

REPORT

Taxonomic training & access to collections in Belgium

(projects executed between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011)

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:	Barreto
First name(s):	Mauricio
Nationality:	Colombian
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	January 25 / February 20, 2011.
Number of training days:	18
Type of visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly access to collections <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i>
Location of training:	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i>

PART II - GENERAL INFORMATION

Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project	I learned by an announcement in the web page of the Colombian Focal Point on Biodiversity (National Biodiversity Information System – SiB Colombia) of the Humboldt Institute.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	I learned in same way as the anterior point. It was in the same announcement.
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	Although Colombia has very good people working in taxonomy of different groups there are not experts on parasitic mites.
If this was not your first study visit financed via the Belgian GTI National Focal Point, describe concisely why you needed further support	

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	I received theoretical and practical training on mites, with access to reprints and different publications on this group, as well as, equipment to take micro-photographies. Also, I had the opportunity to establish contact with a specialist on feather mites. This support allowed the identification of different species, including new records to Colombia and new taxa to be described.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	With out doubt the gained capacity on taxonomy, collection management and information is of great value on my studies on Colombian parasitic mites. For example, I found many publications on Colombian mites that I was not aware before.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	Part of my work at the Universidad del Valle includes research and training of students, with the new information and abilities that I gained during my time at the RBINS, I will open new lines of research and science development. Also, I am in a better position to collaborate in interdisciplinary biodiversity studies in Colombia.
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	During my training almost all information on Colombian mites associated with birds was obtained. Unfortunately the following paper was not found: Ohmer C, A Fain, L Schuchmann. 1991. Journal of Natural History 25 (2): 481-497. (Fain No. 1019). This publication is on Colombian mites associated with hummingbirds.
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	A very important equipment that we do not have in the laboratory is a good microscope with differential interference contrast illumination, drawing tube and photomicrographic system.
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	As mentioned before almost all information on Colombian mites associated with birds was obtained, but I did not worked on mites associated with mammals. A second time at the RBINS will be necessary to study these mites and finish the project.

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

<p>What is your taxon of interest</p>	<p>Acari, parasitic mites</p>
<p>Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.</p>	<p>Mites could be collected directly from alive birds or mammals taking small samples from feathers or hairs from different body areas. Also, many mites can be obtained from dead vertebrates washing the body in water with soap and flushing their nasal cavities. Dry combing is another way to obtain mites. We have a good number of mites collected from skin of birds preserved in the collection of our university. The skins were first examined under a stereomicroscope and later the feathers were gently ruffled with a small piece of wood on a white paper. This procedure did not harm the skins.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes</p>	<p>Mites are best preserved in ethanol 75%, for study they have to be in lactic acid 75% at room temperature for 3-4 weeks, or 30-50 minutes near 80°C. Mites are then placed in a cavity slide with a cover split and examined under the microscope. Also, permanent microslides can be made with polyvinyl alcohol.</p>
<p>Describe concisely the best practice in the management of a collection of your taxon</p>	<p>All specimens have to be properly labelled. A locality label should include host, date, collector as well as the locality. An identification label should be with the family, genus, species, date of determination, and the name of the person responsible of this identification and the mounting medium. An accession number to the data book should be also written. Additional information should be in the data book. Although there are some very much elaborated computer programs to handle all this data, we are using Excel with good results.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues</p>	<p>Checklists and other data will be publicly available through the infrastructure developed by the National Biodiversity Information (SiB Colombia), which comprises taxonomic authority files. Also, pertinent information will be publish in an indexed journal.</p>

<p>Have you been briefed on the aims, scope and contents of the journal <i>AbcTaxa</i>?</p>	<p>Yes, and I found very interesting papers on this journal.</p>
<p>Do you think you have enough capacity to make a contribution to <i>Abc Taxa</i>?</p>	<p>XX <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 2010



Belgian National Focal Point to the
Global Taxonomy Initiative