

EDIT Workshop “ATBI+M field methods manual” (25.-27. Januar 2009, Las Palmas)

The aim of this workshop is to put together a Manual on Field Recording Techniques and Protocols for All Taxa Biodiversity Inventories + Monitoring (ATBI+M). The emphasis will be on the practical aspects of things that actually happen in field (i.e., collecting techniques, hints on handling specimens, primary recording of data, field equipment, etc.), and not about later treatment and analysis of the material/data. We are after your tips & tricks for efficient, high-quality field work.

It is a good opportunity to write your experiences down on how to work best in the field and how typical mistakes can be avoided that handicap the processing of data later on. EDIT encourages collaboration and hence chapters can be prepared by international groups of authors, also to maximize the likelihood of the international implications of its content. This manual shall be a valuable source of information to various parties wishing to pursue research on ATBI+M sites, including professional taxonomists, students, national park staff and others interested.

Presentation Guidelines for Participants – EDIT Workshop (25-27. January 2009)

At the workshop a draft outline of your contribution to the manual should be presented, in coordination with your co-authors (if applicable). Please get in touch with your co-authors to discuss the contents of your presentation ahead of the workshop.

Presentation:

Each contribution will receive about 30 minutes attention:

15min. – PowerPoint presentation outlining the intended contents of your manuscript:

Please only present information in relation to your contribution for the manual, in your area of expertise as indicated in the invitation.

15min. – Discussion time, feedback from the other participants.

Presentation outline (some suggestions):

Your presentation should focus on what you intend to contribute to the manual – you could for example explain how you imagine your introduction, possible description of methods, and give some conclusions. Please feel free to design the contents of your presentation as you think it will be most informative for the audience (– and ultimately the most helpful for the future readers of the manual).

At the EDIT Summer School 2008 (an EDIT initiative to train students in “Best Practice” of field sampling and taxonomic research) we asked the teachers and students what they would expect to find in such a manual – please see below the results of our survey, it may be relevant to your contribution and give you some ideas on what you could present at the workshop.

The following are only some suggestions of ours what your presentation could look like:

- 1- Title**
- 2- Brief overview**
 - a. Who are your co-authors?
 - b. What is your area of expertise?
 - c. Why do you contribute to this manual and what you expect from it?
- 3- Present the possible outline of your manual contribution**
 - 3.1.- Introduction
 - a. Historical background
 - b. The kind of taxa that it *is* used for and that it *may* be used for
 - c. The kind of habitats where it *is* used and where it *may* be used
 - d. The role in ATBI+M programmes and the challenges for collaborative research

3.2.- Main contents

- e. New scientific aspects brought to light by this chapter (for example, taxa that previously the method was not used for, new types of studies the method was previously not used for, etc.)
- f. Usefulness for spatio-temporal comparative research
- g. Efficiency for focal taxa
- h. Applicability in temperate versus tropical countries
- i. Most suitable methods, e.g. depending on habitat, location, size of study site
- j. Possible tests/comparison of the methods
- k. Ethical aspects (impact in terms of by-catch, protected taxa, flagship-taxa, as well as ecological impact in a more general sense)
- l. Practical aspects, e.g. what mistakes to avoid in the field, your tips and tricks

3.3 - Conclusions

- m. Statement on international standardization
- n. Suggestions for successful collaborative research
- o. Suggestions for the implementation in international inventory programmes within and outside Europe

The detailed guidelines for the manuscript will be discussed at the workshop and formatting information (e.g. font size, paragraphs, reference style etc...) will be made available afterwards.

As we aim to produce a manual of about 250 pages at the most, and we do have contributions for 20 chapters confirmed to date, your manuscript should be written as precise and concise as possible. Therefore, as an estimate, its maximum length should be no more than 15 printed pages.

Important Deadlines:

- 12 Jan 2008: Abstract submission
- 25-27 Jan 09: Workshop; Presentations & Paper discussion
- 28 Jan 2008: Field trip (optional)
- 30 Apr 2009: Manuscript submission, peer-review
- 01 July 2009: Revised manuscripts due
- 30 Sep 2009: Manual in print

If you do have any further questions, please contact us.
Looking forward to meet you at the workshop!

Best wishes,
Jutta, Xavier, Carlos and Christoph

Results of the survey (amongst the students and teachers of the EDIT Summer School in the national park Mercantour to possible contents of the Field methods manual):

A manual on field work methods suitable to ATBI+M sites is in preparation and various researchers will contribute manuscripts. It will describe standards, techniques and tools for both rapid and repeated ATBI+M programmes, for application on ATBI+M sites world wide.

The manual will also be available for future students and lecturers of the EDIT Summer School, so you could help us greatly by answering the following questions and add any other relevant comments:

We plan to include chapters on the following topics:

- Light trapping methods
- Malaise and flight-interception trapping (*Patrick Grootaert could provide text on this subject matter*)
- DNA barcoding
- Litter and soil sampling
- Vegetation recording techniques
- Acoustic recording
- Recording techniques in marine environments

a) What additional information would you expect to find in such a field work techniques manual? (number between brackets = number of people who suggested this topic)

- Collection and preservation of samples (for molecular and non-molecular research purposes): conservation and organization, when to start a collection, for which organisms and why, conservation methods, sample preparation and labelling ...sample storage: in general /depending on group of organisms / in the field (6);
- Methods to survey birds and (small) mammals: Longworth traps, etc (5);
- Statistical analysis methods: for monitoring; indication of sample size requirements, outline of most common methods used) (4);
- Habitat: Site selection criteria for representative data - An introductory chapter on remote sensing as a tool for a rapid assessment of habitat features - Surveying techniques (3);
- Key to orders of invertebrates and plants (3);
- Georeferencing and GPS handling (3);
- Canopy sampling techniques (Canopy fogging and tree trunk fogging) (3);
- Legal aspects of field work (permits etc) (2);
- Basic practical molecular work (how to get the right primer) (2);
- Recording techniques in aquatic (fresh/salt) environments (2);
- Pitfall traps (2);
- Others (1):
 - Methods for sampling Orthoptera;
 - Discussion of the suitability of different methods;
 - Examples of cyber keys;
 - Ethical aspects of field work (even if it is legal it may not be OK);
 - The importance and possibilities of field work;
 - Floristic recording techniques (this is not the same as vegetation recording techniques!);

- A general chapter on Insect collection techniques (and perhaps for each group of organisms a separate chapter?), which would include: Passive and Active Light trapping methods, Pitfall traps, Yellow pans, Different kinds of netting, Using a pooter, Killing jars and Ethyl acetate/ethanol/etc
- Insect preservation and inventory (museum techniques);
- Freshwater habitats (rivers, lakes and waterways);
- Mist netting;
- Aspects of behaviour (such as the mating techniques of flies, which was an interesting topic in the summer school);
- Measuring leaf (object) shape technique;
- General remark: Obviously there is a lot to say about systematics from a historical perspective: origin of taxonomy, how to combine characters in modern approaches or how to analyse such combinations - a difficult question depending on what is expected from such a manual;