

EDIT ATBI+M NEWSLETTER 02

January 2010

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The views expressed in the newsletter are those of its correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of EDIT. Please send us your contributions for the next edition of our newsletter (June 2010) the latest by June 11th, 2010.

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SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



NOTE FROM THE EDIT WP7 Leader

Welcome to our next ATBI+M newsletter and many thanks to all the contributors!

Jutta Eymann has taken the chance to meet new challenges in Australia and is no longer working for WP7. We wish her all the best for the future!

Our team has updated the ATBI+M flyer for reaching not only taxonomists but also a wider audience. If you would like to receive some copies or alternatively a printable (PDF) file, please contact the editorial team.

I would like to encourage you to approach the EDIT WP7 team with any questions or suggestions concerning ATBI+M matters. My best wishes for a continuing fruitful cooperation.

Christoph L. Häuser

NEW SPECIES RECORDS IN THE ATBI+M SITES

Since the start of “All Taxa Biodiversity Inventories + Monitoring” (ATBI+M) in 2006 more than 5000 species were collected, observed or recorded from available literature. Among these species, 23 (grasshoppers and flies) represent new records for the Mercantour National Park (PNM), France (**Table 1**). 72 species (butterflies, bees/wasps and flies) are new records for the Alpi Marittime Nature Park (PNAM), Italy, whereas it should be pointed out that most of these species are even new for Italy. In 2001 and 2002 two species of moths (*Coleophora maritimarum* Baldizzone, 2004 and *Eudarcia palanfreella* Baldizzone & Gaedike, 2004), first recorded in PNAM were also new to science. This shows the large potential of intensive inventories in these regions of high biodiversity.

Table 1: An overview of new species records for the ATBI+M sites (version of 3.11.2009)

Order	New species records for				
	PNM	PNAM	France	Italy	Science
Diptera (flies)	7	38	-	1	
Hymenoptera (bees, wasps)	-	13	-	13	
Lepidoptera (butterflies)	-	21	-	21	2
Orthoptera (grasshoppers)	16	-	-	-	

The recorded number of insect species in all ATBI+M sites (see Table 2) indicates that recording of biodiversity in the national parks is just at the beginning and the establishment of ATBI+M sites in selected protected areas is important.

Table 2: Recorded number of insect species in all ATBI+M sites (version of 3.11.2009)

Insect order	No. of species
Lepidoptera (butterflies)	1932
Coleoptera (beetles)	525
Diptera (flies)	503
Hymenoptera (bees and wasps)	66
Homoptera (leafhoppers)	55
Orthoptera (grasshoppers)	55
Siphonaptera (fleas)	7
Neuroptera (lacewings)	2
Mantoptera	1
Hemiptera (true bugs)	1

=> New webpages for new species

To publish the information of new found species we have created two webpages (**Figure 1**). On the first webpage all taxonomic orders are listed www.atbi.eu/mercantour-maritime/?q=node/491. On the second webpage the new species of each order are allocated as new for the park, for the country or for science. With a link to each taxonomic order more detailed information for this order is displayed. On the webpage with the species list all species are linked to the species sheet with information of the distribution within the ATBI+M sites.

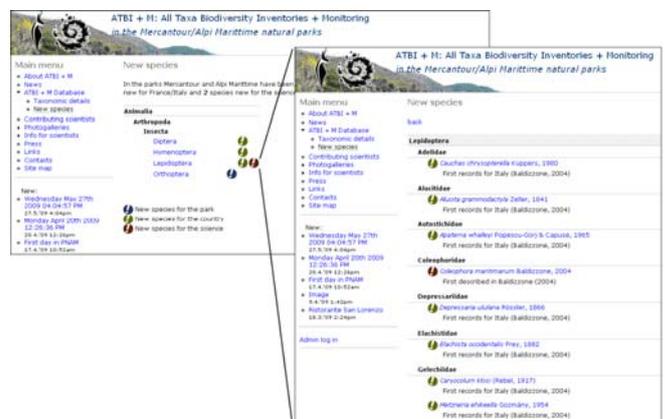


Figure 1: Screenshot of two webpages with information to new species found in Mercantour and Alpi Marittime National Parks (<http://www.atbi.eu/mercantour-maritime/?q=node/491>)

=> Appeal to announce new species

Most likely more new species have already been found in the ATBI+M sites, but unfortunately we do not have the information yet. Therefore we would like to appeal for getting information of new species from these sites to include those in our database and to publish the data on our ATBI+M websites. Please inform us (mail to alexander.kroupa@mfn-berlin.de) about new species within your taxonomic group of interest. It would also be possible sending us information about published data. But please be aware that only data from the EDIT ATBI+M sites can be used.

REPORTS FROM PAST MEETINGS

General Meeting (Carvoeiro, Portugal 15-17 Dec 2009)

The 2nd EDIT General Meeting took place in the Conference rooms of the Hotel Tivoli in Carvoeiro in Portugal. During the first day, the “Young Taxonomist Symposium” brought together 15 early career taxonomists that presented their current research. In the second day four sessions with presentations on “Integration & interactions with other initiatives”, “Engagement in Cyberscience”, “Platform of Cybertaxonomy tools”, and “Building the legacy” were complemented with a poster session concentrating on EDIT activities. The presentations in PowerPoint format can be downloaded at www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/703. On the third day, a training session on Scratchpads was offered by Workpackage 6 (WP6) to interested scientists. The Final EDIT General Meeting will take place in Paris during the 2nd week of January 2011.

International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) - 2010 Launch at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (January 11, 2010)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Federal Minister for the Environment, Norbert Röttgen, and the Director General of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Achim Steiner, celebrated January 11, 2010 at the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin the opening of the IYB.

To halt the loss of the biological world, a treaty was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992: the Convention on Biological



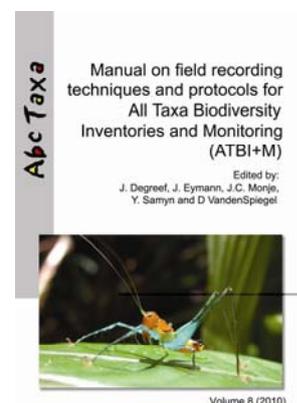
Diversity (CBD). The objective to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 set by the same CBD in 2002 cannot be achieved, as deplored by Angela Merkel at the launch of the IYB. The year 2010 was proclaimed "International Year of Biodiversity" by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Germany holds until the next CBD COP meeting (October 2010, Japan) the presidency of the CBD.

The Museum für Naturkunde used the opportunity to present at this event also important biodiversity projects in which it is involved. Besides EDIT also GBIF, BHL-Europe, DIVERSITAS, and BIOTA presented their activities.



FINAL STAGE OF THE ATBI+M FIELD MANUAL

The ATBI+M manual on field recording techniques and protocols will be published as a special issue within the *AbcTaxa* series in March 2010 (expected). It will be freely distributed to contacts particularly in developing countries, and the digital contents will be freely available on the *AbcTaxa* website (www.abctaxa.be). The manual will cover various topics ranging from habitat and taxa oriented methods up to specific technologies and data management:



- EDIT and the ATBI+M concept with experiences from pilot sites
- Challenges and solutions for planning large scale biotic inventories
- Records and data management
- Bioacoustics
- Camera-trapping for inventorying terrestrial vertebrates
- Specimen preservation for subsequent molecular analysis
- Sampling arthropods from the canopy
- Sampling soil and litter
- Sampling continental freshwaters
- Sampling the marine realm
- Sampling a forgotten kingdom: guidelines for mycologists
- Sampling of bryophytes
- Sampling higher plants
- General techniques for sampling insects
- Light traps for insects
- Flight interception traps for arthropods
- Preserving and specimen handling for invertebrates
- Field methods for monitoring mammals
- Sampling reptiles and amphibians
- Tips for bird surveys and censuses
- Preservation of freshwater fish in the field

NEWS FROM THE PARKS

Parc National du Mercantour

www.mercantour.eu

Parco Naturale delle Alpi Marittime

www.parcocalpimarittime.it

Participation

Since its establishment as the first European ATBI+M pilot site in 2007, participation has constantly increased, especially the number of involved scientists (**Figure 3**). As of November 2009, 395 visits with a total of 1561 field days were documented.

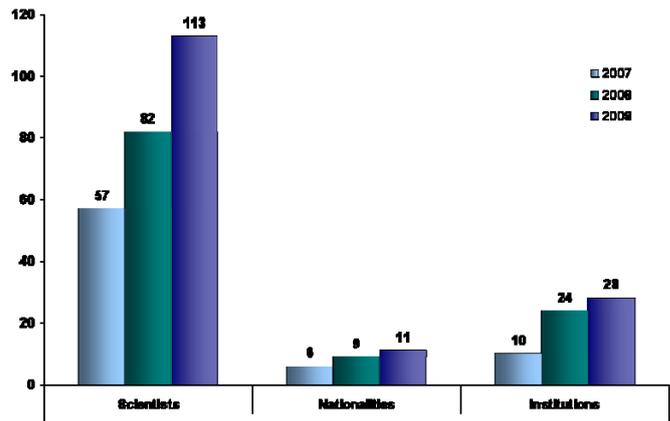


Figure 3: Participation at the ATBI+M pilot site Mercantour/Alpi Marittime (2007-2009)

Assessment of species occurrence and distribution

As of November 2009, a total number of 4078 species have been recorded and 23755 individual data sets on their distribution within the parks have been delivered (**Figure 4**).

The strong increase in both the number of recorded species and data sets between 2007 and 2008 is explained by the time needed to identify the collected specimens, usually during winter and spring.

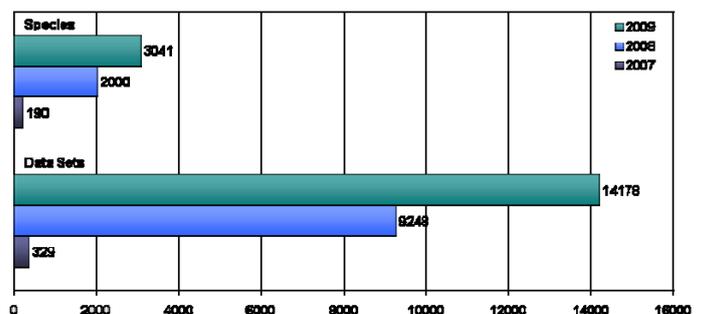


Figure 4: Number of identified species and delivered data sets on their distribution between 2007 and 2009

Animals comprise almost two thirds of the reported species (n = 2397, **Figure 5**), with the insects being largely represented (89.3%). The largest groups within the insects correspond to the Lepidoptera (n=1826) and to the Coleoptera (n=489).

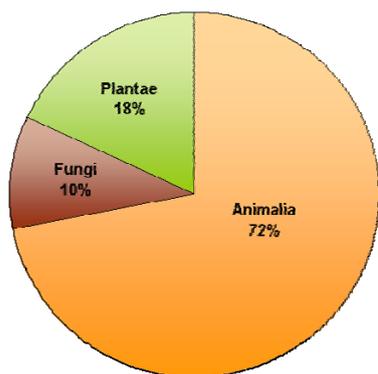


Figure 5: Proportion of different kingdoms on total number of species

Data accessibility for conservation management

All collected data on species occurrence and distribution are online on the dedicated website www.atbi.eu/mercantour-maritime and also accessible worldwide through the Global Information Biodiversity Facility (GBIF) at <http://data.gbif.org/datasets/resource/7849>

Enhancing knowledge on biodiversity

Important additions to the knowledge on the flora and fauna of this ATBI+M pilot site have been achieved so far:

- 59 new species records for the parks
- 33 new species records for France/Italy
- At least 2 species new to science



Figure 6: *Philoctetes helveticus* (Linsenmeier), collected at Le Pra, Coll de la Bonette in Mercantour by Christian Schmid-Egger

One of these examples is the cuckoo wasp *Philoctetes helveticus* (Linsenmeier) (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae, **Figure 6**, right). Paolo Rosa, identifier of the species, comments: “One of the last mysterious European species.

Probably distributed throughout the Alps, but only three specimens from Switzerland were known until now!”

Additional activities

The ATBI+M project was presented at the 4th Symposium of Research in Protected Areas at the Hohe Tauern National Park from September 17-19, 2009 with a poster entitled “A new All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring (ATBI+M) approach for improving biodiversity knowledge and data management for protected areas”. Together with the aim of informing the public on the project’s activities we also published news on several local and national newspapers. Moreover, some scientific papers are in press and interesting discoveries will be made public.

From November 2009, the Service of Molecular Systematics at the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris (MNHN) has started its barcoding operations on Collembola specimens collected by the team “Soil Fauna”. Others taxa will also be barcoded soon.

The higher the number of species inventoried, the more information the park management staff can gain on habitats and ecosystem conditions. For example, the Mercantour National Park could benefit from the data collected for the definition of a list of its natural heritage (endemic, rare and/or protected species). This list is included in the Charta, an official document which defines the major orientations of the institution for the next fifteen years. Thanks to the efforts of the scientific community during the park creation, the future land management actions could be defined as efficiently as possible.

Marie-France Leccia also took the opportunity to illustrate the ATBI+M Mercantour / Alpi Maritime during a lecture given to students coming from Bachelor’s degree “Analyses and Techniques of Biodiversity Inventories”, University Claude Bernard Lyon 1. The students seemed particularly interested in the project’s technical and scientific aspects.

In addition, the Alpi Maritime Natural Park began a one-year-course for primary school pupils (called “Biodiversità in Valle Gesso”) on natural

biodiversity, mainly focussed on what is biodiversity, how taxonomists study it and why. This course will hopefully continue for many years, as the response from pupils and teachers was extremely positive.

Three new research teams will be added to the nine teams created in 2009. They are the "Bryophytes", "Lichens" and "Parasites" groups, which will start their work in the parks from May 2010 on. The creation of new groups will also be effective in 2010.

Contact

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 Marie-France Leccia
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 for further information about the territory and the work group activities.

Slovakian ATBI+M sites – Gemer area

The Gemer area is composed of three national parks and detailed descriptions are given on their homepages:



Muránska Planina:
www.gemer.sk/ciele/mplanina/en.html
 Slovenský Raj:
www.slovenskyraj.sk/en.html
 Slovenský Kras:
www.gemer.sk/ciele/skras/en.html

Field visits 2008/2009

Since the setup of this ATBI+M site in 2008, field activities have been constantly increasing. Up-to-date 40 researchers



from 12 countries (26 institutions) have visited 75 times the ATBI+M Gemer area and have spent more than 500 days in the field. From 2008 to 2009 the amount of field days has increased by 67%.

Recorded data

So far, 40 researchers have visited the Gemer area and have recorded 1360 species (3357 data sets) for the Slovakian ATBI+M sites (**Figure 7**).

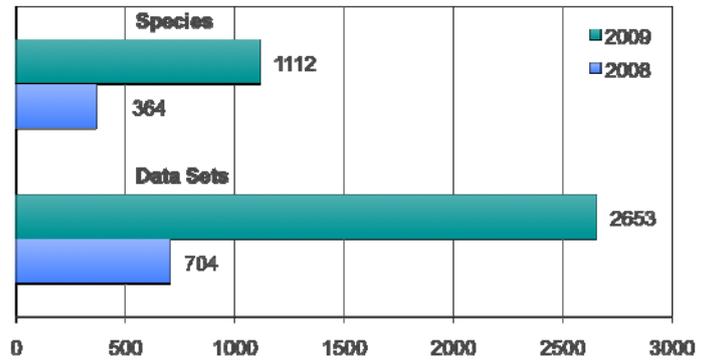


Figure 7. Number of identified species and delivered data sets for the ATBI+M Gemer area, 2008-2009

Animals represent more than half of all recorded species (n=751; see **Figure 8**), whereas 83% of this group are made up of insects, mainly Diptera (n=318) and Lepidoptera (n=305).

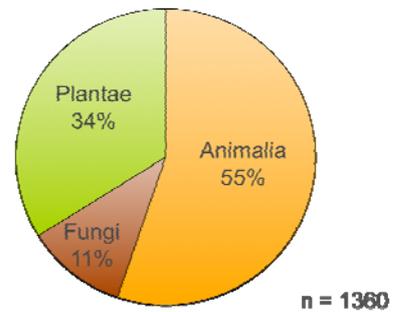


Figure 8: Proportion of different kingdoms on total number of species

Data management

Individual data sets of all recorded species can be found on the Gemer website www.atbi.eu/gemer/ and are also accessible world-wide through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): <http://data.gbif.org/datasets/resource/7950/>.

Participation

We would like to invite you to participate in the inventory of the taxa group you are interested in. Please do not hesitate to contact Anke Hoffmann (anke.hoffmann@mfn-berlin.de) or Katarína Necpálová (katarina.necpalova@test.fns.uniba.sk) for further information about the territory and activities.

OTHER NEWS

The WP7 management has been approached by the Bantimurung Bulusaraung National Park, Sulawesi, Indonesia, to express interest in becoming a non-European ATBI+M site. At present, consultations with relevant Indonesian authorities are underway in order to elaborate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and to adapt the Terms of Reference (ToR) for individual participation to the local requirements.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Four important activities of WP7 in 2010 will be:

- Demonstration workshop of ATBI+M field recording methods and tools for non-professional taxonomists.
- BioBlitz to be carried out at the ATBI+M Gemer pilot site.
- Workshop for presenting ATBI+M concept and first results to conservation managers and stakeholders.
- Meeting of review team for methods and techniques applied at European ATBI+M pilot sites.

The exact dates of these activities are not available yet. If you would like to receive further information please get in touch with us.

IMPORTANT: REIMBURSEMENT

As the present phase of EDIT will end in February 2011, please be aware that reimbursement of costs for field activities at ATBI+M sites will only be possible until November/December 2010.

LATEST NEWS!

We are pleased to announce that the ATBI+M site Mercantour/Alpi Marittime has received a grant from the EU programme “Integrated Transboundary action Plan ” that will enable the parks among other activities to continue the biodiversity inventories for the next two years. A detailed report will follow.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please send the editorial office your new details if your address has changed:

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