

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:	Barreto
First name(s):	Mauricio
Nationality:	Colombian
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	December 2-20, 2013.
Number of training days:	18
Type of visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input checked="" 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"/> 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 learned by an announcement in the web page of the Colombian Focal Point on Biodiversity (Humboldt Institute)
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	After my first visit to RBINS I was looking periodically the website of the Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative.
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	In this third visit I worked on mites of mammals from Colombia and Melicharid flower mites. Also, we finished a manuscript describing two new species of Myobiidae, one found on a Colombian rodent and the other was in the RBINS collection as an unidentified species from Brazil. The manuscript was accepted in an international journal.

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	I had the opportunity to received training on mites of mammals with access to reprints and different publications on this group under the guidance of Dr. Bochkov. Also, I studied type material (holotypes, paratypes) of myobids and melicharid mites described by Dr. Alex Fain and deposited in the RBINS.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	The gained capacity on taxonomy, collection management and information is of great value on my studies on Colombian ectoparasitic and ectosymbiotic mites. For example, I found many publications on Colombian mites that I was not aware before. Also, when studying type material I realized the importance of some minute characters very important for an accurate identification.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	Part of my work at the Universidad del Valle includes research and training of students, with the new information and abilities that I gained during my time at the RBINS, I will open new lines of research and science development. Also, I am in a better position to collaborated in interdisciplinary biodiversity studies in Colombia.
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	I hope that the description of a new species of rodent mite is the first of a series of contributions on Colombian mites associated with mammals. I would need support to study other families of mites associated with mammals in Colombia, as well as, Melicharid mites found on Colombian birds and flowers.
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	A very important equipment that we do not have in the laboratory is a good microscope with drawing tube and photomicrographic system that is essential to start describing some of the new species found.
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	The visits to the RBINS are an excellent opportunity to increase my knowledge and taxonomic capacity not only on mites but on other arthropods. For example, the unpublished information shared by Dr. Wouter Dekoninck on the biology of <i>Clogmia albipunctata</i> , a moth fly, was commented with colleagues and students in my university.

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

<p>What is your taxon of interest</p>	<p>Acari, parasitic mites</p>
<p>Describe concisely the different methodologies for collecting your taxon.</p>	<p>Mites could be collected directly from alive birds or mammals taking small samples from feathers or hairs from different body areas. Also, many mites can be obtained from dead vertebrates washing the body in water with soap and flushing their nasal cavities. Dry combing is another way to obtain mites. We have a good number of mites collected from skin of birds preserved in the collection of our university. The skins were first exanimate under a stereoscopic and later gently shake with a small piece of wood on a white paper. This procedure did not harm the skins.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how to best preserve collected specimens of your taxon for taxonomic purposes</p>	<p>Mites are best preserved in ethanol 75%, for study they have to be in lactic acid 75% at room temperature for 3-4 weeks, or 30-50 minutes near 80°C. Mites are then placed in a cavity slide with a cover split and examined under the microscope. Also, permanent microslides can be made with polyvinyl alcohol.</p>
<p>Describe concisely the best practice in the management of a collection of your taxon</p>	<p>All specimens have to be properly labelled. A locality label should include host, date, collector as well as the locality. An identification label should be with the family, genus, species, date of determination, the name of the person responsible of this identification and the mounting medium. An accession number to the data book should be also written. Additional information should be in the data book. Although there are some very elaborated computer programs to handled all this data, we are using Excel with good results.</p>
<p>Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues</p>	

<p>Have you been briefed on the aims, scope and contents of the journal <i>AbcTaxa</i>?</p>	<p>Yes, and I found very interesting papers on this journal.</p>
<p>Do you think you have enough capacity to make a contribution to <i>Abc Taxa</i>?</p>	<p>XX <input type="checkbox"/> No, I still lack capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if I get adequate guidance and support from my tutors <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I feel able to do this autonomously <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i></p>
<p>If you feel capable to contribute meaningfully to <i>Abc Taxa</i>, are you willing to do so</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No, I have no time to develop such a capacity building manual <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I will send a proposal along the lines stipulated on the website of <i>Abc Taxa</i></p>



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Global Taxonomy Initiative