

Report of the meeting by Hendrik Segers, Belgian Biodiversity Platform to:

**Centre for Coastal Management and Development  
study, Hue University, Vietnam  
1 – 14 March 2010**

## Report

This mission was organized within the framework of the Belgian GTI NFP project “Towards an integrated zooplankton taxonomic resource facility in Viet Nam” (project 2433 FRK2\_Segers\_2009 (partim T1-GTI-01 and partim T1-GTI-01/complement)). The main activity within the project consisted of the organization of a taxonomic training course on Rotifera, to the benefit of postgraduate students from universities and research centres in Vietnam and other Southeast Asian developing countries (see project summary (available on request) and invitation to the workshop (annex 1).

The workshop was attended by 11 students from three countries, including Cambodia (1 student), Vietnam (8 students), and Thailand (2 students)(annex 2). The participation of two Thai students, who, being non-eligible to receive any financial support, testifies of the relevance of the training to local and regional researchers. Teaching was done exclusively by Dr H. Segers, and consisted in general of one or two seminar per day (total: 11 seminars), and practical training in the identification of rotifers during the rest of the day; the second day was devoted to demonstrating zooplankton and rotifer sampling (see annex 3). The workshop was held entirely in English, which proved problematic for a minority of the students. However, the presence in the workshop of Mr Mau Trinh Dang, who had already received some training in rotifer taxonomy prior to the workshop thanks to a grant from the Belgian GTI NFP (CBD/GTI-02/2009.25/ys/2009.257), was instrumental to address this problem.

A CD-rom containing the ppt presentations presented during the workshop and a series of photographs illustrating the activities will be submitted to the GTI NFP and is available with H. Segers on request.

In all, the workshop was evaluated very positively by the participants and numerous requests to repeat the initiative were received. Scientific results include the discovery of several new or poorly known species, which will be reported on in a paper on the sessile rotifers from Southeast Asia (in preparation).

H. Segers

*Annex 1. Invitation to the workshop*



Announcement

## **Workshop on Taxonomy of Zooplankton: Rotifera**

**5-13 March 2010, Hue University, Vietnam**

The Centre for Coastal Management and Development Studies (CMD) of Hue University of Sciences, together with the Belgian Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative, financed by the Belgian Development Cooperation are organizing a workshop that aims at improving capacity in the taxonomic study of zooplankton, in particular Rotifera. The workshop, which will be held 5-13 March 2010 at Hue University, will focus on basic techniques and approaches required to perform taxonomic studies on rotifers while applying a practical, hands-on approach to the subject. It is aimed at early-career (MSc, PhD students and early postdoctoral) scientists who intend to conduct fundamental or applied, taxonomy-oriented biodiversity research involving Rotifera. Teaching will be done by Dr H. Segers of the Belgian Royal Institute of Natural Sciences, one of the world's leading experts on the subject.

### **Workshop programme**

A preliminary agenda of the workshop is as below; this agenda will be adapted to the specific needs of the trainees, as expressed in their application.

- **Saturday, 6: Opening session**  
Introduction to Rotifera: morphology, ecology, diversity, and reproduction;  
Microscopy and lab techniques
- **Sunday, 7: Field work**  
Zooplankton sampling: quantitative and qualitative sampling
- **Monday, 8: Laboratory training**  
AM: study of life rotifers, introduction to taxonomy and systematics;  
PM: identification: use of identification keys, preparation of rotifer trophi and permanent slides
- **Tuesday, 9: Laboratory training**  
AM: Identification of selected rotifer taxa (Brachionidae, Lecanidae)  
PM: practical work
- **Wednesday, 10: Laboratory training**  
AM: Scientific drawing of rotifers; Zoological nomenclature  
PM: practical work

- **Thursday, 11: Laboratory training**  
AM: Identification of selected rotifer taxa (Trichocercidae, Synchaetidae)  
PM: The future of taxonomic Research on Zooplankton, esp. Rotifera
- **Friday, 12: Conclusion of the workshop**  
AM: Ins and outs of writing a scientific paper; State of the art and future of rotifer taxonomic research  
PM: wrap-up and feedback

The workshop will be held entirely in English and no translation is foreseen; a working knowledge of English is therefore required.

### **Application and eligibility**

To optimise the efficiency of the training, the workshop will be open to a **maximum of 15 participants**, both Vietnamese nationals and nationals of other Asian countries.

A small number of grants, covering travel and living expenses is offered by the Belgian Development Cooperation through the Belgian Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Eligible candidates (nationals of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos) for these grants should include a realistic estimation of the travel costs in their application. Other participants are expected to cover their own travel, accommodation and living expenses (estimated at ~ 50US\$ per day).

Tuition is free and sponsored by the Belgian Development Cooperation, through the Belgian Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative.

Applications for the workshop should contain (1) a CV of the candidate, and (2) a short motivation, including specific capacity building needs, if any, and an indication of how the training will contribute to the applicant's activities. Applications should be sent **by e-mail, and before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010** to the Centre for Coastal Management and Development Studies ([cmdhus@gmail.com](mailto:cmdhus@gmail.com)) **and** to Dr H. Segers (at [hendrik.segers@naturalsciences.be](mailto:hendrik.segers@naturalsciences.be)).

*Annex 2. List of participants of the taxonomy training workshop*

**PARTICIPANTS OF TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ROTIFERA**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Place of work</b>	<b>Position in workshop</b>
1.	Dr. Hendrik Segers	Belgium	Belgian Biodiversity Platform/ Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Training teacher
2.	*Mr. Phuripong Meksuwan	Thailand	Prince of Songkla University (PSU)	Participant
3	*Miss Phannee Sa- ardrit	Thailand	Prince of Songkla University	Participant
4	Meas Seang Hun	Cambodia	Royal University of Phnom Penh	Participant
5	Lê Thị Nguyệt Nga	Vietnam	Tropical biology Insitute	Participant
6	Trương Thị Diệu Hoa	Vietnam	Insitute for Aquaculture No 2	Participant
7	Mai Hồng Quân	Vietnam	Biodiversity conservation Agency (BCA) - Vietnam Environment Administration - Ministry of Natural resources and Environment	Participant
8	Nguyễn Tấn Sỹ	Vietnam	Nha Trang University	Participant
9	Nguyễn Văn Quỳnh Bôi	Vietnam	Nha Trang University	Participant
10	TS. Tôn Thất Chất	Vietnam	College of Forestry and Agriculture – Huế University	Participant
11	Trịnh Đăng Mậu	Vietnam	College of Sciences- Hue University	Participant
12	Hoàng Đình Trung	Vietnam	College of Sciences- Hue University	Participant

\* participant not eligible for financial support.

*Annex 3. Final programme of the workshop*



**Workshop agenda**

(sessions from 8:00 – 11:00, 14:00 – 17:00 including coffee break)

***Saturday, 6: Opening session (start 8:30)***

- ✓ AM: Seminar 1: Taxonomy and the Global Taxonomy Initiative, Seminar 2: Introduction to Rotifera: morphology, ecology, diversity, and reproduction; Administration.
- ✓ PM: Microscopy and lab techniques

***Sunday, 7: Field work***

Zooplankton sampling: quantitative and qualitative sampling; safeguarding of samples

***Monday, 8: Laboratory training***

- ✓ AM: Seminar 3: Rotifer classification and trophi morphology; Study of life rotifers, introduction to taxonomy and systematics;
- ✓ PM: Study of life rotifers: use of identification keys, preparation of rotifer trophi and permanent slides

***Tuesday, 9: Laboratory training***

- ✓ AM: Seminar 4: the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature; Seminar 5: Identification of selected rotifer taxa (Brachionidae)
- ✓ PM: practical work

***Wednesday, 10: Laboratory training***

- ✓ AM: Seminar 6: Identification of selected rotifer taxa (common groups) Seminar 7: Identification of selected rotifer taxa (Brachionidae, Lecanidae)
- ✓ PM: practical work

***Thursday, 11: Laboratory training***

- ✓ AM: Seminar 8: Identification of selected rotifer taxa (Trichocercidae) Seminar 9: Identification of selected rotifer taxa (Lepadellidae)
- ✓ PM: practical work

***Friday, 12: Conclusion of the workshop***

- ✓ AM: Seminar 10: Ins and outs of writing a scientific taxonomy paper; Seminar 11: Some internet resources for taxonomists
- ✓ PM: wrap-up and feedback
- ✓ Farewell diner