

Manual on field recording techniques and protocols for All Taxa Biodiversity Inventories and Monitoring

If the Biosphere were a kitchen, this would be the cookbook every kitchen hand working in it would want to have. It is encyclopaedic in scope, without missing on detail where it's necessary.

The aim is to provide a guide to undertaking All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory+Monitoring (ATBI+M), with the laudable aim of accelerating the integration of taxonomic knowledge with biodiversity conservation and management. The ATBI+M approach has its critics, but there can be little doubt that the more information we can garner at the species level of biodiversity, the better we will be able to manage it as a whole. Warning against the complacency of one-time surveys there is advice on groups from whales to waterbears; slime moulds to forest trees, and everything in between. Particularly pleasing is the inclusion of a broad range of habitats, especially marine and freshwater. Some chapters are also on unexpected but important survey methods including bio-acoustics, camera trapping, and on specimen handling and preservation. Each chapter also has plenty of "how to's" for preservation and heaps of leads for identification – even in one case the advice on what sort of accommodation actually works in the field! And, as pioneered in Central America, reference to how para- and amateur taxonomists (increasingly called citizen science) must be part of the process if the exercise is to work.

Even if you are not doing an ATBI+M you will find this book useful, even fascinating. There is much much more in it than "just" collecting and survey advice. It may not seem bedtime reading, but just try it is my advice. Happy inventorying!.

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