supports different populations of moths at different elevations.

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

Local communities benefited to the extent that they were exposed to the world of nocturnal insects: on most evenings, local children and adults would visit the screen and marvel at the diversity and form of attracted insects. They were then treated to impromptu lectures on whatever happened to be attending the screen on that evening.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

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

Publications.

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

September 2006 to December 2007. The time scale was as anticipated.

8. Budget: Please 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. The exchange rate was INR 82/- to £1/-.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Salaries and wages	2505	2505	nil	
Equipment	456	468	12 (from contingency fund)	Additional literature obtained. Instead of 20 hardwood insect cabinets, I had 50 softwood cabinets made.
Rent	514	514		
Travel	1076	1276	200 (from contingency fund)	In addition to planned travel, local travel was extended to November 2007. Also, the contingency funds partially covered the expenses of a visit to the main Himalayan range in early May 2007 to confirm presence of a putative subspecies of the Spectacle Swordtail butterfly, which I had discovered many years ago. The butterfly was re-discovered and what is probably a new moth species was also discovered.
Postage, internet, contingency	414	202	nil	Balance of contingency fund used for obtaining membership in Lepidopterists' Society (USD 40+10) and page charges for publications.
TOTAL	4817	4817		

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

There are two lines to be followed: firstly, the moth fauna of the outermost range of the Himalaya in this area is now pretty well known due to the results of this project. (The moth list resulting from this project published in the journal Bionotes has been included as an Appendix to the Forest Working Plan of Nainital Forest Division by the State Forest Department). Further, the middle and main Himalayan range in this area have to be sampled, in order to obtain a cross-section of the moth fauna of this part of the Himalayan range. Much new data is almost certain to emerge.

Secondly, the reasons why a forest which is botanically more or less the same supports different moth communities at different elevations needs to be clarified, since the results might prove interesting for conservation planning.

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

The logo was not used, but the financial support of the RSGF was acknowledged in the publication and will be acknowledged in further publications, wherever material obtained under this project is used or referred to.

11. Any other comments?

Yes. Thank you for making this work possible.