

Bangkok, 01 November 2013

Prof. Chutamas Satasook  
Director  
Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Natural History Museum  
Prince of Songkla University

Dear Professor Chutamas Satasook

I am glad to introduce the projects, we conduct in Southeast Asia:

CERoPath (Community Ecology of Rodents and their pathogens) and BiodivHealthSEA (Biodiversity and Health in Southeast Asia).

These projects investigate the roles of rodents as reservoirs of rodent-borne diseases (leptospirosis, scrub typhus, murine typhus, viral hemorrhagic fever, etc) in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, etc) in relation to local perceptions and impacts of global changes. These projects join several teams in Southeast Asia (Thailand: Mahidol Univ, Kasetsart Univ, Chulalongkorn Univ, Thammasat Univ, Mahasarakham Univ, AFRIMS; Laos: NIH, CCRM; Singapore: National Univ Singapore; Cambodia: LRM Phnom Penh Univ).

Part of these projects has necessitated a strong expertise in rodent taxonomy and identification, so we developed a barcoding tool and a virtual museum, see at: [www.ceropath.org](http://www.ceropath.org)

We organized many field trips and collected more than 3,000 rodents from Southeast Asia. All were geo-referenced, with land covers of the field sites developed. Skulls were prepared for voucher collection, and also for morphometric analyses (most of the skulls were prepared at MSU). We know develop taxonomic investigations on their parasites (helminths, ectoparasites).

We would be very happy to initiate a collaboration with the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Natural History Museum, first by hosting part of the importance collection of rodent skulls we have accumulated during the last 6 years (with samples from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia). The main interest for our projects is that all references to work on rodents and rodent-borne diseases will mention PSU and your Museum at the host centre for rodent vouchers. We would also be very interesting to develop collaboration in taxonomy, phylogeny, biogeography and phylogeography of rodents in Southeast Asia.

I hope to see you soon and discuss more about these projects and future projects wit you.

With my best wishes

Serge Morand, DR CNRS



Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution de Montpellier (ISEM) - Université Montpellier 2 - Place Eugène Bataillon  
Case courrier 065 - 34095 MONTPELLIER cedex 5, France



Code UMR ISEM, UMR 5554 CNRS, UMR 226 IRD

Tél. +33 (0)4 67 14 40 67, Fax +33 (0)4 67.14.36.22, email : [serge.morand@univ-montp2.fr](mailto:serge.morand@univ-montp2.fr)