

Project Update: July 2022

Previous updates were for April - June 2021, July - September 2021, October to December 2021, January to March 2022, and the current update is for April to June 2022. As the project moves beyond the halfway mark, I am happy to report that we are well on our way to successful project completion.

Currently, I am hard at work in the laboratory, identifying numerous insect species and documenting their visitation rates, tree species preference and whether or not they carry pollen. I have already completed this process for three of the four tree species, with only *Curtisia dentata* still needed to be completed before data analysis can be done.



At the moment, I am busy organising field work which is set to start in September 2022 (when many tree species start flowering). During this second, and important, phase of the project, I will document the pollinator diversity and distribution over a fragmented forest biome. For this, I am starting to do preliminary field visits in July and August 2022, with South African National Parks and private timber companies on whose land these sites are situated. I am also busy constructing the elevated pan traps, which will be used to sample insect pollinators in the forest canopy, subcanopy and understorey layers.

In terms of the budget, I've spent ca. 80% of the allocated budget. I have already bought most equipment and material needed for the second field season, during which I will place elevated pan traps in different forest fragments to assess fragmentation impacts on pollinator diversity. The remaining ca. 20% of the budget will mostly be used towards funding my transportation to the different field sites during September 2022 through to February 2023.



