

## Lantau Conservation Fund

### Research Project

Project Number	RE-2021-06
Recipient Organisation	Lingnan University
Project Title	An integrative taxonomy approach to clarify the status of the short-legged toad ( <i>Boulenophrys brachykolos</i> ) population in Lantau
Project Description*	Research to delimit species is crucial, especially in threaten and understudied groups of organisms, because unresolved taxonomy can result in unrecognised species and misallocated conservation effort. Among frogs in Hong Kong, the endangered short-legged toad ( <i>Boulenophrys brachykolos</i> ) deserve special attention. Preliminary genetic analysis revealed that the Lantau population is distinctive from other <i>B. brachykolos</i> populations in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, China. In this study, we will use an integrative taxonomy approach analysing multiple data types (DNA, morphology, mating call) to comprehensively assess the diversity of <i>B. brachykolos</i> , and specifically evaluate whether the Lantau population represents a new species. Overall, the outcomes of this project will enhance our understanding and raise public awareness of biodiversity in Lantau.
Project Period	1 October 2022 – 31 March 2024 (18 months)
Approved Grant	\$424,700

\*The project description is provided by the project proponent