



SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	3 September 2000	Time of Accident	±0530 Z		
Aircraft Registration	ZU-VIV	Type of Aircraft	Sycamore Mk1 (Gyrocopter)		
Name of Owner		Name and Number of Operator			
J.S. Bascin		Private			
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Student	Age	52	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours		40	Hours on Type	40
Last point of departure	Runway 12 Messina				
Next point of intended landing	Runway 12 Messina				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
Approximately 200m from threshold of Runway 12 Messina.					
Meteorological Information	Wind direction and speed: Variable with light wind Temperature: 25°C				
Number of people on board	1+0	No. of people injured	1+0	No. of people killed	Nil
Synopsis					
<p>The student pilot was completing his third circuit for the day at Messina aerodrome. While in the circuit, he heard another aircraft preparing to take-off on runway 12 for circuits and landing practise. The pilot was having some difficulty with his radio and decided to end his practise session before the build up of too much traffic.</p> <p>The pilot landed on runway 12 and commenced to taxi to the apron. According to the pilot his taxi speed was approximately 8-15 km/h and he was approximately 150 m from his touch down point when the aircraft started veering to the right. He heard a “thwak thwak” sound accompanied by a grinding noise. The aircraft continued to veer to the right while also starting to roll to the right. The pilot attempted to recover but the aircraft swung to the left and overturned coming to rest on its starboard side.</p> <p>A post-crash fire immediately erupted. The pilot vacated the aircraft as quickly as possible and only sustained burns to his right fore-arm, back of his head and beard.</p> <p>The aircraft was consumed by the post accident fire. No on-site investigation was conducted.</p>					
Probable Cause					
<p>From the available information it appears that the aircraft was taxied with excessive ground speed when the accident occurred. It is possible that the right hand tyre was punctured causing the aircraft to veer to the right. The combination of high taxi speed and possibly incorrect handling by the relatively inexperienced pilot could have exacerbated the situation and resulted in the aircraft overturning.</p>					