



www.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu

Vienna, 21st December 2012

Dear All,

For all of you who might not know me, I want to shortly introduce myself: my name is Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and together with Wolfram Graf I am working at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna. As Wolfram already mentioned in our first information letter, we are currently involved in the BioFresh project. As a workpackage leader in this project I had the opportunity to apply for some funds for the collection of Plecoptera distribution data throughout Europe. We have already very successfully done this for Trichoptera during the past 1.5 years.

I have now the pleasure to inform you that the BioFresh consortium has accepted our application and is willing to finance part of the work for a

“Distribution Atlas of European Plecoptera (DAEP)”

Unfortunately the amount we get is not as high as expected, but still, for you as a contributor this means that we can offer you a small honorarium for your work to compile the data in the format we need. The project will officially start in January 2013.

We thank all of you who have already indicated the willingness to support the project by providing data. This information letter should now explain once again the aims of this project and inform you about the terms and conditions as well as about the further procedure of data collection.

Data coordinators

Wolfram and myself are the scientific coordinators (and as such will work without additional funds from the application money) of this endeavour and we are responsible to the BioFresh project. For the compilation of Trichoptera data Peter Neu coordinated the entire data collection and database management. He has built up a large database and tools to facilitate data compilation and visualisation. We are now very grateful that we are able to use these resources but also that Peter is willing to collect the stonefly data as well. That means during the next months you will get several emails from him and we kindly ask you to reply to him in due time.

As second data managing person I want to introduce Michael Malicky from the Biology Centre of the Upper Austrian State Museum. He will help us with digitising of literature data and also to collect old museum's records. The ZOBODAT database of the museum will be the interface to the BioFresh data portal.

What BioFresh wants and expects from us

Aim of the BioFresh project is to collect freshwater biodiversity data of the whole world to evaluate status, trends, pressures and conservation priorities. All available data will be summarised in a data portal, which can be queried by every interested party (see below). Within our DAEP project we want

to contribute to this overall target and collect as many Plecoptera distribution data from Europe as possible.

What BioFresh does with the data

Generally the data collected during the DAEP project will be used for scientific analysis within BioFresh regarding aspects of contemporary patterns in Plecoptera biodiversity, climate change and other stressor scenarios. The BioFresh consortium has agreed that the DAEP data should only be available for BioFresh scientists AND – of course – DAEP data providers (but not for the public) for at least the first half year of their existence. This gives you the opportunity to publish your still unpublished records during this timespan (see also below). Once this half year is over the data will appear on the BioFresh data portal (and as a consequence also on the GBIF portal). To give you a feeling how this will look like, please try the following steps:

- Visit <http://data.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu/>
- Enter for example "*Perla marginata*" in the "Occurrence Search" field and then press "Search".
- As a result you will see a distribution map of this stonefly as well as a table with all single occurrences.
- By pressing on the table's headlines you can sort the entries in the table.
- If you choose any of these entries and click on the link provided, you will get detailed information of this record including "Provider" and "Resource". These two lines will be used to make the DAEP data visible as such.
- As the current records origin from GBIF, you can then further press on "Key" and once you have agreed to the GBIF terms you will get detailed information on the collecting person, etc. For the DAEP data we will here display any additional information on the record.
- The authorship of all contributions will be acknowledged visibly and intellectual properties rights will be respected.

Why we need more information than only species names

The template that we will send in January, will contain a Plecoptera species list (based on Graf et al. 2009* and newly described species since then) and additional parameters that we need for the DAEP, for example coordinates, altitude, stage or information on who collected and identified the species. This additional information is classified into two categories: mandatory and optional.

Coordinate data will be requested in WGS84 format, but could also be submitted in another format, as long as it is the same throughout your whole dataset. Please contact the coordination team in this respect.

For reasons of quality control and replicability of the data only adult data together with the information on sexes will be further considered and included into the DAEP.

We are very well aware that filling all these fields accurately might cause a lot of work, but we do think that this information is necessary to get a reliable result. This data collection for example also gives us the opportunity to set up an IUCN Red List for Plecoptera. During our daily routine work many of us have already desired that a highly accepted IUCN Red List would also be available for

“our” taxagroup (not only for Odonata and molluscs...), facilitating our work with authorities and contracting entities considerably. Now we have the unique chance to take over control and we think that we should absolutely go for it, even if it means that we have to put more efforts in the data collection now.

Especially the information on threats at a certain place and the habitat where the species was found are invaluable prerequisites for the red list assessment process (for further information see: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/assessment-process>). We highly appreciate your efforts in that respect!

* Graf, W., Lorenz, A.W., Tierno de Figueroa, J.M., Lücke, S., López-Rodríguez, M.J. & Davies, C. (2009): Distribution and Ecological Preferences of European Freshwater Organisms. Volume 2 - Plecoptera. Edited by Schmidt-Kloiber, A. & D. Hering. Pensoft Publishers (Sofia-Moscow). 262pp.

Terms and conditions

If you are going to contribute data to the DAEP project, then you have to be aware that all the data will be publically available (see above). That means, data submitted to us will in a first instance appear on the BioFresh portal and in a second step also on the GBIF website.

The honorarium we will offer will be based on the final total number of datasets that we receive and will be divided into groups of submitted records corresponding to our requirements. Please note that – as the coordination effort of this project is already very high – we can only accept, include and reimburse such datasets that fulfil our targets, i.e.

- only adult data (with exceptions of regions where we might have too few data in the end)
- only data filled in the template distributed by us using the included species list (this implies also the file format: only Excel, Access and dbf-files will be accepted)
- only data for which all mandatory information is available

Further exceptions may be allowed on a case by case decision for e.g. historical or other critical data. Please contact the coordination team if you wish to submit a “special dataset”.

Steps of data collection

1. We will send you a data provider agreement that you should please sign and send back to us.
2. We will send you an Excel template including a species list and the information that we want to collect.
3. We expect your filled Excel file not later than by the end of July 2013 (but we may send around reminders before that deadline).

Please send your data per email or on CD to [Peter Neu](#), he will merge them into one single database. You should name your files as follows: *Your name_state or region_actual date.extension* (e. g. *mueller_germany_11032011.xls* or *smith_europe_04042011.dbf*).

The data will then undergo a quality control and reliability check. In some cases it might be necessary that we come back to you for clarifications.

In a next step the database will be submitted to ZOBODAT (<http://www.zobodat.at/>), which will serve as the interface to the BioFresh portal. If you are interested in getting a login for ZOBODAT to view your own records later on, please contact Michael.

Once we have finished all these steps, we can think of publishing the Distribution Atlas of European Plecoptera as a book and/or individual website, but this will also depend on the “completeness” that we reach. We will distribute any further information about this issue in the course of the next months.

Visibility of our work

We plan to document the work on the DAEP as a part of the BioFresh website. As soon as this page is available we will send you the according link. Further it will be possible on the BioFresh data portal in near future to search for all data provided by a person or institution. This also serves the visibility of your own contribution. Further, the BioFresh team offers help with the publication of data papers. If you want to publish your dataset in a scientific journal (going along with a DOI for the dataset to make it citeable in the same way as a “normal” publication) I would be happy to assist (see also: <http://data.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu/datapolicy.html#submitordataper>). We have also started a cooperation with freshwater journals that supports the idea of data publication (see <http://data.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu/submitdata.html> and De Wever et al. 2012**)

** De Wever A, Schmidt-Kloiber A, Gessner M, Tockner K (2012) Freshwater Journals Unite to Boost Primary Biodiversity Data Publication. *BioScience* 62(6): 529-530.

Final remarks

We are sorry if any of this information sounds unkind or unfriendly, but as experience has shown, the datasets we get are very heterogeneous and we have to be very strict with our requirements.

Dear all, once again thank you for joining this consortium and for your help and time on the way to a European Distribution Atlas of stoneflies. Please, if anything written here or elsewhere regarding the conditions or the data collection procedure (e.g. the definitions in the template) is unclear, do not hesitate to contact us immediately. We will then try to sort out and clarify this issue.

Please also let us know if you want to withdraw from your previous decision to contribute to the project. We would regret this very much but would of course be interested in the reason behind.

Kind regards

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