

Czech EPBRS Meeting

World Biodiversity and the European Taxonomy

Strategies in taxonomy: research in a changing world

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Preliminary data for France, to be completed.

Acronyms used:

MNHN: National Museum of Natural History

INRA: National Institute for Agricultural Research

IRD: Institute for Development Research

National reviews guidelines

The aim of national reports and e-conference is to bring together potential users of taxonomy in Europe. The EPBRS meeting under the Czech Presidency is designed to investigate what the users of taxonomic information see as the main issues that taxonomists should focus on. Encouraging taxonomy users to participate actively in the e-conference and the meeting itself might also help to strengthen the policy bit of the science-policy interface.

The following headings will be used to structure the work of the EPBRS in the e-conference and during the meeting.

1-Taxonomic Information: Strategy and Methods

Inventory and Identification: “What is it, and how does it fit among its relatives?”

- 1.1 Does your country use taxonomy-based tools for biodiversity assessments and policy making? What are these tools?

Yes.

-INPN (Inventaire nationale du Patrimoine Naturel). Managed by the MNHN.

-Bird observation schemes (Centre de recherche sur la biologie des populations d’oiseaux, MNHN).

-Databases of National Botanical Conservatories (observations and herbaria)

- 1.2 Does your country have a national checklists? When were they last revised and updated? Is there any national assessment of which taxa in particular lack taxonomic information? Did you submit a response to the GTI questionnaire on these issues?

-Animalia : based on Fauna Europaea.

-Plantae, etc. (to be completed)

1.3 Describe 1-2 flagship projects related to bullet points below and suggest some recommendations useful for meeting as a result from these projects: Please outline any national taxonomy-based monitoring or surveys designed to establish the distribution, status and trends of any taxonomic group.

To be completed?

1.4 Is there any coordinated effort in your country regarding bar-coding for identification or the assessment of biodiversity?

Some efforts from the taxonomic research community (MNHN, INRA and a few others. MNHN participating in MarBoL (Sloan foundation grant).

Pilot project to barcode the Mercantour NP taxa.

No national programme nor dedicated support.

A national project is under discussion between a large number of teams (MNHN, INRA, IRD, ...) to coordinate barcoding efforts.

1.5 Are you aware of any major efforts (or projects) in your country to integrate morphological and molecular taxonomy?

To be completed. Many researchers already incorporate both kinds of data in their work.

2-Taxonomy as a basis for ecological research and sustainable management of the biodiversity

Ecological functions and services: "What does it do, and what does it interact with?"

How does taxonomic research contribute to better understanding of the functions and attributes of species, and to the management of biodiversity?

2.1 Do you know projects involving taxonomists in the understanding of ecological functioning, or the assessment of ecosystem services?

No, to be further investigated?

2.2 What is the contribution of taxonomy in your country to the management of biological invasions?

To be completed with information from plant protection research at INRA (*participation in European programme DAISI*) and possibly teams working in marine science.

2.3 What is the contribution of taxonomy in your country to efforts to understand the status and trends of key functional groups such as pollinators?

To be completed.

Taxonomy, biodiversity and its conservation: "How to manage it in sustainable way?"

Describe 1-2 flagship projects related to bullet points below and suggest some recommendations useful for meeting as a result from these projects:

2.4 Are there also non-professional organisations recording biodiversity data collections (e.g. ornithologists) involved in the decision process of land use planning etc.?

YES

2.5 Are there some indicators (or red-list species) monitoring Natura 2000 sites for delimitation and management of nature reserves used in your country?

YES

2.6 Which taxonomy-related research (standardized taxonomic metadata, delivery of checklist building tools, building expertise network) in developmental non-European biodiversity-rich countries is supported by policy-makers from your country based on your national expertise and experience?

Sud-expert plantes, IRD, funded by a scheme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2.7 Is there a National Needs Assessment of GTI in your country? If yes, what are your specific needs, e.g. for conservation, protected areas, CITES/customs, dealing with invasive species etc?

NO

3- Taxonomy, potential users and capacity building of experts

Open access to information: "How to find out about it?"

How does taxonomic information get from where it resides to where it is needed elsewhere in the world?

- *Bioinformatics*

3.1 To what extent is taxonomic research in your country contributing to international biodiversity initiatives and projects (e.g GTI, GBIF, PESI, EOL, Etc...)

Good involvement at institutional level: France voting member of GBIF. In large scale taxonomic projects, involvement mainly through the MNHN (coordinator EDIT, contractor PESI & LifeWatch, Member of the EoL Institutional council. Not much involvement at researchers level considering the size of the community. Strong involvement in international barcode projects (CBOL).

3.2 What is the state of the art in biodiversity informatics in your country? (e.g. e-taxonomy and e-science tools)

Mainly through the MNHN (both research and infrastructure, 12 (?) million observations and specimens records databased) and through the joint research unit (AMAP) in Montpellier.

3.3 Has there been a national assessment of best practices for taxonomic data quality and validation?

NO

3.4 Do you have any national guidelines on how to approach the proof of absence?

Probably not, needs second check.

3.5 What are the taxonomic standards used in the databases (TDWG, Darwin core, COL, PESI, etc...)?

TDWG almost everywhere, and at lower level either ABCD or Darwin core, or specific models.

3.6 Could you identify the major digitization efforts for biodiversity data (e.g. collections, observations, species checklists, etc...)?

Collections = MNHN (xxxx millions records, xxx millions available though GBIF)

Observations = led by the Ministry of Environment

3.7 Is there any effort in your country to make taxonomic information especially identification services easily accessible and useful to practitioners?

NO

Capacity building in biodiversity-rich countries and worldwide:

3.8 Are there any policy initiatives in your country to orient capacity building in taxonomy?

Yes, "Sud Experts Plantes", leader: IRD

3.9 Are there any sources of finance or policy actions in your country dedicated to applied taxonomy (e.g. identification tools, training for parataxonomists)?

Probably not, needs second check.