

Project Update: September 2022

Dates 1st July to 1st October 2022

As the project reaches the final 6 months, I am still happy to report that we are well on our way to successful project completion.

I have finished identifying numerous insect species, with the help of South African taxonomists, and we are currently doing statistical analyses of the data. This will lead to an article on southern Afro-temperate forest tree pollination. This includes documenting their visitation rates, tree species preference and whether or not they carry pollen. These are important considerations in the broader landscape, where forests occur in often isolated fragments.

Field work for the next phase of the project, to determine pollinator availability in the fragmented southern Cape landscape, has started as planned on 1st September 2022. During this second, and important, phase of the project, we are documenting the pollinator diversity and distribution over a fragmented forest biome. Elevated pan traps, sampling from canopy, subcanopy and understory layers, have been placed in various forest fragments, including the larger, continuous forest, with sampling continuing until the 22nd December 2022. This study is done in collaboration with South African National Parks, Garden Route National Park.

In terms of the budget, I've spent ca. 86% of the allocated budget. I have already bought most equipment and material needed for the second field season. The remaining ca. 14% of the budget will mostly be used towards funding my transportation to the different field sites from now through to December 2022.



