



Smithsonian Institution

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Dr. Yves Basset
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Balboa, Ancon
Panama

Re: IBISCA

This letter is to support your application to the European Science Foundation to continue the very successful IBISCA program. We have been very impressed with your success so far, and look forward to continued collaboration.

As you know, many scientists at the National Museum of Natural History (a sister institution to STRI within the Smithsonian Institution) have been involved in providing taxonomic support to IBISCA. I expect that this collaboration will continue to expand, and I know that many of the museum scientists would like to become more involved in the field experiments if the future developments mesh with their schedules and other commitments.

In my own case, I have recently sponsored the taxonomic work of Roger Kitching on moths for IBISCA. During his two month stay in Washington, my colleagues in the Lepidoptera collection and I provided considerable "in kind" support for IBISCA, and we also organized a major public lecture and reception for IBISCA at the Embassy of Australia. I expect this collaboration to continue.

In my capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL, on the web at www.barcoding.si.edu), I can also say that the opportunities for bringing DNA barcoding into IBISCA as an identification and inventory tool are great. Dan Janzen and many colleagues have been having great results in Costa Rica, and I know I they are eager to extend their work to Panama if suitable infrastructure is available through IBISCA.

We look forward to continued productive collaboration with IBISCA.

Sincerely,

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