



Systematique, Adaptation, Evolution



Paris, le 30 octobre 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The crisis of biodiversity has made the need for taxonomy stronger than ever, but the extent of the need is such that traditional methods are insufficient, and new approaches are needed to unravel the relationships between species level and ecosystem level of biodiversity. Taxonomy needs to renew its methods and to become more integrated, from field work to delivery, by implying more collaboration, with better focus and on a larger scale, than there has been in the past. IBISCA provides an example of such a new integrative approach, by grouping numerous scientists in a single framework to focus adequately on the richest taxon, the Arthropods, in the richest terrestrial environment, the tropical forests. IBISCA arrives at the right time, when it can build on, and contribute to, the taxonomy-based initiatives which have been developed since a few years.

Integrating taxonomy is the objective of the Network of Excellence "European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy" (EDIT), which groups 27 taxonomic institutions, including the largest in the world, to improve the production and delivery of taxonomic knowledge through integration of their infrastructures and capacities, and through development of new collaborative approaches. IBISCA clearly meets the objectives of EDIT. As the project leader of EDIT, but also as a taxonomist, I will surely encourage EDIT as a whole, and also in particular those members of the consortium who do not belong to the IBISCA network yet, to support and participate in the project.

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