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To whom it may concern

I head a research team in the CEBC-CNRS laboratory where field sessions play a key role. I had the opportunity, and the privilege, to meet Julie Michèle HALATAS in New Caledonia. During two years, Julie spent several weeks working with us on remote islets under rude conditions with a total lack of facilities (water, electricity, limited food...) to study sea snakes (sea kraits, *Laticauda* spp.). The input of Julie in this long term research (2002-2012) has been substantial. Indeed, not only Julie captured, measured and examined a huge number of snakes (hundreds) through extensive work (usually >10 hours per day), but she was also enthusiastic to participate to any aspect of the day-to-day life at the camp. Always smiling, Julie agreed to undertake any task, including those that require some abnegation (e.g. dissecting accidentally killed animals, taking notes during hours without rest...).

Clearly, Julie exhibits a very strong scientific curiosity, a fantastic adaptability and physical resistance to any tropical field conditions along with an enthusiasm that we would like to see in more young researchers.

Therefore, based on my personal experience, I offer my strongest support for her application to participate to the field trip organized by the Charles Darwin Foundation in the Galapagos archipelago. I will be delighted to provide further information if requested.

Yours, sincerely

Pr. Xavier Bonnet

Head of the Evolutionary Ecology Team

Directeur de Recherche CNRS