

# DAVIS EXPEDITION FUND

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT

**Expedition/Project Title:** ‘Assessing the impact of weevils on bromeliads, home to the golden tree frog and the ‘marsupial’ frog of Trinidad’

**Travel Dates:** 14<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006.....

**Location:** Trinidad, West Indies .....

**Group Members:** Dan Thornham, Tim Raemaekers, Robyn MacDonald, Geoff Hancock .....

**Aims:** We aimed to assess the population levels of bromeliad-dwelling arthropod herbivores within known habitats of the golden tree frog and the ‘marsupial’ tree frog to determine whether habitat competition occurs between bromeliad feeders and these frogs, and to what extent such arthropods might limit the numbers of available breeding sites of the endangered anurans.....

---

---

### OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

#### Introduction

The Golden tree frog, *Phyllodytes auratus*, is critically endangered (IUCN, 2004) and very little is known about its ecology or that of its host plant, *Glomeropitcairnia erectiflora* (Jowers *et al.*, 2006). Previous population estimates were based on the encounter frequency of frogs in bromeliads at ground level, extrapolated into the canopy. However no attempts were made to assess the suitability of the bromeliads for habitation. Since the latest studies it has also become apparent that bromeliad health needs to be taken into account when assessing suitability, not just bromeliad size (Frank & Thomas, 1994). Additionally, so little is known about the ecological system that *P. auratus* occupies that any data on the invertebrate fauna contained within *G. erectiflora* will prove useful.



ERROR: undefined  
OFFENDING COMMAND: `~

STACK: