



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

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|---|---|
| Family name: | MUHEREZE |
| First name(s): | RONALD |
| Nationality: | UGANDAN |
| Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium | 4 th /09/2016 to 1 st /10/2016 |
| Number of training days: | 29 Days |
| Type of visit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input 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"/> Botanic Garden of Meise <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> |

PART II - ENERAL INFORMATION

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| Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project | Supports capacity building in the fields of scientific knowledge sharing, knowledge of biodiversity, habitat monitoring, and ecosystem services, digital information collections and information sharing, mainstreaming of biodiversity into development cooperation's and international policy, measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) and protocol of Nagoya. |
| Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals | It has helped me to acquire skills in digital collections, collection management, information sources Antweb, Antbase, DNA Extraction, Sample sorting, Specimen mounting, Species identification separating, collection management. Trainings, guidance and support were given by Wouter Dekoninck and the RBINS entomology department and Scientific Service for Patrimony. |
| Describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management | <p>Ants play important roles to include; soil engineers, increase nutrient recycling, serve as biologic pest control, etc. But certain ant genera are also considered pest species that can cause economic losses for the farmers. Some are important polonisators, for some species their nests serve as reproduction, hibernating place.</p> <p>It was important to establish the knowledge of insects/you can analyse system dynamic changes because they show signals to first environmental changes especially ants and analyse biodiversity and measure by giving specific family and species names.</p> |

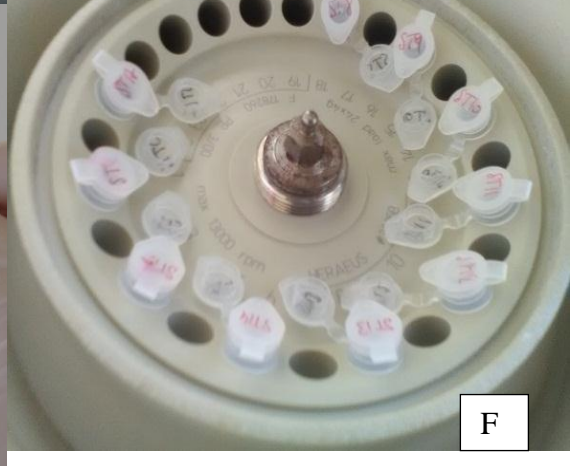
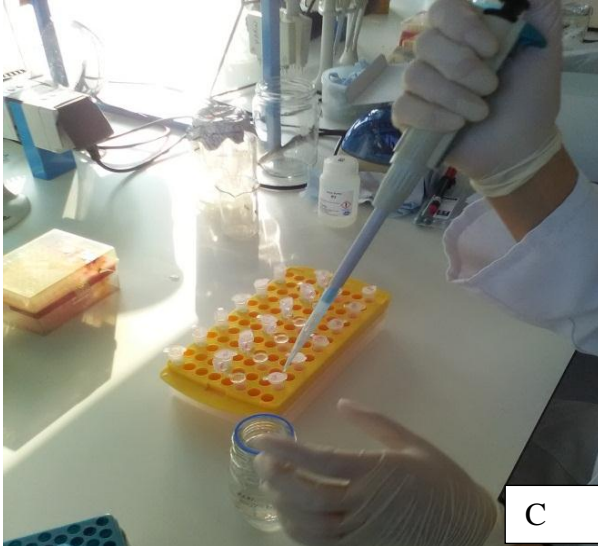
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| Describe concisely what support (e.g. training, access to collections,...) you have received and how this training can be related to taxonomy and /or collection management | Access to collections and general management gives an idea of how different diversities can be preserved, stored and later be used for study purposes or adventure, in addition, trainings give full idea on how morphological structures can be interpreted, how reference collection can be used in identification, and need for biodiversity conservation. |
| Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties | The GTI scholarship has helped me to process entomofauna samples at RBINS in Belgium. Besides the access to specific material for entomology research (mounting equipment, an African reference collection, literature) I will be able to consult on a regular basis both experts such as Dr. Dekoninck and the large collections available at the RBINS. The experience I have gained by spending another period working at the RBINS which have increased my professionalism and expertise in taxonomy and entomologic research and myrmecology in particular. |
| Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution | In regard to taxonomic knowledge gained and the current literature, innovation platforms and students and farmer groups will be used as a basis for knowledge sharing about the dangers of biodiversity loss following the presence or absence of bio-indicator species like ants and thus allowing predictions that lead to sustainable management of biodiversity and sustainable development. |
| Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need | Capacity building, Sampling and identification tool kits, Mounting tool kits and digital equipment's to aid in data transfer and availing data to other networks for prior reviews and help in identification of new species. |
| Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional | Laboratory Entomology equipment's and Expertise curators. |

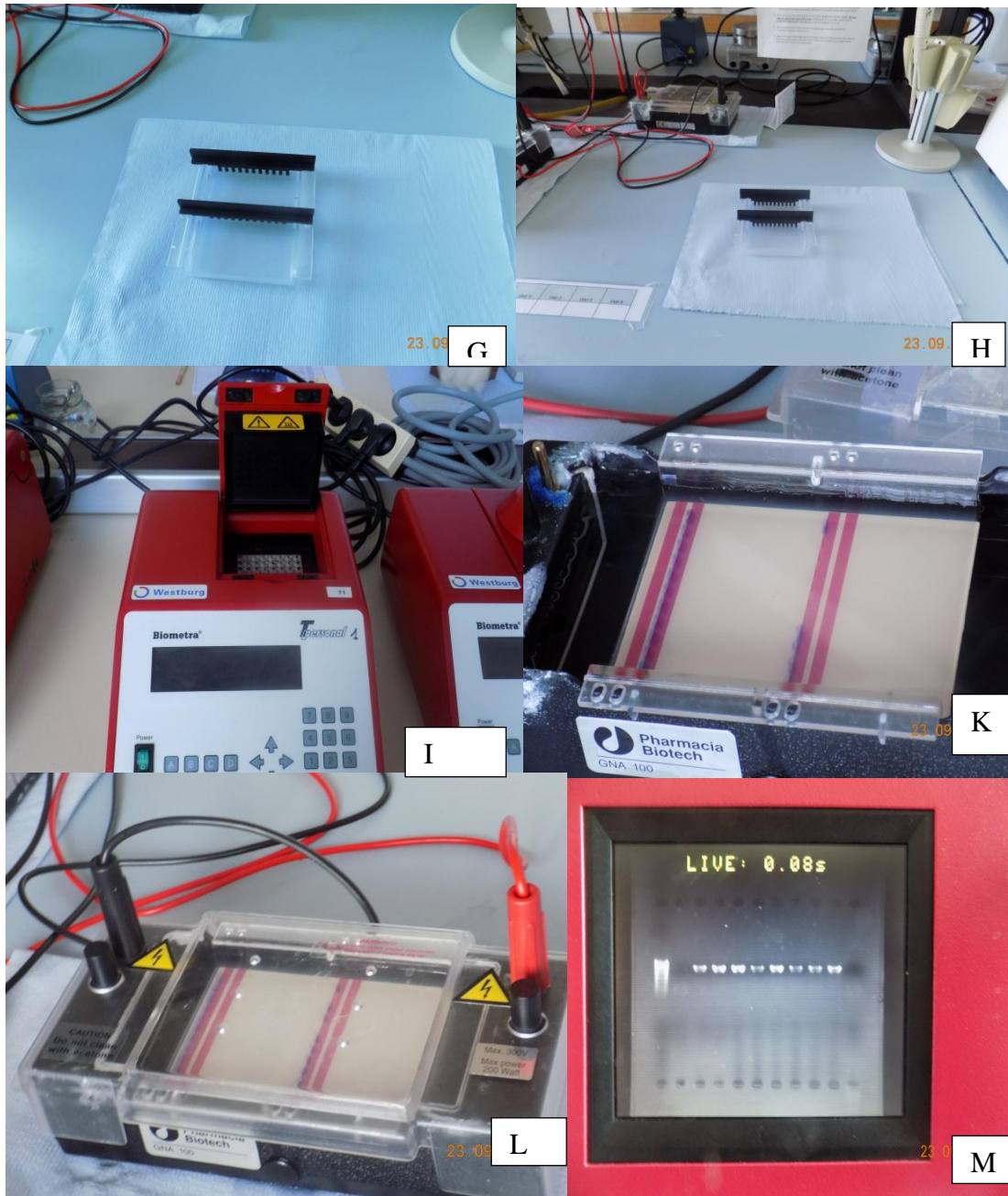
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| <p>Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution</p> | <p>More capacity building in taxonomic collection, Management, Exchange visits to countries rich in collection and management. Curators in our institute and laboratory based equipment's.</p> |
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PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

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| <p>What is your taxon of interest</p> | <p>Arthropoda/Insecta/Hymenoptera/Formicidae/many genera.</p> |
| <p>Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues</p> | <p>The results of this study will be published in different scientific articles. Besides this we would like to publish at least one or two articles in collaboration with Koen Vanderhaegen and Wouter Dekonick, presenting some of the new ant species identified during this research.</p> <p>The results will be used during classes on taxonomy and entomology given by myself at Busitema University.</p> <p>Furthermore, a duplicate of the collection specimens will be donated to the entomology department of NaFORRI in Uganda where many people can easily access them.</p> |
| <p>Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country</p> | <p>To improve the conservation of biodiversity in Uganda public awareness and political/financial support has to be obtained. Currently very few is known about local biodiversity and its importance for the Elgon region. This study aims to indicate the role of agroforestry systems for the conservation of biodiversity in human-modified land use systems outside the borders of the Mt. Elgon National Park in eastern Uganda. The project aims to demonstrate that the use of indigenous shade tree species combined with sustainable management practices can increase the provision of ecosystem services by coffee gardens. Increased provision of ecosystem services and a higher resilience/sustainability of the coffee production are important goals for coffee certification organizations. Also in PES (payment for ecosystem services) schemes such as carbon sequestration projects these ecosystem services are important co-benefits that can increase the carbon credit's values and attractiveness of projects. Since land use changes around Mt. Elgon are happening on a large scale and often in an irreversible way this study is of high importance for the documentation and taxonomy of species that might get lost very soon.</p> |
| <p>Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country</p> | <p>Our project can contribute to poverty reduction by promoting sustainable ways of coffee production in the Mt. Elgon region. The study of ant communities in small holder coffee plantations around Mt. Elgon will indicate the effects of different management systems on biodiversity. It will provide evidence that can convince policy makers and foreign donors to support the extension of sustainable management practices, certified coffee production or PES schemes in the region.</p> |

The process of DNA extraction for ant species(A-M)





Thanks to GTI Project Coordinator (Dr M-L Susini)
 Project staff organising this grate training and our Curator Woult Dekoninck.