

The **bionet*** bulletin is published by **BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's** Secretariat. It is available in English, Spanish and French and online @ www.bionet-intl.org.

BioNET is a not-for-profit initiative that promotes taxonomy via capacity building, advocacy and its affiliated local partnerships (LOOPs) so that all countries can know and identify their biodiversity and thereby address sustainable development and conservation priorities. BioNET is donor funded; this publication and other international work is currently supported by a grant from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

New Developments

BioNET: Absence of Government leadership is damaging taxonomy in the UK

The UK House of Lords Science and Technology Committee released its latest assessment of taxonomy on 13 August. In its report *Systematics and Taxonomy: Follow-Up* the Committee:

- examines the role of taxonomy in delivery of policies nationally and internationally, the health of the discipline, the roles of new technologies, funding and government awareness
- finds that capacity building in taxonomy is especially important for many developing countries
- identifies the need for more effective dialogue between the users and producers of taxonomic information
- criticises the mixed messages on funding for taxonomic research in the UK
- calls for the Government to provide the funding needed to ensure the maintenance of CABI's unique collection of fungi
- criticises the lack of leadership and confused responsibility for taxonomy in the UK Government
- concludes that taxonomy is crucial for many targets on biodiversity and climate change.

[Evidence submitted by BioNET](#) | [Press notice](#) | [Full report with evidence](#)

BioNET: First Global Invasive Species Information Network data providers' workshop

[GISIN](#), the Global Invasive Species Information Network, held its first workshop for early adoptors of its freely available system for information exchange, 2-5 June 2008. The workshop was an important step towards disseminating the GISIN Protocol and further developing the systems needed for sharing information needed to prevent and manage invasive species. Click [here](#) to read the Report. BioNET supports GISIN through participation in its interim Steering Committee. t:+1 703 648 4281, e: asimpson@usgs.gov

The Fungal Kingdom: diverse and essential roles in Earth's ecosystem

A new report from the [American Academy of Microbiology](#) is the product of a colloquium convened by the Academy in November 2007, where experts in mycology, medicine, plant pathogens, and ecology discussed the current state of research in mycology and compiled a list of specific recommendations for future work. Click [here](#) for a copy of the report. t:+1 202 942 9206

Interactive listing of Mexican butterflies

Advisors, supporters and contributors including professional lepidopterists, collectors, butterfly photographers, butterfly watchers and enthusiasts have come together to volunteer their efforts to create a community website for the study and enjoyment of the Mexican Butterflies. Further contributions including photos are encouraged. **Contact** Andy Warren **e:** andy@butterfliesofamerica.com | [More...](#)

Scientists to tackle DNA barcoding 'resistance'

Scientists leading international projects to use DNA barcoding for biodiversity mapping are proposing a series of guidelines in an attempt to overcome the reluctance of developing countries to take up the technology. "At our upcoming international workshop to be held in November, we will propose a code of conduct to avoid DNA barcoding being carried out improperly," says David Schindel, executive secretary of Consortium for the Barcode of Life. [More...](#) *Source:* SciDev.net

Databases of biodiversity information projects and networks

The Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) web site includes online databases for [Biodiversity Information Projects](#) (593 entries), of the World and [Biodiversity Information Networks](#) (49 entries). Contributions welcome.

Ghana, Tanzania to benefit from new UK funding scheme

Scientists in Ghana and Tanzania are eligible for more than GBP 3 million (nearly US\$ 6 million) in funds, a new partnership of two British organisations announced recently. The UK-based Leverhulme Trust will fund research projects in the two African countries with the help of the Royal Society. [More...](#) *Source:* SciDev.net

Events | Only newly posted events are listed here. For a full listing, click [here](#).

21 October-9 December 2008

A series of field trips, Nicaragua. **Contact:** Jean-Michel Maes **e:** jmmaes@ibw.com.ni | [More...](#)

21-23 October 2008

The West/Central African Consortium of Barcode of Life (CBOL) Conference Abuja, Nigeria. **Contact:** Dr O.C. Onyia **e:** nabdmails@yahoo.co.uk | Professor M.C. Dike **e:** mikedike2004@yahoo.co.uk

11-15 November 2008

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Valencia, Spain. [More...](#)

17-20 November 2008

International Workshop on enhancing freshwater fish biodiversity research in Africa Grahamstown, South Africa. **Contact:** Henry L. Bart **e:** hank@museum.tulane.edu | Paul Skelton **e:** p.skelton@ru.ac.za | [More...](#)

17-21 November 2008

Second African Conference on Edible & Medicinal Mushrooms, Accra, Ghana. [More...](#)

12-30 January 2009

Course on Plant Families of Southeast Asia with special emphasis on non-timber forest products, Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Universiteit Leiden Branch, The Netherlands. **Contact:** Dr. Paul Kessler **e:** prefect@hortus.leidenuniv.nl | Dr. Marco Roos, **e:** roos@nhn.leidenuniv.nl **t:** +31-71-5273522. [More...](#)

6-11 July 2009

24th annual meeting of Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC): Bridging Continents, Leiden, The Netherlands. [More...](#)

13-16 October 2009

Second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference: Biodiversity and society: understanding connections, adapting to change, Cape Town, South Africa. **Contact:** t: + 33 1 40 79 80 40, f: + 33 1 40 79 80 45, e: secretariat@diversitas-international.org [More...](#)

13-17 October 2009

VIII Latinamerican Meeting of Scarabaeologists, Xalapa, Mexico. [More...](#)

Publications**New book on Philippine rats**

In the Philippines alone, some 66 species of murid rodents are reported to exist, but only four species are serious pests of rice. As pests, rats compete with humans for food - annual rice losses run from 20 to 50% - and spread more than 60 human diseases. Rodent pest management approaches have stagnated over the past 20 years in developing countries. The problems form the context of a major new book, Philippine Rats: Ecology and Management. The book is available at PhilRice, Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija at PhP1350, or US\$30 for developing countries and US\$40 for developed countries. **Contact:** e: prri@philrice.gov.ph

New publications from CABI

* Conserving Land, Protecting Water. Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture Series 6

* Aquatic Insects: Challenges to Populations

Contact: orders@cabi.org

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LOOPS under
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