

Lantau Conservation Fund

Research Project

Project Number	RE-2021-14
Recipient Organisation	The University of Hong Kong
Project Title	Discovering and mapping Lantau's most abundant and diverse animals: the case of ants, bees, beetles and wasps
Project Description*	<p>The conservation of biodiversity represents one of the greatest challenges faced by Humanity. To develop efficient conservation programs, a fundamental step is to identify areas of particular interests on the basis of reliable data for taxonomic groups representative of biodiversity. Unfortunately, biodiversity data are often limited to a few charismatic but species-poor groups, for which representativeness is increasingly questioned. In contrast, groups like insects representing ~70 % of animal diversity and which overall biomass and ecological roles are critical to ecosystems and humans are often disregarded. In this project, we address these major gaps through a comprehensive survey of four major insect groups. Here by assembling a group of world-class experts on ants, bees, beetles and wasps, this project aim at providing a clear picture of the diversity and distribution of about 1000 species on Lantau and of their conservation importance for Hong Kong. The approach taken use an integrative and vertically-stratified sampling to provide one of the most comprehensive checklist of insects, supporting further taxonomic and conservation efforts. In addition, education programs using the results and specimens collected will introduce to a large audience the importance of insects within</p>

	ecosystems, their diversity and roles for human societies on Lantau.
Project Period	1 March 2023 – 28 February 2026
Approved Grant	\$2,174,800

*The project description is provided by the project proponent