

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

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

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Beatriz Otero Jiménez
Project title	Of mice and forests: A study of small mammal demographic patterns in their natural habitat
RSG reference	21927-1
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	botero@umich.edu
Date of this report	December 10, 2018

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
Sample terrestrial rodent community in a continuous forest in Mexico				Gaining accessibility to the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve in Chiapas Mexico was difficult and required approximately 6 months to obtain all required permits
Identify rodent species present in the Reserve				We collected ear tissue samples of all the rodents trapped and used DNA barcoding methods to identify the species
Evaluate the population structure of these species in their natural habitat				We are currently conducting the population genetic analysis of the collected samples to achieve this objective

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

N/A

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

This project allowed the collection of important baseline data about wild rodent populations in their natural habitat. Very little is known about the ecology and structure of terrestrial tropical rodents. With this information it will be able to make more informed management decisions to ensure biodiversity conservation of this important group.

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

We collaborated with El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), San Cristobal, a local university in the region. Undergraduate students from this institution served as field assistants and replicates of all the samples collected were deposited in the institutions Mammal Collection.

Additionally we partnered with Mexico's National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, regional office in El Triunfo Reserve and with the NGO El Triunfo Conservation Fund. After sample collection was done we shared a short report of the study with these organisations.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The work has yielded interesting results, and if we can secure more funding we would love to continue the work in the area.

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

The scientific study will be published in an open access journal. Additionally, a Spanish version of the study will be published in the ECOSUR institutional magazine when all analysis are finished.

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

The grant was used from February to December of 2018. Because obtaining accessibility to the study site was complicated, the project was started later than 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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Round trip Airfare	1000	800	-200	Roundtrip from Detroit, MO, USA to Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico
Housing and Food at El Triunfo	1300	1200	-100	Included room and board for me and my field assistants (3 people total)
Local travel to and from Field Site and lodging	300	200	-100	Travel to the reserve took 2 days from our home location at ECOSUR.
Assistant Salary	300	300		
Field equipment and laboratory work/ analysis	2000	2500	+500	Includes the materials used in the field (markers, ethanol, notebooks, etc.) and Population genetic analysis
Total	4900	5000	+100	

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

It would very valuable to collect information on the diet of the rodents in the forest. This could provide guidance for conservation management plans that ensure resources to maintain the populations.

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

Rufford Foundation will be listed as a sponsor of the work in the upcoming research publications.

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

Jorge Bolaños: Field assistant and Mammal Collection manager at ECOSUR

Jose Lopez: Field assistant and undergraduate student at ECOSUR

Dr. Consuelo Lorenzo: Local Collaborator and professor at ECOSUR.

12. Any other comments?

Thank you for the support in this project!

