

MID-TERM ACTIVITY REPORT

BIFA3_32 - Data mobilization of the Cryptogam collection of the Herbarium PHH, University of Science, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Guidelines on how to complete the activity report are included in italics.

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Executive summary

By the mid-term, the project is in good progress and has mainly followed the original plan. Deviations from original plan including changes in the project partners and data publisher are explained below. Voluntary group work by experts has revealed to be an effective way to improve the quality of the herbarium data.

Contact information

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Introduction

This mid-term report helps the readers, project partners and especially BIFA Coordination team understanding activities and results that have been carried out and achieved until the end of September (6 months since the start date). The report is a self-evaluation based on the project coordinator's opinion with discussion with partner from the University of Turku. The next mid-project meeting in November is the possibility to discuss more in detail and evaluate the work directly with other partners.

The project and its objectives

- *The project's start date and expected duration*

The project started in April 2018 and will be finished by 31st March 2018 (12 months).

- *A list of project participants and description of the main stakeholders*

Country	Institution (name and address)	Role of the partner in the project
Vietnam	Herbarium (PHH), University of Science, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (UNS) 227 Nguyen Van Cu, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	Host institution Project leader, lichenologist: Dr. Giao Thi Phi Vo Project coordinator, bryologist (moss): MSc. Thien Tam Luong
Japan	Institute of Natural and Environmental Science, University of Hyogo (HYO) Yayoi-ga-oka 6, Sanda Hyogo, 669-1546, Japan	Bryologist (moss): Dr. Hiroyuki Akiyama
Japan	Hattori Botanical Laboratory (NICH) Obi 6-1-26, Nichinan City, Miyazaki Prefecture, 889-2535, Japan	Bryologist (liverwort): Dr. Tomoyuki Katagiri
Japan	Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) 5-3 Yonbancho, Chiyodaku, Tokyo 102-8666, Japan New institution (from April 2018): The Imperial Household Agency, Cabinet Office Government of Japan Motoakasaka 2-1-5, Minatoku, Tokyo 107-0051, JAPAN	Coordinator for publishing database on GBIF: Dr. Hidetsugu Miwa
Finland	Herbarium (TUR), Biodiversity Unit, University of Turku FI-20014, Turku, Finland	Bryologist (moss): Dr. Sanna Huttunen, Bryologist (moss): MSc. Thien Tam Luong
Finland	Department of Ecology and Systematics, University of Helsinki (H) P.O. Box 47, FIN-00014, Helsinki, Finland	Lichenologist: Dr. Teuvo Ahti Bryologist (moss): Dr. Johannes Enroth

Hungary	Eszterhazy Karoly, University of Applied Sciences (EGR) Eger, Hungary	Bryologist (liverworts): Dr. Tamas Pocs
The Netherlands	ABL Herbarium (ABL) Gerrit van der Veenstraat 107, NL-3762 XK Soest, The Netherlands	Lichenologist: Dr. Andre Aptroot
UK	The Natural History Museum (BM) Cromwell Road, London, Sw7 5 Bd, Uk.	Lichenologist: Dr. Gothamie Weerakoon

- *The targeted capacity needs as outlined in the project proposal*

This project will advance research on bryophytes and lichens of Vietnam by mobilizing and delivering the species information of the Cryptogam collection of the Herbarium PHH to researcher community through GBIF, and will contribute to capacity building for local researchers by providing reference material for identification and skills to deliver rare observation data via GBIF.

Activities

Description of activity	Partners involved	Contribution of activity to goals listed in table 4.3	Status of activity as of mid-term reporting
Digitizing and publishing georeferenced species occurrence data based on specimens held in Asian collections			
Digitizing and databasing specimens for local Brahms database in PHH	PHH	This activity provides fundamental database for publishing the georeferenced species occurrence data in GBIF. Information of specimens will be also shared with all partners.	About 70% of the cryptograms collection at PHH Herbarium has been databased in Brahms and Excel. We will start updating confirmed identifications and cleaning the data in October.
Kick-off meeting	PHH, HYO, TUR, Tokyo	During kick-off meeting, partners will gather together to know each other, discuss and agree in the methods of data transfer to GBIF and after that, work on preliminary sorting and distributing specimens.	The kick-off meeting had been held in April-May 2018 at the University of Science, VNUHCM with the participations of experts from HYO, TUR, Tokyo.
Updating identifications for	PHH, HYO,	Correct names will	A large part of the

specimens	TUR, EGR, NICH, ABL, H, BM, E	improve the utility of the collections in taxonomic studies and research.	collection have been divided into duplicates, sent out and identified by experts from H, TUR, HYO, EGR, NICH, E, etc.
Mid-project meeting	PHH, TUR, EGR	During mid-project meeting, partners will come together to evaluate the progress, discuss about publishing data, writing report, promote the project and GBIF-BIFA grant by giving seminars in the host university.	Mid-project meeting will be held from 22 November to 30 November 2018 at PHH, University of Science, VNUHCM. Participation from TUR, EGR and BM are confirmed.
Publishing the georeferenced species occurrence data in GBIF	PHH, Tokyo, TUR	The final goal of the project is to deliver the species information from the Cryptogam collection of the Herbarium PHH to researcher community through GBIF.	Finnish GBIF node (Natural History Museum of Finland, Helsinki) will host the data (confirmed). The data publisher will be shown as the University of Science, VNUHCM. Currently we are preparing a trial dataset for testing the data transfer and experiences will guide the final submission of the data.
Writing report and joint publications	PHH leading, all partners involved	This activity will finalize the project and utilize scientific value of the Cryptogam collection in PHH and species occurrence data on GBIF.	Joint publications were planned during the kick-off meeting, and will be continue when the specimen list is completed.
Compiling inventories of biodiversity data holdings (for example, by implementing metadata catalogues)			
Preparing data papers			

Other activity types			

Deliverables

a. Data

Details of datasets expected to be mobilized as an outcome of the project:

Title of dataset	Taxonomic/geographic scope	Approximate number of records (specimens)	Current format (e.g. undigitized, digitized)
Georeferenced occurrence data for GBIF including bryophyte and lichen specimens in PHH	Cryptogam collection in PHH	15 000 specimens	Partly databased in BRAHMS (about 70%).

b. Other deliverables

Describe other deliverables expected from the project (e.g. publication of data papers, catalogues, reports etc.)

Title of dataset	Taxonomic/geographic scope	Approximate number of records (specimens)	Current format (e.g. undigitized, digitized)
Updates for Brahms database for own herbarium use	Cryptogam collection in PHH	15 000 specimens	Partly databased in BRAHMS (about 70%).
Webpage on the herbarium database	Cryptogam collection in PHH	15 000 specimens	no result achieved yet
Updated checklist of bryophytes and lichens in Vietnam	Cryptogam in Vietnam	unknown	The list is being accumulated.
Taxonomic articles	Cryptogam in Vietnam	unknown	Online key for the genera of Meteoriaceae and related genera in Vietnam is under

			preparation. The content of the taxonomic articles depends on the final identification.
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Calendar of activities

Proposed dates	Activity	Lead partner	Notes
April 2018	Kick-off meeting in PHH	PHH	On schedule
April 2018 – August 2018	Digitizing and databasing specimens in Brahms	PHH	Will be extended until December 2018. The activity is slightly slower than expected because a large portion of the specimens have hand written labels and incomplete information that we have to search for personal field notes.
June 2018	Attendance of project team member at BIFA Capacity Enhancement Workshop	PHH	On schedule
April 2018 – December 2018	Updating identifications for specimens	PHH, TUR	On schedule
November 2018	Mid-project meeting in PHH	PHH	On schedule
December 2018 – March 2019	Publishing the georeferenced species occurrence data to GBIF	RISTEX, BCA, PHH, TUR	Will be extended until February 2019. The extension is due to the slow progress of databasing.

Project communications

Describe the plans to communicate and share the results of your project with the project stakeholders and broader GBIF community. Please also review the page describing your project available from <https://www.gbif.org/project/5joJ2AYB8QMwaosayloMeU/data-mobilization-of-vietnamese-herbarium-cryptogam-collections>. Highlight any additional documents, events, news items or links that you would like to add to your page.

The project description will be published in the Newsletters of Biodiversity Unit, University of Turku by the end of October. A seminar about the GBIF-BIFA project and data digitalization will be given at the University of Science, Ho Chi Minh City for faculty members and students during the mid-project meeting in November 2018. We will also inform the Vietnam BCA

(Biodiversity of Conservation Agency) about the results and dataset submitted to GBIF by the end of the project.

Mid-term evaluation findings and recommendations for the remaining project implementation period

Substantial changes to the project plans by the mid-term:

The role in data publishing is changed. GBIF Finland agrees to host our datasets, and the University of Science, Ho Chi Minh City is a data publisher. The datasets would still be part of the “data published from Vietnam” metrics in GBIF. This adjustment creates also the changes of role of BCA Vietnam into observer. This decision has been made after discussion with the GBIF Secretariat and BIFA Coordination Team during the BIFA Capacity Enhancement Workshop in Beijing, June 2018, and confirmed with GBIF Finland node in October 2018. The next step would be the registration of the University of Science, VNUHCM as a data publisher in GBIF, and transforming the data in such a format that can be published via GBIF Finland.

One more partner, Dr. Gothamie Weerakoon, Senior Curator of Lichens and Slime Moulds, the Natural History Museum, London, UK, is included in the project. She will help in identification the lichen collection in PHH and participate in the mid-project meeting in November in Vietnam, instead of Dr. Andre Aptroot from ABL due to the confliction in schedule of traveling.

Pros:

This project receives a great support from the community of bryologist and lichenologist around the world. Potential for new scientific findings of bryology and lichenology in Vietnam attracts voluntary from professional community even if only limited funding is available for the project.

Support and advices from the GBIF Secretariat and BIFA Coordination team were very valuable for the smooth project implementation, especially when we had to make changes in the original plans. The BIFA Capacity Enhancement Workshop in Beijing, June 2018 provide useful and important knowledge about data mobilization and digitalizing process.

Cons:

Since the project involves partners from several institutions around the world, it sometimes hampers fluent communication. Monitoring and implementing the project required thus more work than expected but this did not risk completing the project according the original plan.

In summary, by the mid-term, the project is in good progress and has mainly followed the original plan. Deviations from original plan will still assure final results. Mid-project meeting is the next important event which will take place in November 2018 in PHH, University of Science, Ho Chi Minh City.

Annex – Sources of verification

Sources of verification are for example links to relevant digital documents, news/newsletters, brochures, copies of agreements with data holding institutions, workshop related documents, pictures, etc.