

**SCAR-MARBIN AND ANTABIF**

# ANTARCTIC BIODIVERSITY NETWORKS

## SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

[...] SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS FROM ANTARCTICA SHALL BE EXCHANGED AND MADE FREELY AVAILABLE. [...]

ARTICLE III.1C OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH (SCAR)



# THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY IN ANTARCTICA

**As a region of the world with some of the most pristine ecosystems on the planet, the Antarctic is home to a unique flora and fauna, and new species are being discovered all the time. These species are not only fascinating subjects of study for the scientific community, which can learn a lot about Antarctic ecosystems and how they are responding to climate change; many of them, such as krill and various species of fish, are also important living resources which have an important economic value to people all across the world.**

Antarctic ecosystems have exceptional value and provide important resources:

The Southern Ocean is vital for the planet and all living organisms on it, as it greatly contributes to the regulation of the Earth's climate and plays an important role in the carbon cycle, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

Ecosystems worldwide include highly valuable resources. At least 40% of the world's economy is based on making use of living resources and 80% of the needs of the poor are derived from biological resources<sup>1</sup>. The Southern Ocean is a major source of living resources such as krill harvested for aquaculture to fish consumed by millions of people.

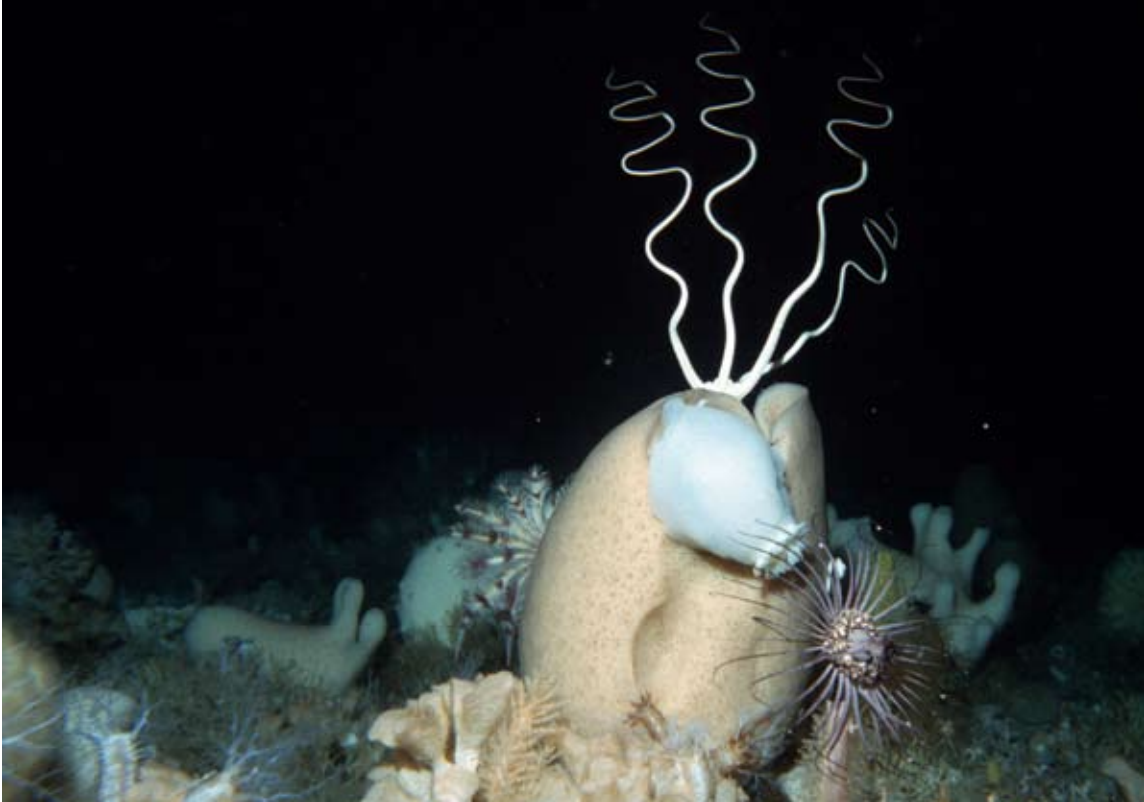
Healthy and stable ecosystems have higher productivity and can recover more easily from exploitation (fishing) or disasters than those with low biodiversity. Healthy ecosystems can also cope more easily with stressors such as environmental change.

The richer the diversity of life, the greater the opportunity for medical discoveries and sustainable economic development. For example, several organisms found only in the Antarctic are potentially useful in the development of new drugs.

1. United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)

Cover Picture Right:  
Aptenodytes patagonicus Miller, 1778  
Author: Yan Ropert-Coudert

1



2



1. Benthic organisms at the bottom of the Southern Ocean.  
Author: Julian Gutt (AWI)

2. Eurythenes gryllus, found during the ANDEEP3 expedition.  
Author: Bruno Danis



# MANAGING ECOSYSTEMS

Antarctic flora and fauna is highly adapted to its unique environment and is highly vulnerable to environmental changes. A growing body of scientific evidence – which includes results presented at the International Polar Year (IPY) Oslo conference and SCAR meeting in Buenos Aires in 2010 – indicates that the Antarctic environment is changing very rapidly. These changes pose a serious threat to ecosystems, as they put enormous stress on them and affect their normal functioning as well as their capacity to provide resources and regulate the Earth's climate. And while scientists have learned a lot about Antarctic ecosystems and biodiversity, especially during the intensive surveys conducted during the International Polar Year, there is still a great deal more to explore and learn.

If we want to efficiently understand and protect these ecosystems, it is vital to maintain and develop an **open, free and effective mechanism for exchanging scientific information on Antarctic biodiversity**. The scientific community has embraced the idea that primary biodiversity data should be made publicly available as soon as possible after it has been collected, in the spirit of article III.1c of the Antarctic Treaty<sup>1</sup>.

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1. Article III.1c of the Antarctic Treaty states that "[...] scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available."

2. Box-Corer on Deck  
Author: Armin Rose





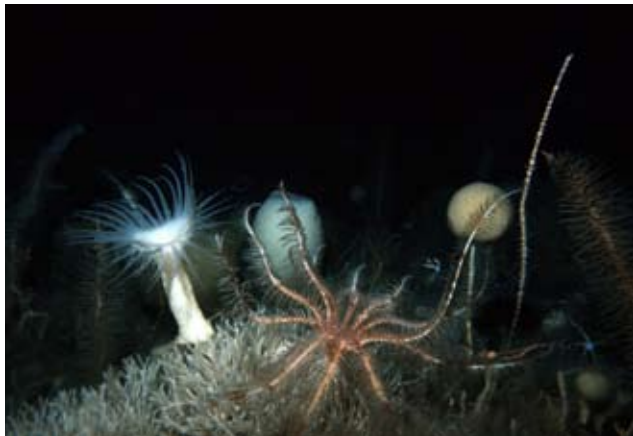
# VALUABLE TOOLS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

SCAR's Marine Biodiversity Information network (SCAR-MarBIN)<sup>1</sup> and the new Antarctic Biodiversity Information Facility (ANTABIF)<sup>2</sup> are valuable tools that answer the scientific community's need for free and readily accessible data, which can be used to describe, understand and predict potential changes. This information in turn allows policymakers to devise schemes to manage, value and protect Antarctic ecosystems.

Both SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF are open-access platforms meant for scientists to publish and share baseline scientific data on Antarctic biodiversity as well as relevant environmental data and models. The large amounts of practical, high-quality data the networks provide are a valuable tool to help scientists tackle complex scientific questions and fine-tune established theories in fields such as polar biodiversity, biogeography, and evolutionary biology.

And with access to thousands of images and videos on the websites, both networks are also useful educational tools for teachers and educators (commercial or for-profit use of data and materials from the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF networks is strictly forbidden).

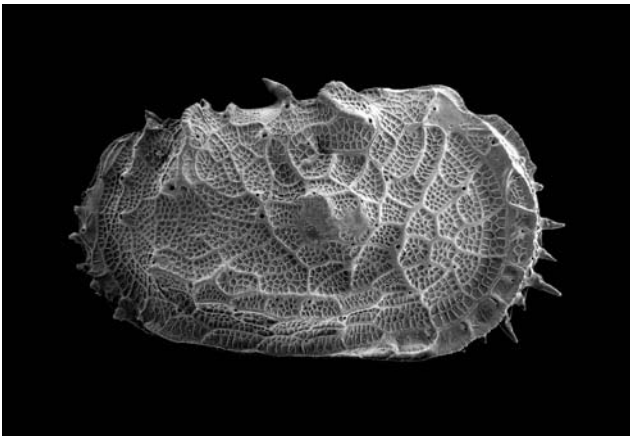
# ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOGNITION



As a project initiated under the International Polar Year (IPY), SCAR-MarBIN has been able to reach its objective of managing and providing free access to biodiversity data collected during the extensive five-year sampling effort conducted by the Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML)<sup>4</sup>, also an IPY project. Having compiled the first baseline data against which future changes in Antarctic ecosystems will be measured, SCAR-MarBIN has established itself as an important part of the IPY/CAML legacy.

Conservation/management agencies such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the United Nations Environmental Program's World Conservation and Monitoring Center (UNEPWCMC) recognize ANTABIF and SCAR-MarBIN networks as **authoritative sources of biodiversity data**.

# FACTS AND FIGURES



- ▲ First authoritative Register of Antarctic Marine Species (RAMS), from microbes to whales, with data on 16,500 different taxa.
- ▲ Access to distribution data of Antarctic organisms: over 1,000,000 records, from 180 distributed datasets.
- ▲ Data constantly updated, checked and improved on the web by top experts from all over the world.
- ▲ Data can be directly accessed, mapped, downloaded or published in other contexts using robust web services (Web 2.0).
- ▲ The SCARMarBIN web portal (scarmarbin.be) has seen a steady increase in users since it first went online in 2005, having had about 800,000 visitors, 6,000,000 hits and 40,000,000 records downloaded thus far.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS



- In addition to maintaining the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF networks, we also work on specialized projects and produce tailor-made data products for end users. Some of the ongoing projects funded by some of our sponsors include:
- ▲ Dynamic Antarctic field guides: Immediately accessible, custom-built flora and fauna identification guides using content from our data systems.
  - ▲ Digital Biogeographic Atlas of the Southern Ocean: maps and tools that can be used to visualize the current, historic and potential distribution of Antarctic organisms while taking into account global changes.
  - ▲ DNA data: tools that can be used to visualize and better understand how micro-evolutionary processes are influenced by a fast-changing environment. 15,000 DNA sequences are currently available (DNA barcoding).

1. [www.scarmarbin.be](http://www.scarmarbin.be)  
2. [www.biodiversity.aq](http://www.biodiversity.aq)

3. Author: Julian Gutt (AWI)  
4. [www.caml.aq](http://www.caml.aq)

1. Dutoitella from the Southern Ocean  
Author: Brandao, Simone Nunes

2. Calyx arcuarius  
Author: Stefano Schiaparelli



## LOOKING AHEAD

The original SCAR-MarBIN network focused on the marine life in Antarctica; the new ANTABIF network will build on the success of SCAR-MarBIN and ensure its continuation by creating an overarching network that will give access to data from both the marine and the terrestrial realms, thanks to a close collaboration with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), which is adding terrestrial data systems.

In the cooperative spirit of the Antarctic Treaty, our goals in the near future will be to optimize the data flow the SCAR community of experts offers towards wide-scale initiatives such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS), the Polar Information Commons (PIC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). By doing so, the specificities of the Antarctic research community will be taken into account in future global conservation processes.

## FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

Since their creation, SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF have been managed in partnership with national and international institutions, including the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO), the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML), the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

1. Assortment of benthic species in the Southern Ocean  
Author: Julian Gutt ()

## BUDGET 2011-2015 (EUR)

To reach maximum efficiency and be synchronized with ongoing SCAR science programs, we hope to obtain reliable sources of funding for the networks over the next five years via a system of international contributors from the public and private sectors. The table below gives an estimate of the budget required to maintain and develop the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF networks. The networks have two full-time employees (one project manager and one IT specialist), both of whom work out of the Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

We are looking to maintain the basic operation of the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF networks over the next five years at a level of approximately €250,000 per year.

The budget below details the funding needs for the networks over the next five years, including the development of high-visibility projects such as the Antarctic Field Guides, the Biogeography Atlas of the Southern Ocean, or requests for digitization or data rescue. The budget also takes into account subcontracting, which is needed in some cases to expedite technical developments.

Partnership/Sponsorship opportunities include the possibility to fund the maintenance of the networks, and/or specific projects.

BUDGET PROJECTION 2011 - 2015 (IN EUROS)						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL (2011-2015)
Personnel	€160.000	€168.000	€176.000	€185.000	€194.000	€883.000
Operational Costs	€20.000	€20.000	€20.000	€20.000	€20.000	€100.000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>€180.000</b>	<b>€188.000</b>	<b>€196.000</b>	<b>€205.000</b>	<b>€214.000</b>	<b>€983.000</b>
Special Projects (ongoing)	€20.000	€20.000	€20.000	€20.000	€20.000	€100.000
Special Projects (potential)	€30.000	€30.000	€30.000	€30.000	€30.000	€150.000
Subcontracting	€10.000	€10.000	€10.000	€10.000	€10.000	€50.000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>€60.000</b>	<b>€60.000</b>	<b>€60.000</b>	<b>€60.000</b>	<b>€60.000</b>	<b>€300.000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€240.000</b>	<b>€248.000</b>	<b>€256.000</b>	<b>€265.000</b>	<b>€274.000</b>	<b>€1.283.000</b>



# SPONSORING THE SCAR-MARBIN AND ANTABIF NETWORKS

The information networks are live, dynamic and interactive, which makes it possible for your organization to gain exclusive exposure to a wide spectrum of influential players in the polar biodiversity community. Sponsors will also have an exceptional opportunity to network with academics, policymakers, NGOs, and other major stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors.

## ASSOCIATIONAL BENEFITS

Sponsoring the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF networks will identify your organization as a leader in developing innovative solutions for sustaining a worldwide network of specialists, institutes and databases recognized as an important IPY legacy. Your organization will receive positive brand association and increased visibility as a supporter of these community-driven tools, and develop global recognition as a pioneer in polar biodiversity issues, a topic that will be a major issue in global discourse over the coming decades.

## RECOGNITION

Recognized as a major source of biodiversity data by the scientific, conservation and management communities, SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF have been attracting greater attention across multiple channels. Becoming a sponsor or partner is an excellent opportunity to gain global public recognition as a leader on polar biodiversity issues as well as a catalyst helping to maintain the networks as a tool to sustain Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science.

# SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

### MAIN PARTNER

Institutions, private foundations, companies or NGOs that provide financial or in-kind support of €25,000 or above will attain “Main Partner” status. Partnership benefits include:

- ▲ The opportunity to help us maintain and develop the networks as well as organize focused, explorative workshops, or carry out special projects.
- ▲ The opportunity to take part in the functioning of the networks, for example in the proposal or evaluation of new projects (digitization, targeted data products,). If they wish, Main Partners will have the opportunity to join ad hoc evaluation panels.
- ▲ Main Partners’ logos will be prominently featured on the footer of the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF websites along with links to their websites. Their logos will also be prominently featured on reports, flyers and related communication products the networks release.
- ▲ Main Partners can communicate their support for the networks or specific projects with the Press and on their websites using multimedia material (pictures and videos) available from the networks (with approval from SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF).
- ▲ Main Partners will be invited to participate in two relevant international conferences per year

### PARTNER

Institutions, private foundations, companies or NGOs providing financial or in-kind support of €10,000 or more will attain “Partner” status. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- ▲ The opportunity to help us maintain and develop the networks as well as organize focused, explorative workshops, or carry out specific projects.
- ▲ Partners’ logos will be featured on the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF websites along with links to their websites. Sponsors’ logos will also appear on reports, flyers and related communication products the networks release.
- ▲ Partners can communicate their support for the networks or specific projects with the Press and on their websites.
- ▲ Partners will be invited to participate in one relevant international conference per year.

### Associate Member

Institutions, private foundations, companies or NGOs providing financial or in-kind support of €5,000 or more will attain “Associate Member” status. Opportunities include:

- ▲ The opportunity to help us develop special projects.
- ▲ Associate Members’ logos will appear on the SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF websites along with links to their websites as well as in selected publications.
- ▲ Associate Members can communicate their support for the networks or specific projects with the press and on their websites.

### FRIEND

Organizations or individuals providing advice and in-kind support to a specific event or project will have “Friend” status. Friends will be recognized in the acknowledgements of selected network publications.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Dr Bruno Danis**  
Scientific Coordinator  
SCAR-MarBIN and ANTABIF  
Belgian Biodiversity Platform  
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences  
rue Vautier 29, B - 1000 Brussels Belgium  
tel. +32 (0)2 627 43 18  
bruno.danis@scarmarbin.be  
www.scarmarbin.be  
www.biodiversity.aq



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## MAIN PARTNERS



## PARTNERS



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



## FRIENDS

