

The bionet* bulletin is published by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's Secretariat. It is available in English, Spanish and French and online @ www.bionet-intl.org.

BioNET promotes capacity building in taxonomy via its affiliated local partnerships (LOOPS) so that countries can know and identify the organisms that constitute and threaten their biodiversity and thereby address national sustainable development and conservation priorities.

New Developments

How many taxonomists are there?

Around 2 million organisms have been scientifically described by taxonomists. But how many taxonomists are there? Reasonably exact figures exist only for single regions and taxa. Some estimates are also available, but no global survey exists. The German National Focal Point for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, Dr Fabian Haas, has compiled an extensive collection of data with the aim of estimating the overall number of taxonomists. See the website for the results of this study to date. If you have more data on the number of taxonomists, especially changes in recent years, please contact Dr Haas.

Web: http://www.gti-kontaktstelle.de/taxonomy_E.html

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Millennium Development Goals: measuring progress

Source: SciDev.Net

Those who have been closely tracking debates on the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be aware of the controversy surrounding the difficulties in scientifically measuring progress towards their achievement. As world leaders meet in New York to discuss progress towards the MDGs on global health, poverty and disease, SciDev.Net presented a 'news special' on the issues at hand.

Web: <http://www.scidev.net/ms/mdgs/>

Amazon countries team up to tackle biopiracy

Source: SciDev.Net

Representatives from patent offices in six Latin American nations that share the Amazon basin have agreed to work together against 'biopiracy' — the unauthorised commercial exploitation of their native species. According to the Rio Declaration — signed on 1 July — Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela will share information and jointly develop policies to tackle the phenomenon.

Web:

<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=2231&language=1>

Southern African network for biosciences launched

Source: SciDev.Net

Efforts to build capacity for biological research in southern Africa were given a boost this month with the creation of the Southern African Network for Biosciences (SANBio). The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) formally launched the network on 5 August. SANBio will bring together researchers and institutions from across the region and

encourage them to pool their knowledge and resources relating to agriculture, human and animal health, the environment and industry.

Web:

<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=2303&language=1>

Biodiversity loss 'poses grave threat to human health'

Source: SciDev.net

The continued loss of biological diversity threatens human health as well as the survival of wild species, warned Eric Chivian, director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School at the First International Conference on the Importance of Biodiversity to Human Health. If species continue to decline in number at the present rate, pharmaceutical companies will find it harder to develop new drugs and agriculture will lose an irreplaceable source of potential new crops.

Web:

<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=2308&language=1>

Biodiversity and Environmental Resource Data System (BERDS) of Belize

Belize Tropical Forest Studies, in technical partnership with TransNatura LLC, have developed BERDS, a comprehensive biodiversity and environmental data warehouse and research system built to enhance collaborative research and conservation efforts in Belize. It offers a combination of data, services and tools and the integrated application of spatial functionality throughout the system.

Web: <http://www.biodiversity.bz>

Email: info@biodiversity.bz

Tel: +501 820 4071

Fax: +501 820 4071

Asian bird species distribution database

Source: Japan for Sustainability

BirdBase, a database about the distribution of Asian bird species, has been published on the web. The database was jointly developed by the Hokkaido Institute of Environmental Sciences and the National Government's Science and Technology Agency.

Web: http://www.japanfs.org/db/database.cgi?cmd=dp&num=1048&dp=data_e.html

Untimely death of Ugandan taxonomist: Mr Anthony B. Katende

Samson Gwali of The Department of Environmental Forestry, Nyabyeya Forestry College, Masindi, Uganda writes: It is with great sorrow that I announce to the wider taxonomist community the death of Mr Tony Katende. He has had the stature of a grandfather to young and upcoming taxonomists, always willing to give time and advice and make identifications without the usual bureaucracies. He will surely be missed for his very wide knowledge of the Ugandan flora. There is currently no one else in Uganda to match his expertise. There goes a huge library of taxonomic knowledge.

Events

17-31 December 2005

2nd LAK International Training course on "Tropical Freshwater Zooplankton". University of Calicut, Kerala, India.

Email: lak98@rediffmail.com | kakkassery@yahoo.com

Web: http://www.geocities.com/klri98/tropical_freshwater_zooplankton.htm

1 April 2006

The Central American Masters Programme in Entomology, including Ecology, Insect Pest

Management and Control of Vectors in Tropical Environments, University of Panama.
Email: entomolo@ancon.up.ac.pa | entomologiapanama@yahoo.es
Tel/Fax: +507 264-5431,

3-5 April 2006

International Symposium: Integrated Pest Management in Oilseed Rape, Goettingen, Germany.

Email: hkuhlma1@gwdg.de

Tel: +49 551 393725,

Fax: +49 551 3912105

Web: <http://www.symposium-ipm-oilseed-rape.de/>

22 August 2006

First European Congress of Conservation Biology, Eger, Hungary. Organised by the Society for Conservation Biology-European Section and the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Web: www.eccb2006.org/

Grants

Call for Proposals: 2005 GBIF Demonstration Projects

Open to GBIF members only; see <http://www.gbif.org/DemoProject/> for details. This year's Demonstration Project call focuses on developing applications and/or tools that are related to the GBIF Work Programme and utilizes real time GBIF data. **Deadline:** 20 October 2005.

Agency: Global Biodiversity Information Facility

Email: btorres@gbif.org | demo@gbif.org

Web: www.gbif.org/DemoProject/

African Fellows Programme (AFP)

The aim of the Programme is to support sustainable agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa by catalysing innovative solutions needed to achieve food security. Projects should endeavour to develop lasting partnerships and strategic alliances that will help in developing local scientific capacity relevant to sustainable agricultural production. African scientists will carry out research projects in a partner European research institute or university for periods of 4 to 12 months. **Deadline** for pre-proposals is 14/10/2005 and the next deadline will be 03/03/2006. Further details can also be obtained from the AFP Coordinator, Rothamsted International, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ, UK.

Agency: Rothamsted International

Email: rothamsted.international@bbsrc.ac.uk

Web: http://www.rothamsted.international.org/HTML/Fellowships/AFP_main_page.html

Vavilov-Frankel Fellowships for 2006

The Fellowships are supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Australia and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., a DuPont Company. The Fund aims to encourage the conservation and use of plant genetic resources in developing countries by awarding Fellowships to outstanding young researchers to carry out relevant innovative research at an advanced research institute outside their own country for a period of between three months and one year. Full details in English, French and Spanish are available from <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/training/vavilov.htm>. Applications must be made in English, French or Spanish. **Deadline:** Tuesday 1 Nov 2005.

Agency: International Plant Genetic Resources Institute

Email: e.rossetti@cgiar.org

Web: <http://www.cgiar.org/ipgri>
Tel: + 39 06 6118207
Fax: + 39 06 61979661

Publications

Notes on Edible Insects of South Benin: A source of protein

Insects have been and still are consumed in South Benin. They are a very important source of animal protein, able to successfully substitute some meats and improve the health of malnourished children. The publication describes the species eaten, techniques of gathering, culinary usages, communities consuming them, and their economic importance.

Authors: Sévérin Tchiboza, Arnold van Huis, Maurizio G. Paoletti.

Email: tchisev@yahoo.fr **Tel:** +229 063950 / 353095 / 303084 **Fax:** +229 303084

Fungi of Northwestern China

Based on the authors' own investigations, taxonomic studies and records appearing in the literature, this book summarizes 3887 taxa belonging to 759 genera of fungi known from Gansu, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi and Xinjiang, China. References, detailed distribution, hosts or substrates, and specimen information for each species are provided.

Publisher: Mycotaxon Ltd. Ithaca

Author: Zhuang, W.Y. (ed.) **Email:** zhuangwy@sun.im.ac.cn

Reptiles of the Venezuelan Andes (in Spanish)

With 173 pages, the publication includes descriptions and natural history of all known reptiles of the Venezuelan Andes, plus colour photographs of most species. Authors: Enrique La Marca and Pascual Soriano.

Order information: Enrique La Marca

Price: US\$35.00 (includes shipping and handling)

Email: lamarca1@telcel.net.ve **Tel:** +58 (0274) 2401647 **Fax:** +58 (0274) 2401635

Angiosperm checklist and database for sub-Saharan Africa

The African Plant Checklist & Database Project (APCD) is an effort to combine two major datasets: The Flora of Southern Africa (FSA) dataset and the Lebrun & Stork Enumération des plantes à fleurs d'Afrique tropicale (EPFAT) publications covering Tropical Africa. APCD is a collaboration between the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève, Switzerland (CJBG). There are two products available:

1. Hardcopy publication of the checklist.
2. Searchable database with free internet access. For the Beta-version see <http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb/bd/africa/index.php>.

Comments and suggestions to Ronell Klopper: klopper@sanbi.org and Laurent Gautier: Laurent.Gautier@cjb.ville-ge.ch.

Orders to: bookshop@sanbi.org

New Publications From CABI

Rural Change and Sustainability - Agriculture, the Environment and Communities

Insect Evolutionary Ecology

Orders to: orders@cabi.org

Vacancies

Director for Applied Ecology

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS) and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies seek a Director for Applied Forest Ecology to supervise and develop applied research programmes in the Republic of Panama and across the worldwide network of CTFS research sites. The position is based at the Smithsonian's facilities in the Republic of Panama, and will include a courtesy appointment at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. For full information see CTFS Website: <http://www.ctfs.si.edu/>.

Deadline: Review of applications will begin in early October and continue until the vacancy is filled. Remuneration will be based upon qualifications and experience.

Email: latorral@si.edu Luz Latorraca, Office of Human Resources, STRI

Tel: +507 212-8094

Fax: +507 212-8189

Secretariat of the Pacific Community, various positions: 1. Entomologist. 2. Plant Pathologist (Virologist). 3. Information Officer. 4. Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation Adviser. 5. Plant Protection Adviser (Micronesia)

Applications should be addressed to the Senior Deputy Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji. Applications may also be submitted by or email.

Deadline: Mon 24 Oct 05

Details: www.spc.int | recruitsuva@spc.int | **Fax:** +679 370 021

BioNET LOOP contacts

Established LOOPS

ANDINONET

<http://www.andinonet.org.ve>

Regional Coordinator:

Prof José Clavijo:

clamiche@telcel.net.ve

ASEANET

<http://www.aseanet.org>

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:

nafrinet@yahoo.fr

PACINET

Regional Coordinator:

Kate Brown: kateb@sprep.org.ws

SAFRINET

<http://safrinet.ecoport.org>

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Connal Eardley:

EardleyC@arc.agric.za

WAFRINET

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Braima James: b.james@cgiar.org

LOOPS under development

LATINET – South America Southern Cone

Contact Dr Mercedes Lizarralde de Grosso

ticky@csnat.unt.edu.ar

NEURASIANET

Interim Regional Coordinators:

Dr Alexander Ryss: nema@zin.ru and

Dr Valery Neronov: mab.ru@relcom.ru

MesoAmeriNET

Interim Regional Coordinating Institute: InBio, Costa Rica

Contact Alvaro Herrera:

alherrer@inbio.ac.cr

SACNET – South Asia

<http://www.bionet-intl.org/sacnet> |

<http://www.biodiversityasia.org/sacnet>

Interim Regional Coordinating Institute: IUCN-Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia.

Contact Bhujangarao Dharmaji:

bhujang@sltnet.lk