Freshwater Animal Diversity Assessment (FADA)

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An assessment of animal species diversity in continental waters

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• Estimate based on literature study and contacts with experts; ca. 100’000 freshwater species

• Need for assessing the status of inland water biodiversity
Freshwater Animal Diversity Assessment: rationale

- Freshwater biodiversity: overlooked in global conservation initiatives and publications (Dudgeon, et al. 2006)
- A need to provide quantitative estimates of FW biological diversity for conservation purposes: you cannot adequately protect what you don’t know
- A global assessment of FW biodiversity: a real challenge (complexity of FW ecosystems, multiple uses..)
FADA objectives

- Compile existing information on animal species and generic diversity in the continental waters of the world in online databases.
- Focus on taxonomic and biogeographic diversity:
  - give current numbers of known global species and generic diversity
  - identify current biogeographic distribution
  - highlight main areas of endemicity

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FADA – phase 1

• October 13-16, 2005, Elewijt Centre, Mechelen, Belgium

• Expert assessment - ca. 50 world experts of freshwater animal groups provide an assessment of their groups
FADA – phase 2

• Special issue of Hydrobiologia published January 2008


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Distribution of total insect species and genus diversity by zoogeographic regions (number of species/number of genera). Numbers do not include some dipteran families (i.e. Tabanidae) that are not addressed in the specific contributions.
FADA – phase 3

Valorisation of FADA 1 results and data:

• Online database of species level and distributional data
• Biogeographic meta-analyses
• Endemicity and Richness comparisons amongst groups