

REPORT

Taxonomic training & access to collections in Belgium (projects executed between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010)

NOTICE

The present questionnaire must arrive with the Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative within one month of the official closure of the capacity building visits. Electronic submission on the general e-mail address of the Belgian GTI NFP (cbd-gti@naturalsciences.be) is strongly encouraged. If electronic submission should however be impossible, paper copies may be sent by fax or ordinary mail. The Belgian GTI NFP will acknowledge receipt of all project reports.

If grantees have relevant pictures to illustrate their capacity building visit, these may be annexed to the report. The Belgian National Focal Point might use some of these pictures in one of its reporting activities, but only after the copyright holder has given his permission.

Contact and further information

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PART I – CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Family name:	Cabarroí Hernández
First name(s):	Milay
Nationality:	Cuban
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	October, 13 to November 2
Number of training days:	22
Type of visit	<input type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainly access to collections <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> Mainly training in theoretical taxonomy
Location of training:	<input type="checkbox"/> Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren <input type="checkbox"/> National Botanic Garden of Belgium, Meise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> Mycothque de l'Université Catholique de Louvain (MUCL)

PART II - GENERAL INFORMATION

Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project	I had learned about the Belgian GTI Project through of participation in a Individual and Institutional Capacity Building Training Course in Taxonomy and Collection Management organised by the Belgian Focal Point to The GTI and Cuban Technical Focal Point to the CHM in my country, on November 2006.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	I knew about this call by my tutor Dr. Cony Decock, he thought a possibility to my PhD project. Then I wrote to Dr. Yves Samyn and he corroborated me the last call date.
If this was your first study visit financed via the Belgian GTI National Focal Point, describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management	Because I needed to compare my own collections of poroid Ganodermataceae from Cuba with the reference material currently housed in the fungal collection of MUCL. I needed to check additional species know from other Caribbean countries currently housed in the fungal collection of MUCL. For many reasons those are not available in Cuba. I needed to start a basic training on molecular techniques which can be applied to the group.
If this was not your first study visit financed via the Belgian GTI National Focal Point, describe concisely why you needed further support	

<p>Describe concisely what support (e.g. training, access to collections,...) you have received and how this training can be related to taxonomy and /or collection management</p>	<p>I had access to poroid Ganodermataceae reference, type materials and additional species know from other Caribbean countries currently housed in the fungal collection of MUCL. I checked the specific and actual literature not available in Cuba. I started my first molecular studies. So, this training was related to taxonomy Ganodermataceae family specifically with traditional morphological methods together with phylogenetic and ecological data. This training allowed to compare, to described and to identify some Ganodermataceae species.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties</p>	<p>Ganodermataceae is in a state of taxonomic chaos. Different authors used diverse criteria for the taxonomy of these fungi. So, this training allowed me to better understand the concept for many species from this family. This project allowed me to identify many species from Cuba housed in herbarium of National Botanica Garden. I have more information about this group to my students in University of Havana. I have up date and correct information to environmental education.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution</p>	<p>Goals of the National Botanical Garden are to preserve the Cuban flora, including the mycobiota. Some species are preserved in the herbarium of this institution, as a source of material for basic or applied research, and also for educational purposes. I work like curate in this herbarium and I can up date this collection. The capacity gained in taxonomy during the stay at MUCL will contribute greatly to reach these objectives for the mycological part, that is probably the less represented for the moment. The capacity gained in modern techniques will also contribute to these objectives, including education. The capacity acquired will also be transferred to other staff members of the botanical garden via in-house seminar and training.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need</p>	<p>I will need support to analysis of DNA sequence data of selected taxa from Ganodermataceae family. It will give me a good basis for starting the phylogeny study. I need to compare my own results with another taxa from Caribbean countries. I need to analyse the traditional morphological methods together with phylogenetic and ecological data.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional</p>	<p>My institution have a mycology department with a little laboratory with only two investigators (taxonomist, 47 and 29 years old), a technician and two professors (58 and 64 years old). We need news microscopes, some specifics substance to mycological work, up date literature and "more taxonomist".</p>

<p>Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution</p>	<p>GTI could to allow me work with Belgian specialist with more experience, to know about news methods, to check the type material, reference material and literature not available in my country. GTI could to allow the identification of unknown fungi material, accomplished with the use of dichotomous keys, recently published descriptions and comparison with properly identified herbarium specimens from Cuba and another countries. Good microscope is essential for the observation of many diagnostic features. Everything above is very important to my work and my institution goals.</p>
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PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

What is your taxon of interest	Fungi, specially from Ganodermataceae family
Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.	Fructifications liable to be identified must be mature and complete. For their gathering from substrate (trunk, soil) the use of a sharp penknife or a small dagger is recommended with which they will be removed without much damage by lifting them out of the soil. It is very important to record the environmental at the collecting site and to register the location of the sample. Leathery or woody materials are placed in paper bags into the box or basket with a number. Once filled up to the top it is advisable to stop collecting and take all necessary observations. That must be carried out on fresh samples. It is recommended to carry always a small magnifying lens (5-20X) on field trips.
Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes	Once the microscopic and macroscopic data have been annotated the material can be dried. Fungi from Ganodermataceae are generally woody, so it can be dried at room temperature on a shelf but we use a electric dries operating at a temperature of 40-60°C. Once the material has been dried it must be placed in cardboard boxes or paper envelopes with their corresponding annotations included. Finally the dried material should be preserved in the herbarium disinfected cupboard to control insects.
Describe concisely the best practice in the management of a collection of your taxon	For a proper determination of a species it is essential to carry out all observations the same day they are collected because many of their characteristics such a colour, smell, taste and consistency are ephemeral. It is very convenient to draw or take a picture of a mature carpophore. Then we can to dry and to preserved the material. For species determination microscope analyses is essential because the Ganodermataceae spore is an important taxonomic character. I make a squash from a small part of the fructification removed for this observation. Analyses of the hymenium and the cuticule of the pileus is fundamental too. Melzer be used in the structure amyloid observations. All observation can be make in the Lab with the appropriated conditions.
Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues	When I finish my identification I show my results to my colleagues and we analyses the different point of view. I try to published the descriptions, dichotomous keys with some pictures and important notes. We are a little team, so it is very easy contact us.

<p>Have you been briefed on the aims, scope and contents of the journal <i>AbcTaxa</i>?</p>	<p>I don't know about this journal.</p>
<p>Do you think you have enough capacity to make a contribution to <i>Abc Taxa</i>?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> No, I still lack capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if I get adequate guidance and support from my tutors <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I feel able to do this autonomously <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> </p>
<p>If you feel capable to contribute meaningfully to <i>Abc Taxa</i>, are you willing to do so</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No, I have no time to develop such a capacity building manual <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I will send a proposal along the lines stipulated on the website of </p>

Brussels, 30 January 2009



Belgian National Focal Point to the
Global Taxonomy Initiative