Reference number of GTI application: *CBD/GTI-02/2010.*
Date of reception:

(box reserved for Belgian administration)

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

Dr Yves Samyn
Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Vautierstraat 29
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 627 41 24
Fax: +32 2 627 41 41
Email: cbd-gti@naturalsciences.be

PART I – CANDIDATE INFORMATION	
Family name:	Higuti
First name(s):	Janet
Nationality:	Brazilian
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	11.10 – 05.11.2010
Number of training days:	24
Type of visit	Training in taxonomy and collection management
Location of training:	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels
PART II - GENERAL INFORMATION	
Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project	Professor Koen Martens sent the link of the Belgian GTI Project and gave me the opportunity to participate on it.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	Professor Koen Martens sent the link of the Belgian GTI Project and gave me the opportunity to participate on it.
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	The Freshwater Biology section of the RBINS, of which Prof Martens is head, has several advantages for training in taxonomy and collection management: an extensive library of taxonomic literature, good reference collections comprising species from all over the world, good optical equipment, access to scanning electron microscope with digitizing equipment and guidance by an experienced ostracod taxonomist. The reason I need this training is that in my home institution, I am situated in a unit that is concentrating mostly on ecological research. Taxonomic expertise is largely lacking, but is necessary when starting work on a group for which most basic taxonomic work still has to be done, such as non-marine Ostracoda in South America.

If this was not your first study visit financed via the Belgian GTI National Focal Point, describe concisely why you needed further support	NA
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	Training to learn the various protocols (including the dissection of ostracods, mounting slides, drawings the appendices, scanning electron microscopy, collection management; etc.) necessary for the identification and description of Ostracoda. Besides, morphologies of *Cypretta* and *Stenocypris* have to be compared to species from various continents. Such collections are present in the RBINS.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	The increase taxonomic expertise on Brazilian floodplain ostracods, will solve several of the remaining taxonomic problems, so that meaningful analyses can be made at the specific level. It will contribute to the taxonomy of South American Floodplain Ostracoda, so that they could be used in the future as a model group in long term ecological modeling, much like LTER project of my home institute (http://www.peld.uem.br/).
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	Training, as well as supply with literature and opportunities to use scanning electron microscope and other facilities at the RBINS will install vital expertise within the unit Nupelia of the University of Maringa. I will be able to train other students through graduate and postgraduate courses at the University.
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	Use all facilities of RBINS and some support for sampling new material.
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	Trained professionals and good optical equipment, including high resolution transmittal microscopes with camera lucida and high power binocular microscopes.
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	The Belgian GTI National Focal Point could continue financially supporting the exchange between researchers of both institutions. If GTI can foresee the possibility to support the purchase of optical equipment, that would be a very important asset.

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION	
What is your taxon of interest	Ostracoda (Crustacea)
Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.	Macrophytes and littoral benthos are collected with hand nets (160µm), deeper stations are sampled with dredges (Ekman, Petersen). The ostracods associated with macrophyte root systems (called 'pleuston' in case of floating macrophytes) are also hand collected, and roots are thoroughly washed in a bucket. The residues are washed in the same handnet. Both qualitative and quantitative samples are taken.
Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes	The ostracods are preserved in 70% EtOH. Some specimens are dissected under a stereo-microscope: valves are opened with dissection needles, soft-parts are removed from inside the carapace, appendices are separated and then mounted in glycerine on a glass slide covered with a cover slip and sealed with nail polish. Valves are dried in the air and then stored in a micropalaeontological slide.
Describe concisely the best practice in the management of a collection of your taxon	Once the soft parts are in a sealed slide and the valves are stored dry, they need little curation. Labels must of course be attached solidly, and provide all necessary information. In toto specimens are kept in EtOH in small vials, and these vials must be checked annually to prevent desiccation. Excel file databases make the slide and alcohol collection easy to consult.
Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues	I will (already doing) transfer my knowledge through my position at the university. I will be able to train other students through graduate and postgraduate courses at the University. There is at present no other qualified person there. Knowledge is also disseminated through publications in international journals. In addition, I am preparing an atlas of ostracods valves (SEM) to allow the identification of this group by non-specialists, also at other places in South America.

Have you been briefed on the aims, scope and contents of the journal *AbcTaxa*?	yes
Do you think you have enough capacity to make a contribution to *Abc Taxa*?	Yes, if I get adequate guidance and support from my tutors
If you feel capable to contribute meaningfully to *Abc Taxa*, are you willing to do so	Yes, I will send a proposal along the lines stipulated on the website, but this will not be in the immediate future.

Brussels, 06 May 2010

Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative