



The Alice McCosh Trust Newsletter November 2013

SC 035938

2012/13 Project Turkish Orchids

Having received over 20 excellent applications last year the Trustees award the 2012-13 grant to **Suzanne Masters**. She is currently undertaking a PhD on the conservation of orchids in Turkey at the University of Kent.

Wild orchid tubers have been collected in Turkey for hundreds of years for use as food and medicine under the name of salep. Collection of orchid tubers for salep, in addition to other stress, is cited as a cause of wild orchid population decline in Turkey.

Suzanne's work intends to identify the conditions that orchids require for growth in traditionally managed landscapes. The grant will allow Suzanne to visit Turkey to complete the field component of her studies. Suzanne has a long standing interest in orchids as can be seen in her blog (www.wildorchidsinbritain.blogspot) which is well worth a look at for its quite incredible photographs.

Of all the grants that we have awarded so far, this one stood out as being closest to Alice's interests. Alice would have been fascinated by this study!

2011/12 Report Ant Diversity



A total of 68 different species of ants were collected in Barro Colorado Island, Panama by Christopher Tranter last summer. A number of different techniques were used to collect ants from a range of habitats.

These samples will be used to quantify and compare the resistance profiles of multiple ant species which vary in key life-history traits that affect exposure to parasites.

A full report, with some wonderful photos, is available on our website.

Grants awarded to date

- 2007-8 – Alexis Pridmore, University of Aberdeen. Bats in Zambia
- 2008-9 – Marten Lewis, Darwin Centre. Pembrokeshire coast.
- 2009-10 – St Thomas More School, West Midlands. Trip to Wales.
- 2010-11 – Alex Pickwell, University of Lincoln. Dragonflies in Norfolk.
- 2011-12 – Christopher Tranter, University of Leeds. Ants research in Panama.

Cards for Sale

Gecko cards, Mouse cards and Butterfly cards can be ordered on The Alice McCosh Trust website, with Happy Christmas printed on the inside, or as a blank card for your own message.