

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

Dr M-L Susini
Belgian Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative,
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Vautierstraat 29,
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 627 45 90
Fax: +32 2 627 41 41
Email: cbd-gti@naturalsciences.be

PART I – CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Family name:	Herrera Uria
First name(s):	Jane
Nationality:	
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	22-June-2013 1-Aug-2013
Number of training days:	40 days
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> Study of endemic terrestrial molluscs populations using molecular methods.
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 since 2006. In that year I received a taxonomy course by Dr Yves Samyn and he was the person how 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 for the information of Dr Marie Lucie Susini and her work in the GTI Web site.
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	-

<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 of the family Helicinidae with the help of Dr Thierry Backeljau and Karin Breugelmans in the 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> and <i>Emoda</i> 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 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 do 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</i> and <i>Emoda</i> (genus of the same family Helicinidae). 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 in the National Museum of Natural History of Cuba. I have to do taxonomy investigations and publish the results every year. For that I propose an study in the case of genus <i>Viana</i> and <i>Emoda</i> (two endemic genus of the family Helicinidae in Cuba).</p>

<p>Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution</p>	<p>The purposes and services of the National Museum of Natural History of Cuba (MNHNCu) are several. According to its mission, the National Museum of Natural History 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, do field work collecting animals and plants, increase the collections, identify all the material that was collected from nature and finally do taxonomic revisions. 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>-</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 things for became a fully functional. For example the MNHNCu needs a molecular laboratory, more container for the collection, stereoscopes and microscopes, fires alarms.</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 in my visit to the RBINS I obtained knowledge in taxonomy and that it is very important as much for me as my institution. I could do much better my work like a curator and taxonomist because I will have a stronger theoretical base. I could practice this knowledge with the execution of my project and all the knowledge and information will be shared with the rest of colleagues in the 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 are two endemic terrestrial molluscs of Cuba: <i>Viana</i> and <i>Emoda</i>. Phylum Mollusca, Class Gastropoda, Family Helicinidae, genus <i>Viana</i> and <i>Emoda</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 molluscs I put the animal in etanol at 98% when I want to sequencing genes in the molecular laboratory. In the case of 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 how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues</p>	<p>In our department in the MNHNCu we have a meeting every tree moths and that is one of the best moments for expose the results of the projects. Other way it's the expositions in National and International Congress and of course the publications at the end of the year.</p>
<p>Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country</p>	<p>In Cuba the terrestrial molluscs are the second majority group in the island and 96% of them are endemic. For the knowledge of the malacological biodiversity this taxonomic work it's very important because in this study the two genus are local endemic and it's very important know the genotypic differentiation for conservation.</p>

<p>Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country</p>	<p>The Project has a big importance for several reasons. One of them is the determination of the taxonomic status of genus <i>Viana</i> and <i>Emoda</i>. The Cuban terrestrial mollusc catalogue will be actualized and with this work I'm sure that other colleagues will feel motivated to make more taxonomic investigations. At the present time in Cuba the investigation of mollusc are very scarce because in whole country just exist 5 or 6 specialists. During the decade of 40 in last century in Cuba was a Malacological Society very fruitful but at the present time that society disappeared and the few investigators that exist are dispersed.</p>
--	---



Belgian National Focal Point to the
Global Taxonomy Initiative