

A close-up photograph of a pale yellow spider, possibly a crab spider, resting on a green leaf. The spider is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image, facing right. Its body is a light yellow-green color, and its legs are a similar pale yellow. The leaf it is on is vibrant green with visible veins and some minor damage or discoloration. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural, outdoor environment.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

INFORMATION FACILITY

Annual Report
2003

G
BIF

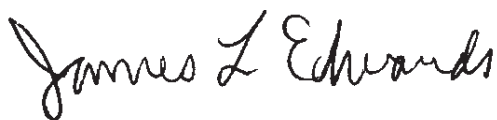
Global Biodiversity Information Facility

Second Annual Report

It is a pleasure to present the 2003 annual report for the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). As in our first such report, we have not tried to construct a detailed diary, but have instead highlighted the decisions and activities that contribute directly to building toward GBIF's vision and goals.

The year 2003 was the first in which we had in place a Work Programme designed by the Secretariat and approved by the Governing Board. There were many goals achieved, and many lessons learned about how well we can predict the time that it takes to accomplish some of the goals. We made our first seed money awards and initiated the first GBIF demonstration project, while at the same time building the information architecture and infrastructure of the GBIF network, in partnership with the Participant Nodes. We began providing training sessions for data providers. The Secretariat moved into its delightful new building and launched its internet Communications Portal, in preparation for the launch of the Data Portal. Other achievements and milestones are given in the report that follows.

The task that GBIF has set for itself is not simple, nor is it small. A complex undertaking such as ours requires much thought, consideration of alternatives, preparation, and implementation, particularly in an inclusive environment that must assimilate the views and contributions of many constituencies. This report documents the steps taken during 2003 by GBIF toward achieving our important mission.



Global Biodiversity Information Facility Secretariat
Copenhagen, August 2004



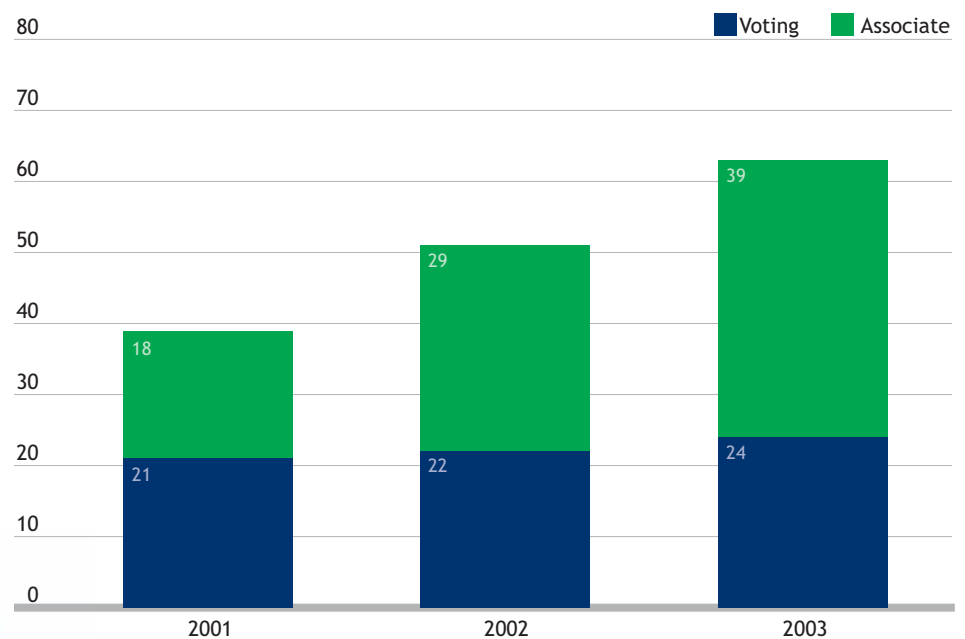
*James L. Edwards,
GBIF Executive Secretary and
Director of the Secretariat*

Growth in GBIF Participation

As will always be true, the vast majority of GBIF's work is done within participating countries and international organisations. All are partners in building the GBIF network, and the Secretariat works to coordinate their activities as well as to facilitate the network and data provider nodes.

During 2003, South Africa and Estonia became Voting Participants, growing that category from 22 to 24. The Associate Participant category grew from 29 to 39, as Madagascar, Morocco, India and Columbia signed the MOU, along with the international organisations Wildscreen Trust, SAFRINET, IUCN, Freshwater Biological Association - FreshwaterLife, ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation and Finding Species.

Figure 1: Growth of GBIF Participation (as of 31 December 2003) See Annex 1



This growth, and the determination of the Participant nodes to build the GBIF network as rapidly as possible, led to a special meeting of the Participant Node Managers Committee (NODES) that preceded their regularly scheduled meeting that coincided with GB6 (see Box 1).



Governing Board Builds on Early Success

As has been described in the Annual Report for 2001-2002, GBIF's "extra-ordinary year", the Governing Board meets at designated intervals to review the performance of the Secretariat and its handling of the budget, and to make policy-level decisions that reflect the goals of the MOU and the views of the Participants. In addition, by the beginning of 2003, GBIF was sufficiently established as an organisation that the Governing Board could turn its attention to the science to which GBIF was designed to contribute.

The 6th Meeting of the GBIF Governing Board¹ (GB6) took place from 30th April to 1st May, 2003, at the Conference Centre of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs ("Eigtveds Pakhus") in Copenhagen, Denmark. Delegates were welcomed on behalf of the Danish government by Leo Bjørnskov, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Innovation, and on behalf of the Danish organising committee by Prof. Henrik Balslev.

Reports from the Secretariat provided news on several fronts, including:

- The first GBIF Demonstration Project, entitled "Promotion of GBIF, expansion of GBIF membership and catalyzation of fundraising efforts", was chosen following review by the Secretariat. The project was led by Mari Walls of Biota BD Oy, Finland, and the team members included Risto Kalliola, Jukka Salo and Tuuli Toivonen (University of Turku, Finland), Pasi Laihonon (South Western Finland Regional Environment Centre) and Victor Miyakawa (Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon, Peru). The expected completion date was January, 2004.
- The NODES Committee met twice since GB5, once in London (see Box 1) and again in Copenhagen.
- The 2003 Work Programme was well underway, with the ICT* team working to install and implement the computer and communications infrastructure needed to support GBIF's information architecture, and ECAT* and DIGIT* both having issued their calls for proposals for seed money.
- The Supplemental Fund that had been approved by the Governing Board at GB5 was already being used by OCB* to bring observers from potential GBIF Participants to this Governing Board meeting.

The Governing Board asked the Secretariat to work toward a Strategic Plan for GBIF that could be presented for consideration at GB7. A proposed revision of the text for the call and procedures for the 2004 Ebbe Nielsen Prize was approved, and it was agreed that revisions to the GBIF Rules of Procedure would be considered and voted upon intersessionally so that the revised Rules could be applied at GB7.

These business items were dealt with, as usual, but there was a special excitement surrounding GB6 for several reasons: The second Ebbe Nielsen Prize (see Box 2) was awarded in Ebbe Nielsen's native Denmark (the first had been given in his adopted country, Australia), the Secretariat's new building was inaugurated (see Box 3), and the First Annual GBIF Science Symposium (see box 4) was held during the week of the sixth Governing Board meeting.



¹ The meeting was attended by 41 delegations representing 30 countries and economies (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, United Kingdom, U.S.A.), the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and nine international organisations (ETI, IABIN, ITIS, OBIS, Species 2000, TDWG, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, WFCC). Representatives from Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Estonia, Hungary, Kenya, Latvia, Norway, Russia, and Uganda took part as observers to the meeting.

* Programme acronyms are explained in Annex 3

BOX 1

NODES 2, a Milestone Meeting

The second meeting of the GBIF NODES committee (NODES2) was an especially significant milestone in the development of the GBIF network. It was held in London between 26th and 28th February 2003, and was attended by 60 representatives from 29 participant countries and 11 participant organisations. The sessions were organised and hosted at the Natural History Museum by the UK GBIF Node.

The first day of the meeting provided the participants with an overview of technologies and tools to be used in developing the GBIF network. The remaining sessions involved discussion of the challenges and opportunities facing different GBIF Participants as they each develop a GBIF Node.

The committee decided to use 2003 to implement the widest possible range of servers running DiGIR software to share specimen data, and established six working groups to focus on the following key areas:

- Metadata
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology
- Multi-lingual aspects
- Data sensitivity and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues
- Multi-node services
(services offered by Participants for the benefit of the rest of the network)
- Benefits of GBIF Participation



The 2003 Ebbe Nielsen Prize for innovative application of biodiversity informatics in biosystematics was awarded to Dr. Stefan Schröder of Bonn, Germany. Dr. Schröder developed a method for identifying bee species by imaging their wings and analyzing the images on a computer.

Dr. Schröder's invention is very important in agriculture. Bees pollinate about a third of all crop species, but many bee species are becoming extinct. For scientists to be able to study pollination and attempt to find replacement bee species, they must be able to identify the bees with which they work. However, such identifications are extremely difficult for non-specialists. Dr. Schröder's application will enable almost anyone with a digital camera and a computer to identify bees.

The first time the Prize was awarded (2002), it was presented to the winner in Canberra, Australia, where Ebbe Nielsen had lived and worked for nearly 20 years. The second (2003) Prize was awarded in Nielsen's native Denmark in conjunction with the sixth meeting of the Governing Board and the inauguration of the GBIF Secretariat building in Copenhagen.

Speaking of the award, Dr. Schröder said, "To receive the 2003 Ebbe Nielsen Prize is a great honor for me. I'm very grateful to the GBIF Governing Board and the GBIF Science Committee for awarding me this prestigious Prize which honors the memory of Dr. Ebbe Schmidt Nielsen, an entomologist whose work I deeply respect and value. I feel sorry that I never met him personally."

The Prize will enable the winner to continue developing methods to make extinction, migration, radiation and genetic impoverishment visible in space and time using a combination of new classification algorithms, molecular methods and GIS (Geographical Information System) applications.



BOX 3

Inauguration of the GBIF Secretariat Building



HRH Prince Henrik, watched by Henrik Enghoff, cuts the ribbon, officially opening the GBIF Secretariat building.



The Japanese delegation and the Japanese ambassador to Denmark (at right) enjoy the reception following the building inauguration.

The new building for the Global Biodiversity Information Facility Secretariat was officially inaugurated by HRH Prince Henrik on 30th April 2003. A grant from the Aage V. Jensen Foundations made it possible for the University of Copenhagen to offer this new building (see back cover photo), which is attached to the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen, to house the GBIF Secretariat. The inauguration was attended by 300 persons, including ambassadors of a number of GBIF Participant countries and other dignitaries.

Hans Christian Schmidt, the Danish Minister for the Environment, spoke at the inauguration on behalf of the Danish government: "We are proud to host such an important international institution in our capital. It reflects Denmark's deep commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Creating a transparent and easily accessible collection of all of our present knowledge of the world's species is a very ambitious enterprise indeed. And a crucial part of the global endeavour to protect and preserve the diversity of life on Earth".

On a different occasion, Henrik Enghoff, Director of the Zoological Museum, said "the opportunity to host the GBIF Secretariat is a very special one for the University of Copenhagen. Our Museum holds much of the kind of information that GBIF wants to make available. Working with GBIF is a way to help our colleagues in developing countries, and to move into the modern era of museum information services."



HRH Prince Henrik talks with Henrik Enghoff and Linda Nielsen, Rector of the University of Copenhagen (center), while James Edwards and Christoph Häuser confer.



Founding the Future: On the Rock of Real Data or the Sands of Speculation?

This GBIF Symposium was about the advantages of basing management decisions and scientific opinion on real data in digital form. It was introduced from a global, scientific and political perspective by a visionary scientist-politician, Dr. Cristián Samper.

On the world stage, most players have become more and more concerned about the endangerment of the ecological and economically important services provided to humanity by biodiversity. Those concerns have led to a wide range of institutions and organisations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Clearing House Mechanism for information on biodiversity policy, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere project, the DIVERSITAS consortium led by the International Union of Biological Scientists, and many other efforts at "conservation through information". Within this panoply of organisations, many have been tasked to develop analyses of the status of biodiversity and ecological function, others to advise international governmental bodies on how to balance the needs of humans with those of the preservation of biodiversity, and still others with properly managing and studying such pristine ecological preserves as remain on the planet. All have done their best to present factual information, but most have relied on secondary sources as the basis for their reports. Worse, some of these reports have been based only on speculative evaluations provided by consultants.

Even with all the calls for information on which to base decisions, the richest source of scientific information about biodiversity—the world's natural history collections and the associated library materials—has remained essentially untapped. Even research scientists who study biodiversity have been limited in their ability to understand its complexity because most of the data are not digital. This symposium was designed to demonstrate the power of digital natural history specimen data, and to show how important it is that GBIF continue its efforts to encourage digitisation and equitable sharing of these data.



The Symposium Speakers were Drs. Craig Moritz (University of California, Berkeley, California, USA), Jorge Soberón (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Mexico), Carsten Rahbek (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Takeshi Sagara (University of Tsukuba, Japan) and Cristián Samper (National Museum of Natural History, USA).



At the seventh meeting the Governing Board (GB7)² in the Epochal International Congress Centre in Tsukuba, Japan, from 6th to 8th October, 2003, the Board heard progress reports on

- implementation of the central ICT infrastructure and services,
- the proposed GBIF data architecture,
- the first GBIF demonstration project, which was well underway and would include four example "tours" on the benefits of sharing and combining biodiversity information for different end users,
- training courses for Node managers,
- the commissioning of white papers on issues related to data management and data sharing,
- status and use of the GBIF Supplementary Fund,
- the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and GBIF (see Box 5), and
- the awarding of the DIGIT (see Box 6) and ECAT (see Box 7) seed money grants.

The meeting elected by super-majority the following Governing Board officers, each for a two-year term to begin in 2004:

- Christoph Häuser, Governing Board Chair (re-election);
- Kunio Iwatsuki, Governing Board Vice-Chair (re-election);
- David Penman, Budget Committee Chair (re-election);
- Shunichi Kikuchi, Budget Committee Vice-Chair;
- Wouter Los, Science Committee Chair;
- Jorge Soberón, Science Committee Vice-Chair;
- Stan Blum, Chair of Science Sub-Committee for Database Access and Database Interoperability (DADI);
- Simon Tillier, Chair of Science Sub-Committee for Digitisation of Natural History Collections (DIGIT);
- Christopher Lyal, Chair of Science Sub-Committee for the Electronic Catalogue of Names of Known Organisms (ECAT); and
- Erick Mata, Chair of Science Sub-Committee for Outreach & Capacity Building (OCB) (re-election).

The Governing Board approved the text for a GBIF Strategic Plan and the 2004 Work Programme as proposed by the Secretariat with slight modifications. It also endorsed the proposal to establish joint GBIF / UNESCO chairs in biodiversity informatics, and approved the planning for this activity to be part of the 2004 work programme. The process and timeline for conducting the third-year review of GBIF was also endorsed at this meeting, with the expectation that the final review would be available for discussion by the Governing Board at GB10.



The GBIF Governing Board is very grateful to the delegations of Denmark and Japan, and the supporting organisations within those countries, for the excellent venues and services that each provided for the Governing Board meetings that took place within their borders. The funding and personal time that must be dedicated to the organisation of such meetings is no small matter, and the Governing Board very much appreciates these special contributions to the success of GBIF.



2 GB7 was attended by 37 delegations representing 24 countries and economies (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom, U.S.A.), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and 12 international organisations (ASEANET, BioNET International, CABI Bioscience, ETI, EASIANET, IABIN, ITIS, OBIS, Species 2000, TDWG, UNESCO-MAB, WFCC). Representatives from Ecuador, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Norway, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka took part as observers.

BOX 5

Memoranda of Cooperation signed with GBIF partners

Given the complementary nature of GBIF and the initiatives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariats was signed in May, 2003, by the Executive Secretaries of the two organisations. The MOC established a framework of collaboration between the CBD Secretariat and the GBIF Secretariat to further common goals. These goals include facilitating the development and implementation of approaches, technologies and best practices that will be necessary to access, share and disseminate biodiversity data at the species, ecosystem and genetic levels via the Internet. The MOC set the stage for taking specific joint actions in several CBD activities, including the Clearing House Mechanism, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, the 2010 initiative, and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

On 15th December 2003, GBIF and the partnership between Species 2000 and the Integrated Taxonomic Information Service (ITIS), known as the **Catalogue of Life partnership**, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. Dr. Jim Edwards, Executive Secretary of GBIF, said of the occasion "This is an important milestone in developing a worldwide network of species and specimen-level biodiversity information. One of GBIF's major goals is to make all species occurrence data digitally searchable. And to do that, a complete electronic listing of all scientific names is needed. The Catalogue of Life partnership has been working for some time to achieve this goal. GBIF is proud to partner with them, and hopes to help promote rapid progress in their work."



Achievements of the 2003 Work Programme

The major goals set for GBIF to reach during 2003 included a number for each of the four Programmes, as well as for the information and communications technology (ICT) staff of the Secretariat. The achievements of 2003 included the following:*

** Programme acronyms are explained in Annex 3*

ICT

- Opened a modern interactive web site, known as the GBIF Communications Portal;
- Implemented a group collaboration environment (CIRCA) for use by the GBIF Governing Board, its Committees and the Secretariat;
- Set up the central UDDI registry of data providers (a core component of the GBIF information architecture); and
- Made available software packages for data providers so that they could start sharing data through the GBIF system.

DADI

- Established the data standards and interchange mechanisms required to integrate species-level and specimen-level data within the GBIF network;
- Identified and developed the foundational components of the network; and
- Promoted a community (and open-source) development model for GBIF components.

DIGIT

- Developed preliminary baseline estimates of the current status of the global digitisation effort;
- Reviewed existing software packages for digitising specimens;
- Established priorities for tackling the digitisation effort; and
- Initiated new digitisation efforts, via seed-money awards (see Box 6).

ECAT

- Assessed the status of global and regional species checklists, with advice from the ECAT Science Subcommittee, which met in February in Reading, England;
- Initiated collaborations with contributors (see Box 5);
- Promoted initiatives for names-gathering organisations to speed up already ongoing projects, via seed-money awards (see Box 7).

OCB

- Developed strategies for outreach (see Box 5), and for recruiting new GBIF Participants;
- Participated in major international initiatives/negotiations (i.e. CBD-SBSTTA);
- Began to develop proof-of-concept products via the GBIF demonstration project award;
- Commissioned or received from consultants white papers on
 - Data sharing with countries of origin;
 - IPR (particularly regarding data ownership), and
- Worked with GBIF ICT staff to provide training workshops for data providers, in which over 100 persons from 40 countries and 8 organisations were trained in the use of the DiGIR protocol for serving data on the Internet.

BOX 6

DIGIT Seed Money Awards in 2003

The DIGIT programme received and peer-reviewed 139 pre-proposals and 36 full proposals that resulted from the first review. The top 17 projects, listed below, were provided with seed funding.

Reed Beaman, Yale University, U.S.A.: Biogeomancer: Georeferencing Web Services for Natural History Collections

Javier Beltrán, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Argentina, with 13 other partner institutions in Argentina: The National Network of Collections - Pilot Datasets and Seed Money for Triggering the Electronic Release of Biodiversity Information across Argentina

Francisco Cejas, Centro Nacional de Biodiversidad (CeNBio), Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, with 3 other partner institutions in Cuba: Digitization of Type Specimens from the Main Cuban Biological Collections.

B. J. Conn, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia, in partnership with the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium: Repatriation of Electronic Accession Data to the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium

Christiane Denys, Muséum National d' Histoire Naturelle, France, in partnership with the Laboratoire de Mammalogie, Mali: Sahelo-Sudanian Rodent Database: Completion of Digitisation and Online Publishing

Daniel L. Graf, Academy of Natural Sciences, U.S.A.: Georeferencing the Malacology Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences

Jaime Güemes, Universitat de València, Spain, in partnership with 17 other institutions in Portugal and Spain: Spanish and Portuguese Platform for Botanical Diversity Data Online

J.N. Labat, Muséum National d' Histoire Naturelle, France: Botanical Collections on the Web for the World: MNHN Herbarium Digitized, Including Type Specimens Imaging, a Pilot Project for Two Families of Flowering Plants, and for a Historical Collection of "Cryptogams"

Keiichi Matsuura, National Science Museum, Japan, in partnership with 9 other Japanese institutions: Fish Databases of Japan

Angela E. Newton, The Natural History Museum, United Kingdom: Digitization of Type Specimens of Bryophytes in the Natural History Museum, England

David A. Simpson, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom: Electronic Cataloguing and Imaging of Monocotyledon Type Specimens at Kew



Jorge Soberón Mainero, CONABIO, Mexico, in partnership with institutions in Costa Rica and the U.S.A.: Digitisation and Data Quality Control of Mexican and Central American Botanical Specimens Held at the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium

Barbara M. Thiers, New York Botanical Garden, U.S.A.: Completing the Type Index for Mushrooms and Related Groups of Fungi (Agaricales And Gasteromycetales)

Tomi Trilar, Slovenian Museum of Natural History, Slovenia, in partnership with two other Slovenian institutions: Digitisation of Slovenian Natural History Collections

Jesús Ugalde, INBio, Costa Rica, in partnership with the National Museum of Costa Rica: Towards the Establishment of a Model National Level Biodiversity Information Network

Lou van Guelpen, Huntsman Marine Science Centre, Canada: Quality Assessment and Quality Control of the Atlantic Reference Centre Museum Database for Online Availability

Ken Walker, Museum Victoria, Australia, in partnership with nine other Australian institutions: Digitization of Vertebrate and Mollusca Primary Types Held in Australian Institutions

These DIGIT seed money awards will leverage approximately US\$2.8 million in digitisation activities. By the end of 2004, the funded projects should

- *Bring more than 1 million new specimen records into the GBIF network;*
- *Make more than 70,000 type specimen records, including images, accessible via GBIF; and*
- *Upgrade 800,000 existing records by geo-referencing and quality-checking.*



BOX 7

ECAT Seed Money Awards in 2003

The following 12 projects were provided with ECAT seed money funds as the result of scientific peer-review of 67 pre-proposals and 32 full proposals.

Frank Bisby, University of Reading, United Kingdom: Species 2000 and the Catalogue of Life: Reaching Production Scale World-Wide

Winston Ponder, Australian Museum: Towards a Global Database of Mollusca - a Database of Indo-West Pacific Mollusca

Richard Pankhurst, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, in partnership with Botanischer Garten, Berlin, Germany: The ROSACEAE Taxonomic Database

Randall T. Schuh, American Museum of Natural History, U.S.A.: Developing the Catalog of Life: Bringing the True Bugs and Rove Beetles Online (Insecta: Heteroptera; Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

Chris Lyal, The Natural History Museum, United Kingdom, in partnership with Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Spain: A Global Checklist of Weevils (Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) as Part of GBIF Data Provision

Douglass Miller, USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory, U.S.A.: Completion of a Database on the Scale Insects of the World and a Web System Called Scalenet

Paul Kirk, CABI Bioscience, United Kingdom: Augmenting Index Fungorum: Expanding Species Fungorum

Mervyn W. Mansell, Plant Protection Research Institute, South Africa: Annotated Catalogue of Afrotropical Lacewings

Nigel Robinson, BIOSIS, United Kingdom: Supply and Provide Access to New Animal Names Data Derived From Zoological Record

Chris Thompson, National Museum of Natural History, U.S.A. in partnership with USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory, U.S.A.: The Biosystematic Database of World Diptera

Laurence Mound, CSIRO Entomology, Australia: To Prepare for Web Publication a Synonymic List of World Species, Genera and Families in the Insect Order Thysanoptera

Motomi Ito, University of Tokyo, Japan, in partnership with 10 other institutions in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Indonesia: Name Service for Vascular Plants by Networking of Taxonomic Checklists throughout East Asia

These ECAT seed money awards will leverage approximately US\$7.25 million invested in nomenclators, global species databases and networking activities. By the end of 2004, these funded projects should add, as a very conservative estimate,

- 701,000 names to existing global species databases and nomenclators, and*
- 366,850 species to existing and newly emerging global species databases.*

All of these data will be made available to and through the GBIF network.



GBIF Financial Statement for 1st January–31st December 2003

Summary Financial Report 2003 in DKK and USD

GBIF Core Funds

	DKK	USD	Average exchange rate
Income	28,771,143	4,278,070	672.53
Expenditure			
Staff expenditure	-9,186,833	-1,398,487	
Running expenditure	-1,581,999	-243,853	
Secretarial facilities	-40,079	-6,047	
Work programme and Ebbe Nielsen Prize	-9,748,575	-1,566,300	
Expenses of the Governing Board	-831,035	-142,697	
Total expenditure	-21,388,521	-3,357,384	637.06
Changes in foreign exchanges rates	-3,810,452	-585,489	
Exchange rate differences rising from converting Financial report from DKK to USD	0	591,168	
	-3,810,452	5,679	
Retained funds	3,572,170	926,365	

Assets

			Year end exchange rate
Receivables financial contributions	4,133,850	693,878	
Receivables forward contracts	349,970	58,743	
Cash at bank	17,991,778	3,019,972	
Total assets	22,475,598	3,772,593	595.76
Retained funds and liabilities			
Retained funds	15,831,815	2,657,415	
Value adjustments forward contracts	349,970	58,743	
Provisions (Approved seed money)	2,983,435	500,778	
Liabilities other than provisions	3,310,378	555,657	
Total equity and liabilities	22,475,598	3,772,593	595.76

Annex 1

GBIF Participants as of 31st December 2003

<i>Voting Participants</i>	<i>Date Joined</i>	<i>Voting Participants</i>	<i>Date Joined</i>
Australia	Feb 2001	Sweden	Feb 2001
Belgium	Feb 2001	United Kingdom	Aug 2001
Canada	Mar 2001	United States of America	Jan 2001
Costa Rica	May 2001		
Denmark	Jan 2001	<i>Associate Participants:</i>	
Estonia	Sep 2003	<i>Countries / Economies</i>	
Finland	Apr 2001	Argentina	Mar 2002
France	Mar 2001	Austria	Sep 2001
Germany	Feb 2001	Bulgaria	Aug 2001
Iceland	Jun 2001	Colombia	Sep 2003
Japan	Feb 2001	Czech Republic	Oct 2002
Korea, Republic of	May 2001	Ghana	Mar 2001
Mexico	Mar 2001	India	Aug 2003
Netherlands	Feb 2001	Madagascar	Jan 2003
New Zealand	Feb 2001	Morocco	Jun 2003
Nicaragua	Jun 2001	Pakistan	Aug 2001
Peru	Sep 2002	Poland	Mar 2001
Portugal	Jun 2001	Slovak Republic	Aug 2001
Slovenia	Feb 2001	Switzerland	Feb 2001
South Africa	May 2003	Taiwan (Economy)	Sep 2002
Spain	Feb 2001	Tanzania	Sep 2002

Associate Participants: Organizations

ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation	Dec 2003
ASEANET	Oct 2002
All Species Foundation	Mar 2002
BIOSIS	Mar 2002
BioNET-INTERNATIONAL	May 2001
CABI Bioscience	Sep 2001
EASIANET	Oct 2002
European Commission	Feb 2001
Expert Center for Taxonomic Identification	Mar 2001
Finding Species	Dec 2003
Freshwater Biological Association - FreshwaterLife	Oct 2003
IUCN	Sep 2003
Integrated Taxonomic Information System	Mar 2001
Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network	May 2001
NatureServe	May 2001
Ocean Biogeographic Information System	Jun 2001
SAFRINET	Aug 2003
Société de Bactériologie Systématique et Vétérinaire	Dec 2002
Species 2000	Mar 2001
Taxonomic Databases Working Group	Mar 2002
United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Man and the Biosphere Programme	May 2001
United Nations Environment Programme	May 2001
Wildscreen Trust	Jan 2003
World Federation for Culture Collections	Oct 2002



James L. Edwards, Director

Per de Place Bjørn, Programme Officer

Electronic Catalogue of the Names of Known Organisms

Donald Hobern, Senior Programme Officer

Data Access and Database Interoperability

Larry Speers, Senior Programme Officer

Digitisation of Natural History Collections

Beatriz Torres, Senior Programme Officer

Outreach and Capacity Building

Meredith A. Lane, Public Relations & Scientific Liaison

Hannu Saarenmaa, Deputy Director for Informatics

Ciprian Vizitiu, Webmaster & Network Administrator

Giorgos Ksouris, Software Engineer

Hugo von Linstow, Deputy Director for Management & International Relations

Anne Mette Nielsen, Secretary

Susanne Lønstrup Sheldon, Senior Secretary

Belinda Skeel, Secretary

Else Østergaard Andersen, Liaison Officer (funded by University of Copenhagen)



Annex 3

GBIF Governing Board Standing Committees, 2003

Budget Committee

<i>Chair</i>	David Penman
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Shunichi Kikuchi
<i>Members</i>	Helmut Kühr Esteban Manrique Reol Lars M. Nilsson
<i>Ex-officio</i>	Christoph Häuser James Edwards

Executive Committee

<i>Chair</i>	Christoph Häuser
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Kunio Iwatsuki
<i>Committee</i>	Guy Baillargeon (NODES)
<i>Chairs</i>	John Curran (Science) David Penman (Budget)
<i>Ex-officio</i>	James Edwards

Node Managers Committee (NODES)

<i>Chair</i>	Guy Baillargeon
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Maria Auxiliadora Mora Karen Wilson
<i>Members</i>	Every Participant Node Manager

Science Committee

<i>Chair</i>	John Curran
<i>Vice Chairs</i>	Wouter Los Esteban Manrique Reol
<i>Subcommittee</i>	Erick Mata (OCB)
<i>Chairs</i>	Michael Ruggiero (ECAT) Jorge Soberón Mainero (DIGIT) David A. Vieglais (DADI)
<i>Ex-officio</i>	Christoph Häuser Kunio Iwatsuki James Edwards

Subcommittee for Data Access & Database Interoperability (DADI)

<i>Chair</i>	David A. Vieglais	
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Greg Whitbread	
<i>Members</i>	Peter Arzberger Stan Blum W. Alex Gray Norbert Hirneisen Hideaki Sugawara Nozomi Ytow	Walter G. Berendsohn Søren Brunak Robert A. Herzog Raúl Jiménez Rosenberg Eric Yen Maria Zemankova



Subcommittee for Digitisation of Natural History Collection Data (DIGIT)

Chair Jorge Soberón Mainero
Members Vishwas Chavan
Keiichi Matsuura
Francisco Pando
Steven Shattuck
Simon Tillier
Peter Cornelis van Welzen
Anna Weitzman

Subcommittee for Electronic Catalogue of Names of Known Organisms (ECAT)

Chair Michael Ruggiero
Vice Chair Frank Bisby
Members Miguel A. Alonso-Zarazaga
Guy Baillargeon
Peter Crane
Jim Croft
Henrik Enghoff
Jean-Marc Gagnon
Gregor Hagedorn
Linda R. Sacks
Junko Shimura

Subcommittee for Outreach and Capacity Building (OCB)

Chair Erick Mata
Vice Chair Christopher Lyal
Members Peter Bridgewater
Vanderlei Canhos
Bonnie Carroll
Vishwas Chavan
Ian Cresswell
Nicholas King
Peter Schalk
Marcos Silva
Stella Simiyu

Annex 4

Summary Timeline of Important GBIF Milestones

<i>13 Jan 2003</i>	First DIGIT and ECAT Request for Proposals released
<i>23 Jan 2003</i>	Call for proposals for GBIF-UNESCO Chairs released
<i>31 Jan-7 Feb 2003</i>	GBIF Secretariat building completed and staff moved in
<i>1 Apr 2003</i>	GBIF Communications Portal launched
<i>28 Apr 2003</i>	Zoological Museum opens biodiversity exhibit featuring GBIF and DanBIF
<i>30 Apr-2 May 2003</i>	Sixth Governing Board meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretariat building inaugurated in special ceremony• Second Ebbe Nielsen Prize awarded• First GBIF Science Symposium held
<i>18 June 2003</i>	First GBIF Demonstration Project launched
<i>11 July 2003</i>	Digitisation software evaluation report released by DIGIT
<i>28 July 2003</i>	Memorandum of Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat
<i>18-19 Sep 2003</i>	First DIGIT and ECAT seed money awards
<i>6-8 Oct 2003</i>	Seventh Governing Board meeting, Tsukuba, Japan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2004 Work Programme approved• Strategic Plan approved• Procedure and timeline for third-year review approved
<i>15 Dec 2003</i>	Memorandum of Cooperation with the Catalogue of Life consortium signed



Q
BIE
T



Construction of the GBIF Secretariat Building was completed in February, 2003