

# 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:	Rojas-Riaño
First name(s):	Nancy Carolina
Nationality:	Colombian
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	July 23 <sup>th</sup> to August 10 <sup>th</sup> 2012
Number of training days:	20
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 its website; 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 received the information of the call through an e-mail from Drs Yves Samyn & M-L Susini (Belgian Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative).
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	
If this was not your first study visit financed via the Belgian GTI National Focal Point, describe concisely why you needed further support	This visit is my second study in Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences financed by Belgian GTI National Focal Point because I needed support to complement my research about systematic of the damselfly genus <i>Polythore</i> , specifically reviewing the females of the genus because the previous revisions published do not offer reliable information to all species, neither taxonomic keys for females.
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 could access to Odonata collection of RBINS, I received support for taking photographs in stereoscopic and methodological support for conservation of genitalia of the specimens in collections. In addition, my tutor (Jerome Constant) is reviewing the first scientific article of this research. Revision of the females of the genus <i>Polythore</i> holded in RBINS are very important for the systematic of the genus since the exploration of new characters could improve their identification and therefore the taxonomy of the genus.

Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	<p>Training I received has been very important for my professional duties because I have learned about methodological aspects of a taxonomic review and about collection management.</p> <p>Also, I could interact with other professionals within the entomology that allows me to exchange opinions and enrich my views.</p>
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	I will implement my gained capacity in the collection management in my institution through academic exchanges with my lab partners.
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	I would need support for micrographs of the genitalia in scanning electron microscope; these will be very useful in order to find new characters and will be very important for the taxonomic key of the genus and for the characterization of the female genitalia.
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	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.
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	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 Belgian specialists.

### PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

What is your taxon of interest	I am interested in the study of dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata), especially in the family Polythoridae.
Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.	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.
Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes	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 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 and leave them in the open for a few days so the acetone will evaporate.  Female genitalia must be preserving in a very small plastic bottle type eppendorf with glycerine.
Describe concisely the best practice in the management of a collection of your taxon	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.
Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues	I will make available my taxonomic study through a published paper.
Have you been briefed on the aims, scope and contents of the journal <i>AbcTaxa</i> ?	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.
Do you think you have enough capacity to make a contribution to <i>Abc Taxa</i> ?	<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>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 X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I will send a proposal along the lines stipulated on the website of <i>Abc Taxa</i></p>
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Bogotá, Colombia, SA. 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012



Belgian National Focal Point to the  
Global Taxonomy Initiative