



BioNET-INTERNATIONAL The Global Network for Taxonomy

Monthly Bulletin

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DIRECTOR'S FEEDBACK

It has been a packed month of activities both in and outside the Bionet secretariat offices with activities in the US, UK, France and Thailand. Starting in Paris, the conference on Biodiversity Science and Governance benefited from the patronage and participation of presidential / ministerial delegations from many countries including France, Mozambique, Malaysia, Nigeria, Kenya, Costa Rica and the UK. Such high level participation has given a welcome boost to biodiversity concerns at the highest political levels. At the same time, TecSec also participated in an NSF / Kansas State University meeting on collaborative research on the environment between US and Sub-Saharan Africa. This was followed by a meeting on establishing Environmental Long-Term Observatories Network of Southern Africa (ELTOSA). Those in the taxonomic sectors in these regions are encouraged to get in touch with their local Bionet LOOP and / or TecSec.

In London, the International Conference for the Barcoding of Life attracted an enormous amount of interest, a sign that the use of standardized, short DNA sequences for species identification is now seen by many as an increasingly robust and practical tool for use by identification services and biodiversity researchers. Complementary to traditional morphological and in depth DNA based taxonomic methodologies, the explosion of barcoding approaches represents for many a powerful addition to the taxonomist's toolbox. The ability to use barcoding to provide automated / semi-automated organism identification services means barcoding has tremendous relevance to meeting many developing country taxonomic needs. Bionet was therefore delighted to have been able to assist with identifying conference participants from the developing world, including Dr José Clavijo, regional coordinator of Bionet-AndinoNET (Andean countries), who helped to represent Bionet / developing country perspectives during the panel discussion. Congratulations and thank you to José! Bionet, as a member of the Consortium for the Barcoding of Life, also participated in member meetings held on the margins of the conference to set up the Consortium. We look forward to building on the interests from the Bionet LOOPS by working with the Consortium in catalyzing activities in developing country regions.

TecSec presented for discussion a proposal for a Seed Fund for the GTI in Bangkok during a Global Taxonomy Initiative side event at the tenth CBD SBSTTA meeting. We will be working hard over the coming months to win support for and commitments to such a fund as a way of catalyzing the capacity building and outputs needed from the taxonomic sector to meet Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 WSSD target of significantly reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity. SBSTTA saw two recommendations agreed on the Global Taxonomy Initiative, covering the GTI Guide and the procedure and process for the current review of the GTI due to be considered next at the SBSTTA meeting in November. LOOPS are encouraged to support their governments by helping them complete the questionnaire on the GTI that is a key part of the review.

February ended with in another event in the US where Lucie Rogo represented Bionet and assisted with rapporteuring during a meeting on the National Biological Information Infrastructure (US), Smithsonian Institution and Discover Life. The meeting was an opportunity to brainstorm a better strategy to study and monitor life on Earth.

Lucie and I have enjoyed seeing many of you this past month. As ever, keep in touch and very best wishes,
Richard

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

CONSORTIUM FOR THE BARCODE OF LIFE (CBOL)

New website: <http://www.barcoding.si.edu/> Comments and questions: CBOLInfo@si.edu

Conference: www.nhm.ac.uk/science/BOL/

LIBRARY & LABORATORY CONFERENCE

Papers and summaries from the February meeting in London are now available: <http://barcoding.si.edu/LibraryAndLaboratory.htm>. The meeting brought together publishers and taxonomists with the aim of building a consensus for publishing taxonomic work digitally and making it freely available to the world.

HOW TO STUDY & MONITOR LIFE ON EARTH

A meeting held 21-22 February, see <http://www.discoverlife.org/pa/ev/me/2005dc>. For information on a related meeting, Plants for the people, see: <http://www.discoverlife.org/pa/pr/plantsforthepeople.html>

BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE AND GOVERNANCE

An international conference was held 24-28 January under the high patronage of Mr Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura -Director-General of UNESCO. Ministerial contributions included that of Elliot Morley, UK Minister for Environment, who was able to advise the conference that part of the upcoming G8 meeting in the UK this year will be devoted to biodiversity. He further emphasized the necessity of strengthening scientific capacity and the urgent need for capacity building in developing countries in order to try and meet the 2010 target. A new UK inter-departmental subcommittee on biodiversity was announced with responsibilities that include global biodiversity and scientific cooperation internationally. For full details of the conference, including the Paris Appeal on biodiversity: www.recherche.gouv.fr/biodiv2005paris/en/

ENHANCING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Bionet's Assistant Director, Lucie Rogo, presented a poster at the meeting (January 24-26) that was intended to facilitate interactions among the U.S. scientific community working in the SSA region, SSA scientists, agencies and organizations that support research in SSA. A number of recommendations were agreed.

SBSTTA and ABS MEETING

Full details of February meetings in Bangkok at www.biodiv.org

ABS REGIME AND LIKE-MINDED GROUP OF MEGADIVERSE COUNTRIES

Group of 17 countries" to resist exploitation of bio resources. See: <http://www.deccanherald.com/deccanherald/jan2005/i25.asp>

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS, GRANTS, VACANCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

VACANCY: ASSOCIATE INTERNATIONAL COUNSEL/WILDLIFE TRADE CAMPAIGNER

Contact: Associate International Counsel / Wildlife Trade Campaigner Search, Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036 USA. Deadline 15 March 2005. Email: hr@defenders.org, Fax: +1-202-682-1331

GRANTS: HRD PROGRAM IN BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR CLMV - 2005

Full financial support for lab/research training at the National Center for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (BIOTEC), Thailand 2005. See: <http://www.biotec.or.th/hrd>

THE ALCAN PRIZE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

USD\$1m prize awarded annually to not-for-profit, non-governmental, and civil society organizations that have made and continue to make outstanding contributions to the goals of economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Deadline 31st March 2005. See: <http://www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com/2005/index.html>

MSC IN THE BIODIVERSITY AND TAXONOMY OF PLANTS

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and University of Edinburgh.

Contact: gradlife@ed.ac.uk Web: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/programmes/subject.php?id=246>

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION - NSF FUNDING

Supports collaborations between US and foreign institutions. Deadline 10 March 2005
Contact: Edward O. Murdy, Tel: (703) 292-8711, Fax: (703) 292-9067, Email: emurdy@nsf.gov Web: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05533/nsf05533.htm>

NEW PUBLICATIONS

UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM PROJECT

Task force reports for achieving the Millennium Development Goals

See: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/reports2.htm>

Contact: info@unmillenniumproject.org

Calendar of Events

9-11 March 2005

Latin America and the Caribbean regional meeting on the Clearing House Mechanism, Brasilia, Brazil, The full text of this notification is available on the CBD website at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/notifications/2005/ntf-2005-015-chm-en.pdf>

14-19 March 2005

BioNET-EASIANET-GBIF-University of Hong Kong. A hands-on collection, names and images digitization Workshop, Hong Kong, Contact: Email: whhob@hkucc.hku.hk, see: <http://www.hku.hk/ecology/mycology/>

22-24 March 2005

Student Conference on Conservation Science, University of Cambridge, UK. See: <http://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/scs/>

25 March – 4 April 2005

Second National Biodiversity Conference of Benin: "Erosion of Genetic Resources, Danger for Benin, Africa and Humanity". Contact: Joséa S. Dossou-Bodjrenou, Tel.: +229 33 37 73 / (229) 40 94 14, Tel./Fax. +229 33 87 32/+229 30 30 84, Email: ntongmu@yahoo.com or josea_bj@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.ifrance.com/ntong-benin

4-8 April 2005

The Fourth Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) Council Meeting, City of Knowledge, Panama. Contact: Dr. Iván Valdespino, Mail: ivaldespino@cbmap.org | www.iabin.net

4-29 April 2005

International Training Programme Courses (a): "Quality Management for organically produced Agricultural Commodities". Course (b) "Certification for Organically Produced Agricultural Commodities" September 2005. Contact: DITSL (German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture), Witzenhausen, Germany. Tel.: +49 5542 607 0, Fax: +49 5542 607 39; Email: awerther@ditsl.de. Registration: www.ditsl.de

6-8 April 2005

The Palms - An International Symposium on the Biology of the Palm Family, at the Linnean Society of London and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Information and registration form: www.linnean.org

21-22 April 2005

International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference (IISSC), Massachusetts, USA. Contact: mcarman@whoi.edu See: <http://www.whoi.edu/institutes/oli/activities/seasquirt.html>

2-4 May 2005

1st International Congress - Examples of successful Tropical Sustainable Development. University of Veracruz, Mexico. Contact: Dr Carmen Vergara Tenorio, Tel: (+52) 228- 8421700 Ext. 12644, 12646, 12649, Email: congresocitro@uv.mx | cvergara@uv.mx Web: <http://www.uv.mx/CITRO/reunion/index.htm>

9-13 May 2005

FAO/IAEA International Conference on Area-Wide Control of Insect Pests: Integrating the sterile insect and related nuclear and other techniques. Vienna Austria. Contact: official.mail@iaea.org Web: www.pub.iaea.org/MTC/Meetings/Meetings_2005.asp | www.iaea.org/programmes/nafa/d4/index-conference2005.html

26 May-5 June 2005

Third Festival of the Image of Nature, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Havana, Cuba. Contact: cinternacional@mnhnc.inf.cu

30 May-3 June 2005

2nd International Symposium on Phytosanitary Surveillance and its Relation to The Environment Protection, Havana, Cuba. Contact: María Julia Cárdenas Barrios, Tel: (537) 815089/700925/791339, Fax: (537) 703277/796654, E-mail: internacionales@sanidadvegetal.cu or estadística@sanidadvegetal.cu Octavio Pérez Marrero, Tel: 202-6011 ext. 1508, Fax: (537) 208-7996/202-8382 E-mail: octavio@palco.cu Web: <http://www.complejopalco.com>

31 May-3 June 2005

First Bolivian Congress of Mammology, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Contact: Jaime Rodríguez Fernández, Tel: (41) 361-1763, Fax: (41) 266-2042, Email: formycusub@hotmail.com

9-11 June 2005

Three day International Symposium "Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species" organised by DPG and BCPC, Berlin, Germany. See: www.phytomedizin.org/meetings/meet.hym or www.hcpc.org/invasive

13 June-1 July 2005

Course - Plant Families of Southeast Asia, Nationaal Herbarium Nederland. Cost: 25 Euro (syllabus) for students of the Dutch Research Schools Biodiversity and Functional Ecology, and 600 Euro for others (accommodation and airfare not included). Contact: Dr. Paul J.A. Kessler, Email: Kessler@nhn.leidenuniv.nl or Dr. Marco Roos, Email: roos@nhn.leidenuniv.nl Fax: +31-71-5273522, Web: <http://www.nationaalherbarium.nl>

15-17 June 2005

The 5th International Conference on Transgenic Animals (ICTA), Guangzhou, P.R. China. See: <http://www.icta5th.com> | <http://www.icta5th.com/main.php>

17-23 July 2005

XVII International Botanical Congress, Vienna, Austria. Contact: Prof. Dr Marianne Popp, Email: Marianne.Popp@univie.ac.at or botanik@univie.ac.at

25-29:July 2005

Short Term Training Course in Urban Forestry and Landscaping, Dehradun, India. Contact Dr Sas. Biswas, Tel: 0091 135 2757021-23 Ext 4490 Fax: 0091 135 2756865, Email; biswassas@icfre.org

27-30 June 2005

14th International Scientific Congress CNIC 2005, Havana, Cuba. Contact: seminario@cnic.edu.cu | feria@cnic.edu.cu Web: <http://www.cnic.edu.cu/14Congreso/Bienvenida.htm>

8-10 August 2005

International Conference on "Biosciences, biotechnology and biodiversity analysis" Pune, India. Contact: Email: Dr. Kanchan Gandhe: kanchan.gandhe@gmail.com | kanchangandhe@hotmail.com | <http://www.geocities.com/kanchangandhe/index.htm>

23-26th August 2005

4th International Marine Bioinvasions Conference, Wellington, New Zealand. See: www.vuw.ac.nz/marineconference2005

29 August–3 September 2005

The Fourth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium. Advances in Marine Science in Western Indian Ocean Region: Contribution of Research in Improving Human Welfare and Poverty Alleviation, Grand Baie, Mauritius. Contact: secretary@wiomsa.org

September 2005

First Regional Workshop on fungal genetic resource collections, Havana, Cuba. Contact: Jorge Luis Ortiz Medina, Tel: (53-7) 578780, 578266, 578088, 578010, (53-7) 8090 Email: botanica.ies@ama.cu | julio.mena@infomed.sld.cu | biokarst@ama.cu

12-15 September 2005

VI Argentine Congress of Entomology, San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina. Contact: Email: congtuc@csnat.unt.edu.ar Web: <http://www.sea.secyt.gov.ar>

12-16 September 2005

2nd International Symposium on Biological Control of Arthropods, Davos, Switzerland. Contact: ISBCA Symposium Secretary ISBCA@bluewin.ch and see: www.cabi-bioscience.ch/ISBCA-DAVOS-2005/

19-20 September 2005

2nd International Congress and Innovation Fair "Sustainable Management in Action" (SMIA05), Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: <http://www.smia.info/>

26-27 September 2005

IOBC/WPRS Working Group "Integrated Control in Citrus Fruit Crops", Lisbon, Portugal. Contact: José Carlos Franco, Fax: +351-213653430, Email: iobc2005@isa.utl.pt Web: <http://www.isa.utl.pt/dppf/iobc>

2-5 November 2005

BioThailand 2005: Biotechnology Challenges in the 21st Century, Bangkok, Thailand. Contact: BioThailand Secretariat, Tel: (66-2) 5646700, Fax: (66-2) 2488304, Email: biothailand2005@biotec.or.th Web: <http://biothailand2005.biotec.or.th>

3-6 November 2005

3rd International Waterfowl Conference, Guangzhou, P.R.China Contact: waterfowl2005@scau.edu.cn Web: www.scau.edu.cn/waterfowl2005/ <http://www.scau.edu.cn/waterfowl2005/>

9-12 November 2005

First DIVERSITAS International Conference on Biodiversity, Oaxaca, Mexico. Contact: Tel: +33 1 45 25 95 25, Fax: +33 1 42 88 94 31, E-mail: secretariat@diversitas-international.org Web: www.diversitas-international.org

December 2005

"Nematode Identification and Techniques". Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: Mike Hodda CSIRO Entomology. Tel: +61 (0)2 6246 4371, Fax: +61 (0)2 6246 4000 Email: mike.hodda@csiro.au

2006

30 January - 2 February 2006

International Conference: "Biodiversity of Insects: Challenging Issues in Management and Conservation", Coimbatore, India. Contact: Dr K. Murugan, Tel: +91-422-2422 222; Fax: +91-422-2425 706, Email: kmvbk@yahoo.com Web: www.b-u.ac.in

19-25 June 2006

IX Latin American Congress of Botany, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – "Contributing to the Global Knowledge of the Latin American Native Flora". Information: www.botanica-alb.org | www.botanica-alb.org/CongresoPreins.pdf

10 -14 September 2006

BGCI's 6th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens. The Nature of Success: Success for Nature, University of Oxford Botanic Garden, U.K. Contact: sarah.kneebone@bgci.org | education@bgci.org Web: www.bgci.org/educationcongress

2007

22-25 May 2007

1st International Biodiversity Congress: Working Together for Livelihood Security, Food Security and Ecological Security for Life on Earth. Bangkok. Contact: Ram Bhandari, Email: hirinepal@mail.com.np or ibc2007@yahoo.com

15-18 October 2007

BioNET PUBLICATIONS

For free CD / hard copies, contact bionet@bionet-intl.org

CASE STUDY SERIES – WHY TAXONOMY MATTERS

Have you ever wondered why taxonomy is so important to sustainable development? Do you need examples of the value of taxonomy when talking to decision makers or funders? For a series of summary case studies, regularly updated, see: www.bionet-intl.org/case_studies
Further contributions welcome.

TAXONOMY TARGETING INVASIVES

This collection of summary case studies, drawn from the Why Taxonomy Matters series, illustrates the role of taxonomy in Invasive Alien Species (IAS) management. With examples from various sectors, the case studies highlight how taxonomic expertise, surveys, information and analysis are of crucial importance to recognising and solving ecological, agricultural, trade, health and other problems caused by IAS. Published by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL in association with the Global Invasive Species Programme and the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

3GTW PLAN OF ACTION AND RESOURCE KIT FOR TAXONOMIC CAPACITY BUILDING

Presentations, the Plan of Action and other outputs from the 3rd Global Taxonomy Workshop (Pretoria and Paris) | Background on the Global Taxonomy Initiative | Recent publications and more. Published at www.bionet-intl.org/3gtw and on CD.

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL- An Introduction

Available to view or download from: www.bionet-intl.org/html/welcome/whatis/whatis.htm:

- An explanatory leaflet *What is BioNET?*
- The BioNET-INTERNATIONAL PowerPoint slide set

VORONTSOV'S WHO'S WHO IN BIODIVERSITY SCIENCES

in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION MAPS OF CARIBBEAN FUNGI

In English or Spanish

View online: <http://www.biodiversity.ac.psiweb.com/carimaps/>

SAFRINET TRAINING MANUALS

Set of four available on CD: 1. Collecting and Preserving Fungi: A Manual for Mycology | 2. Collecting and Preserving Nematodes: A Manual for Nematology | 3. Collecting and Preserving Insects and Arachnids: A Manual for Entomology and Arachnology | 4. Introduction to Practical Phytobacteriology: A Manual for Phytobacteriology.

Contacts for BioNET's Regional Networks (LOOPS)

ESTABLISHED LOOPS

ANDINONET http://www.bionet-intl.org/andinonet Regional Coordinator: Prof José Clavijo: clamiche@telcel.net.ve	ASEANET Secretariat: Dr Soetikno Sastroutomo: s.soetikno@cabi.org
CARINET http://carinet.ecoport.org Regional Coordinator: Dr Ron Barrow: carinet@trinidad.net	EASIANET http://www.easianet.nies.go.jp/hk Regional Coordinator: Dr Kevin D. Hyde: kdhyde@hkucc.hku.hk
EAFRINET http://eafrinet.ecoport.org Regional Coordinator: Dr Wanja Kinuthia: eafrinet@africaonline.co.ke	EuroLOOP Regional Coordinator: Dr S. Ulenberg ulenberg@science.uva.nl
NAFRINET Regional Coordinator: Prof Mohammed Rejdali: m_rejdali@hotmail.com m.rejdali@iav.ac.ma	PACINET Regional Coordinator: Kate Brown: kateb@sprep.org.ws
SAFRINET http://safrinet.ecoport.org Regional Coordinator: Dr Connal Eardley: vrehcde@plant5.agric.za	WAFRINET Regional Coordinator: Dr Braima James, IITA: b.james@cgiar.org

LOOPS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

NAmeriLOOP Contact: bionet@bionet-intl.org	NEURASIANET Interim Regional Coordinators: Dr Alexander Ryss: nema@zin.ru and Dr Valery Neronov: mab.ru@relcom.ru
MesoAmeriNET Interim Regional Coordinator: InBio, Costa Rica Alvaro Herrera: alherrer@inbio.ac.cr	SACNET www.bionet-intl.org/sacnet http://www.biodiversityasia.org/sacnet Nominated Regional Coordinating Institute: IUCN- Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia. Contact - Interim Coordinator: Bhujangarao Dharmaji: bhujang@sltnet.lk

APRIL 2005 BULLETIN

Information to include in next month's Bulletin by **15 MARCH** please. Contributions to: BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9TY, UK; Fax: +44 1491 829082. E-mail: bionet@bionet-intl.org. This Bulletin is available in English, Spanish and French and from our website www.bionet-intl.org