

Reference number of GTI application:  
Date of reception:

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# REPORT

## Taxonomic training & access to collections in Belgium

### 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](mailto: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:	Herrera Uria
First name(s):	Jane
Nationality:	Cuban
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	1-30 May 2011
Number of training days:	30
Type of visit	<input type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly access to collections <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> Access to internet, RBINS'library and collections.
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 have learned about the Belgian GTI Project because in 2006 the Dr Yves Samyn was in Cuba. He gave us an excellent taxonomy course and tell us all information about the Belgian GTI Project.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	I have learned about this specific call for proposals because now I know the webpage of the RBINS and I know that every year in January the call for proposals appear in internet.
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	This is not my first study visit financed via the Belgian GTI National Focal Point.

<p>If this was not your first study visit financed via the Belgian GTI National Focal Point, describe concisely why you needed further support</p>	<p>I need further support because I started a taxonomy study with the help to the staff of the malacology department and molecular laboratory of the RBINS. In my previous visit to the RBINS I learned many molecular techniques, anatomical techniques and how to work with the DNA software program for obtain genealogical trees. In this moment I am processing the results of the DNA sequences for genus <i>Viana</i> (Morelet, 1849) and finally I desire publish the results of this research in the ABC taxa. But for that I need the help and support of Belgian GTI National Focal Point because I have to revise internet and the RBINS library for write and finish the article besides the guide of the Dr Thierry Backeljau is very important for his great experiences in evolution, biogeography and phylogenetic. In Cuba is very difficult check internet and I do not have access to Zoological records and this activity is very important for make a scientific article.</p>
<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>The Belgian National Focal Point to the GTI can help me very much, because I can work in the excellent library of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. I could revise the scientific collection that they have, with the purpose of determinate the taxonomic status of <i>Viana regina</i> (specie that I'm studying). Also I could revise and unite the specialized literature that they have in their library. Europe has many institutions and museums with much taxonomic literature. Because many European scientists came to Cuba for study our fauna. Some of them studied the mollusc and described new specie for science during the XIX and XX century. In the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences exists a department of invertebrates (section: malacology) in which one the curator Thierry Backeljau will be my tutor during my stay there. Also I can check internet every day for make the scientific article and if is possible we could publish in ABC taxa.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties</p>	<p>I am the curator of the malacology collection that 'why I have to make a taxonomy investigations and publish the results. For that I propose an study in the case of the <i>Viana regina</i>, an endemic species of Cuba. Is the mollusc more popular of the Caribbean because have beautiful colours and big shells.</p>

<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution</p>	<p>The purposes and services of the Natural Museum of Natural History (NMNH) are several. According to its mission, the Natural Museum of Natural History of the Republic of Cuba undertakes collecting, research, conservation and exhibition of natural objects, in order to promote scientific knowledge and culture about nature. We have three departments, I work in the curatorial department and the principal line of work is the taxonomy of many zoological groups. We have many functions like curator of the scientific collection, for example, go to the country, collect animals and plants, increase the collections, identify all the material that was collected from nature and finally make taxonomic studies. We also have technicians that help us to keep excellent collections. The curators do many activities of environmental education with the public, four or five times by month. The museum also offers visits guided by the museum, classes to primary and secondary schools of the community about the nature and the importance of protect it. Every two years the museum has an event called: Symposium of Museums and Rooms of Natural History, in which one the scientific can expose their recent studies. That's why this project will be a good work for my institution.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need</p>	<p>I think I do not have more eventually support because I have many conditions for make research.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional</p>	<p>We need many thinks for became a fully functional. For example the NMNH needs a molecular laboratory, more container for the collection, stereoscope and microscope.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution</p>	<p>The Belgian GTI National Focal Point can further construct capacity for me and my institution because I think that the obtained knowledge in taxonomy will be very important as much for me as my institution. Because I could do much better my work like a curator of the mollusc collection of the NMNH. I could do much better my work like taxonomist because I will have a stronger theoretical base in taxonomy. I could practice this knowledge with the execution of my project and all the knowledge and information will be shared with the rest of colleges into department. I could finish the genetic investigation and write the scientific article.</p>

### PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

<p>What is your taxon of interest</p>	<p>My taxon of interest is an endemic terrestrial mollusc: <u>Viana regina</u> (Morelet, 1849). Phylum Mollusca, Class Gastropoda, Family Helicinidae, Genus <i>Viana</i>.</p>
<p>Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.</p>	<p>For collect this terrestrial mollusc I just need go to the field in the rain period and search the molluscs in the limestone. I take the animals with my hands and immediately I put it in etanol (98%), I write the place, the date and others ecological variables like humidity and temperature</p>
<p>Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes.</p>	<p>For preserve the mollusc I put it in etanol at 98% when I want to make molecular studies in the molecular laboratory. In the case of make anatomical studies I put the animal in water with mentol then the snail leave the shell and the next step is make the correct dissection using a good stereoscope.</p>
<p>Describe concisely the best practice in the management of a collection of your taxon</p>	<p>I am the curator of the terrestrial mollusc collection of NMNH. I have the obligation of make a good job for my collection</p>
<p>Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues</p>	

<p>Have you been briefed on the aims, scope and contents of the journal <i>AbcTaxa</i>?</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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, I will send a proposal along the lines stipulated on the website of         </p>



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