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Equipe Pollinisation & Ecologie des Abeilles

Avignon, September 27th, 2013

Letter of recommendation for Mr. Hugues MOURET

I have known Mr. MOURET for nearly 10 years and from the start I have been very impressed with his amazing knowledge as a naturalist, especially for all matters that regards arthropods, and with his personal drive to share his knowledge about these often overlooked creatures. When funds permitted, I hired Mr. MOURET to work with my team to collect, prepare, label and identify bees (Apiformes) to genera for 7 months (October 2005 – April 2006) in the 2004-2009 European project ALARM (<http://www.alarmproject.net>). During that time, I experienced first hand his outstanding effectiveness for collecting bees in the field as well as his keen and genuine interest to improve his knowledge in regards to insects in general and Hymenopterans in particular. During his 7 months in my team, Mr. MOURET also demonstrated his ability to curate bee specimens in a very effective way as well as record the data in spreadsheets where they could easily be used as needed.

Since then, I have kept in close touch with Mr. MOURET and I have seen Arthropologia, the naturalist association that he is directing, grow steadily. Indeed, it is now recognized as a key structure regionally and even nationally on all that pertains to invertebrate data collection and teaching. It was first at Mr. MOURET's initiative that I started looking into the LIFE+ Nature 2010-2014 URBANBEES project which was submitted and accepted by the European Union. The fact that my team in a national research structure (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) and a naturalist association (Arthropologia) joined forces to study wild bees in the urban and suburban environments of the Grand Lyon area was a key factor that helped this project succeed in the selection process as the LIFE+ Nature call is very selective. Now in the fourth year into the project, I am glad that we teamed up as this amazing project of over 2 million euros has enabled us to work closer together and do so very effectively to gain a large body of new knowledge about wild bees as well as raise the awareness of city dwellers about nature, ecosystem and biodiversity.

Overall Mr. Hugues MOURET is a truly outstanding candidate for recording life history traits as well as collecting and curating specimens of hymenopterans anywhere in the world and, based on his records and accomplishments to date, I am glad to recommend him without any reservation.

I remain at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vaissière', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Bernard E. Vaissière, Chargé de Recherches

President, association Observatoire des Abeilles (<http://www.oabeilles.net>)

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