

Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

ECF Project:	ECF 2021-153
Project Title:	Establishing the diversity and status of Hong Kong's wasps
Principal Investigator:	Dr Louise Ashton, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong
Total Approved Grant:	\$1,526,040
Duration:	1/11/2022 to 31/10/2025
Project Status/Remarks:	On-going
Project Scope:	<p>Wasps are gaining global attention as keystone species in natural systems, but knowledge on the diversity, distribution and conservation status of wasps in Hong Kong is highly limited.</p> <p>This study will address this knowledge gap by collating existing records and undertaking new surveys to compile a comprehensive baseline assessment of the biodiversity of Hong Kong's wasps. In doing so the project team will identify biodiversity hotspots and map wasp diversity and distributions. The project will generate a number of useful open-source outputs, including GIS, an interactive website, a DNA database and specimen reference collection of Hong Kong's wasps held at the Hong Kong Biodiversity Museum.</p> <p>Overall, this project will establish the first baseline of the diversity, distribution and status of Hong Kong's wasps. This information pertains to key objectives of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Action Plan and will directly aid the government in evaluating the success of initiatives aimed at mitigating climate change and enhancing the biodiversity of Hong Kong.</p>
Summary of the Findings/Outcomes:	To be available upon completion of the project