

Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund

P.O. Box 19

Montserrat, West Indies

802-257-4055

David Foran, Ph.D.
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The George Washington University
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2036 H. Street, NW
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August 29, 2000

Dear Dr. Foran,

At long last the scat has arrived. I delayed sending it so I could get some information on who and how it was collected. Here's what I found out:

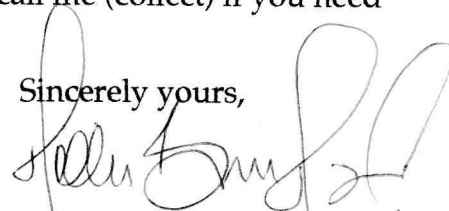
- The scat was collected by Tony Hill, Minister of Forestry, Montserrat, West Indies. It has not been refrigerated.
- He picked it up with rubber gloves, and sealed it (untouched by human hands) in the gloves. I have selected a few pieces from each sample for you.
- The region in which it was collected is very hot, dry and sunny with little rain; it is possible, however, the scat could have been rained on at some time.
- A previous collection of scat was sent to St. Vincent for testing; that scat was shown to be from goats. Mr. Hill expressed reasonable certainty that his new scat is not from goats.

Wildlife biologists from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife have viewed the video tape of the cat made by my family in April. They believe it is a cat species.

Finally, there is continued "talk" on the island of Montserrat about killing the cat—some public officials worry about the public relations aspect of having this cat on the island. However, conservationists from the Montserrat National Trust have urged them not to. They want to get a better understanding of what it is (species) and then make informed decisions about how best to deal with it (catch and relocate it, or leave it alone). We're all hoping your DNA testing will help in this regard.

Again, thank you so very much for working with us. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Please don't hesitate to call me (collect) if you need additional information (802-257-4055).

Sincerely yours,



Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund

Enclosure: Scat Samples