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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:	Rojas-Riaño
First name(s):	Nancy Carolina
Nationality:	Colombian
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	7 Sep 2010 / 4 Oct 2010
Number of training days:	29
Type of visit	<input type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input checked="" 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 have learned about the Belgian GTI Project through internet first. And then when I was visiting RBINS, Yves Samyn and Marie-Lucie Susini told me about the project.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	I heard about this specific call through the monthly Bulletin of Colombia CHM issued by Alexander von Humboldt Institute.
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	I was doing my master's degree therefore I needed to review the types of the genus studied holding by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences; this revision is very important for the taxonomic studies. In addition I needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management from RBINS because in my region the expertise in curatorial capacity of dragonflies and damselflies is not available.

<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>Not applicable</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>I have received access to collection in Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Selys' collection of damselflies) and training in repair of collection's specimens of dragonflies and damselflies. In addition, I received advice from Jerome Constant about analysis of the nomenclatural problems. The access and the reviewing of type specimens are very important for the taxonomy of the genus because the types are the object that identifies the species, and their reviewing is the way to clarify the status of the species. On the other hand, training in repair specimens is crucial for the proper maintenance of the collections.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties</p>	<p>My experience during my academic visit to RBINS will help me professionally because I learned more about the taxonomic studies and the proper way to lead these. I reinforced my awareness about the importance of the original descriptions and the revision of the holotypes in taxonomic studies because those represent the concept that the authors had about the species.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution</p>	<p>I will implement my gained capacity in the collection work in my institution through academic exchanges with my lab partners. Also, I will implement the technique learned to repair the wings of damselflies and dragonflies. Finally, I will contribute to the investigation studies in my institution with access to copies of the literature I got at the RBINS.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need</p>	<p>I would need help and guidance in preparation of scientific illustrations and making micrographs of the genitalia in Scanning electron microscope; these illustrations and micrographs are very important for the revision and especially for the taxonomic key of the genus.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional</p>	<p>My institution eventually needs more infrastructural resources, for example buildings for the biological collections and more workstations. Also, access to old literature, contact with specialist, and research projects funding.</p>

<p>Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution</p>	<p>Belgian GTI National Focal Point could construct capacity for me and my institution through development research projects in taxonomy. The continuation of the GTI Belgian courses. And development of joint research projects and contact with specialists.</p>
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PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

<p>What is your taxon of interest</p>	<p>I am interested in the study of dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata), especially in the family Polythoridae.</p>
<p>Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.</p>	<p>The odonate adults (aerials) are collected with a hand net, in the same way that butterflies are collected. Dragonflies are excellent fliers therefore the collector must be agile. Perched dragonflies are probably easier to catch than those already in flight; in the first case you must move the hand net in figure 8; this movement closes the net preventing damselfly to escape. Once captured, the dragonfly is inserted in a triangular envelope with its wings folded back and with complete field data written on the envelope. Specimens collected should be left in the envelope for a while (for example, until you return home at night) so they can void their intestinal contents. The larvae are collected with an aquatic net and then they are preserved in alcohol.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes</p>	<p>After collecting the specimens are killed by immersing them briefly in acetone. Specimens are manipulated to straighten the abdomen and arranging the legs so the males do not hide the genitalia. Then they are put back in their labelled envelopes and leave them submerged in acetone in a tightly closed plastic container for 8-16 or 24 hours (depending on the size of the specimen). After this time, remove the specimens from the acetone, letting all the liquid drain out, and leave them in the open for a few days so the acetone will evaporate.</p>
<p>Describe concisely the best practice in the management of a collection of your taxon</p>	<p>Dragonflies and damselflies are preserved in transparent cellophane envelopes with the collecting information written, typed, or printed on 8 x 13 cm card; the specimens can then be examined without taking it out of the envelope. Mating pairs in tandem or in copula should always be so indicated and should be stored together unless too large. All the field data information is recorded in a data base. Collections are kept in adapted Cornell drawers.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues</p>	<p>I will make available my taxonomic study through a published paper and web available database.</p>

<p>Have you been briefed on the aims, scope and contents of the journal <i>AbcTaxa</i>?</p>	<p>Before my visit to RBINS I did not know the journal, but during my work at the Institute I heard about this, and now I have reviewed the website of the journal to learn more about this.</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>

Bogotá, Colombia, SA. 12th January 2011



Belgian National Focal Point to the
Global Taxonomy Initiative