

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) 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:	Hernández
First name(s):	Maike
Nationality:	Cuban
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	Arrival 30-06-13, Departure 01-08-13
Number of training days:	31
Type of visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly access to collections <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> participation to the World Congress of Malacology
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> WCM participation in Ponta Delgada, Açores

PART II - GENERAL INFORMATION

Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project	The knowledge that I have about Belgian GTI Project comes from several colleagues at my institution, who have visited the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences to receive a training with taxonomic goals and to check zoological collections.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	I got information from the Web page of the Belgian GTI Project
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	I needed support to take high-quality pictures of mandibulae and radule with scanning electron microscope. In addition, I needed to use the molecular genetics lab in order to extract and amplify DNA of <i>Jeanneretia</i> species and other Cuban cepolids.

<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 training involved dissections for the comparative study of radulae and mandibulae of land snails. It also allowed me to learn methods and techniques for the extracting and amplification of DNA of <i>Jeanneretia</i> species and other Cuban cepolids; with the aim of to solve the taxonomic problems of <i>Jeanneretia</i>.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties</p>	<p>The knowledge acquired during my trips to Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences will be used for the creation of a new research line at our institution and will be transmitted to others through publications, conferences and events.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution</p>	<p>The acquired experience will be used to accomplish more indepth taxonomic revisions of groups that present complex taxonomic problems. This will improve our knowledge of Cuban's land snail diversity. In addition, this knowledge will be transmitting to other young investigators.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need</p>	<p>It is necessary for me to continue my training in molecular techniques to accomplish phylogenetic studies, while I further need to use the scanning electron microscope to characterize reproductive structures that are important in taxonomy.</p>
<p>Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional</p>	<p>The institution to which I belong neither has the professional personnel, nor the instruments to accomplish advanced studies in land snail taxonomy (e.g. SEM, DNA lab).</p>
<p>Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution</p>	<p>With the received training I will be able to identify and update the land snail collection of my institution and it would permit me to prepare me professionally.</p>

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

What is your taxon of interest	Genus <i>Jeanneretia</i>
Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.	The genus <i>Jeanneretia</i> is the mainly directly collected by hand on the substratum where the individuals live (rocks, ground and vegetation).
Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes	The best mode of preserving specimens is in dependence of the type of study, in ethanol 95 % for molecular studies and 70 % for anatomic studies.
Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues	I intend to make the data available through conferences, workshops and scientific events. The obtained results were displayed in the World Congress of Malacology: First data on the genital anatomy of the genus <i>Jeanneretia</i> (Stylommatophora, Helicoidea: Cepolidae), an endemic taxon from western Cuba. Other results will be also shown in the Congress of the Society Mesoamerican for conservation biology and Symposium of Zoology, next September in Havana.
Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country	The taxonomic work would allow to evaluate the specific and generic status of the group, which, in turn, would help to update our knowledge on the land snail diversity of Cuba and it would back up the studies of diversity and inventories in the different areas, in addition to studies of the conservation.
Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country	Due to the beauty of its shell, <i>Jeanneretia</i> sp. could contribute to reducing poverty through breeding of these molluscs in captivity, thus generating new jobs. In the same spirit, <i>Jeanneretia</i> is a flagship taxon that can help enhancing ecotourism and/or that can underpin local milieu awareness actions.



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Global Taxonomy Initiative