



ANTABIF.BE
BIODIVERSITY.AQ

ANTABIF - mashup report

March 2011

Background

The new ANTABIF (Antarctic Biodiversity Information Facility), funded by the Belgian Science Policy Office (www.belspo.be), is building a dedicated Antarctic biodiversity data portal giving access to a distributed network of contributing database, according to the principles of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (www.gbif.org), in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

This is the first issue of the new tri-monthly “mashup” reports, intended to give access to the latest news about ANTABIF, including the latest datasets published, advancements of the websites, community activities, communication, and ongoing developments. These reports will be sent in priority to the members of the [ANTABIF ISC](#), and will be posted in the [shared repository](#).

The present issue focuses on the period Jan to Mar 2011.

Websites

Background

The ANTABIF website is available on two urls: www.biodiversity.aq and www.antabif.be.

Sub-domains include the following sites:

<http://www.biodiversity.aq>: up since May 2010, 360 visits, shopwindow, semi-static website, providing basic information on ANTABIF. Will be replaced by a professionally-designed webportal upon launch of data portal.

<http://share.biodiversity.aq> : filesharing webspace, offers free and open access to original datasets, documents, code, GIS layers and more.

<http://afg.biodiversity.aq>: up since December 2010, not yet officially launched, interactive Antarctic Field Guides

News

ANTABIF website revamped: While the data system architecture is being finalized, the ANTABIF website has been slightly revamped, including basic information, and access to data and services through a series of links. The user can access marine biodiversity data (through the SCAR-MarBIN webportal), terrestrial biodiversity data (through the AADC biodiversity database), the SCAR Antarctic field guides, ANTABIF shared repository, and the ANTABIF metadata catalogue.

[SCAR-MarBIN enjoys a facelift!](#) We've made some light changes to the SCAR-MarBIN website: simplified navigation, update of RSS streams, more direct access to data, tools and services. Feedback welcome!

New datasets

Background

ANTABIF will build its datamass on the merged content of SCAR-MarBIN (marine) and AADC-managed EBA (terrestrial and limnetic). Data access and exploration will happen through a dedicated data portal.

News

Dataset update: Bioconstructors, British Antarctic Survey: Yet another version of BAS bioconstructors dataset: porting the data mass to ca 30k records.

[New dataset: SOMBASE - Pycnogonids](#): This dataset was compiled by Huw Griffiths, from the British Antarctic Survey. It includes data on Pycnogonids of the Southern Ocean and other Southern Hemisphere regions. View and download the data [here](#)

[CAML BiPolar Macroscope summary layers available](#): The CAML BiPolar Macroscope summary layers are available from our [shared folder](#). These layers are bipolar climatological and other summary layers that may be useful for purposes such as general modelling, regionalisation, and exploratory analyses. All of the layers in this collection are provided on a consistent 0.1-degree grid, which covers -180 to 180E, 80S to 45S (Antarctic) and 45N to 90N (Arctic). Detailed metadata is forthcoming, but refer to the metadata_temporary.doc file in the meantime.

[New dataset: Antarctic Octopus](#): A new dataset on [Southern Ocean Octopods](#) has been added to our data system. It contains occurrence records for Southern Ocean Octopoda, as provided by Louise Allcock.

[New dataset: cnidaria compilation by Dhugal Lindsay \(JAMSTEC\)](#): This dataset is a compilation of occurrence data for Cnidaria extracted from the literature by Dhugal Lindsay. You can view them on a [map](#). The data was extracted from the following papers: Pags F. & P. R. Pugh 2002. Fuseudoxid: the elusive sexual stage of the calycophoran siphonophore *Crystallophyes amygdalina* (Clausophyidae: Crystallophyinae). *Acta Zoologica* 83(4): 329-336. Pugh P.R. & Pags F. 1995. *Is Lensia reticulata* a diphyine species (Siphonophorae, Calycophora, Diphyidae)? A re-description. *Scientia Marina* 59(2): 181-192. Pags F. & Kurbjewit F. 1994. Vertical distribution and abundance of mesoplanktonic medusae and siphonophores from the Weddell Sea, Antarctica. *Polar Biology* 14(4): 243-251. Pags F. & Bouillon J. 1997. A redescription of *Paragotoea bathybia* Kramp 1942 (Hydroidomedusae: Corymorphidae) with a new diagnosis for the genus *Paragotoea*. *Scientia Marina* 61(4): 487-493.

New Southern Ocean Isopods dataset available: Isopods are an important component of the Antarctic benthos and can be rich across depth and regions. A lack of dispersive larval stages makes them putatively very vulnerable to climate-induced changes and thus potentially an ideal model taxon for monitoring faunal shifts. This data base is designed to collate distribution records of isopod crustaceans across the Southern Ocean and adjacent seas (S of 30°S) from the intertidal to hadal depths. Based on historical literature and benthic surveys the data base holds information nearly 900 isopod species in > 200 genera and 37 families from more than 3000 locations. More data are currently being added. Usually, UTM coordinates were entered (in meters); if not specified, stations were only included if a precise location (e.g. False Bay) was given. This data set presents one of the biggest isopod datasets for the Southern hemisphere (Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic, adjacent oceans S of 30°S: S.-Atlantic, S- Pacific, S. India). It consists of c. 6200 presence records (absence is not collected), collected from 1881 till 2010. The spatial coverage includes most of the Antarctica. The actual database is a relational MS Access table, and the data exist in an OBIS/Darwin Core scheme of its columns. Find out more on this dataset [here](#)

Community - Communication

Background

ANTABIF communicates through various channels, including direct communication, participation in meetings, interviews, social networks, blogging and micro-blogging. A few relevant links include:

blog: <http://antarcticbiodiversity.blogspot.com/>

facebook group: biodiversity.aq, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=203309517162>

twitter: username: @biodiversityaq

News

Interview on the IPF website: In this interview, the ANTABIF project manager talks about SCAR-MarBIN, a new related project called ANTABIF (Antarctic Biodiversity Information Facility), and the importance of keeping these networks running. Thanks to the International Polar Foundation!

[Presentation at the Biosystematics conference available](#): The ANTABIF coordinator gave a talks on Antarctic biodiversity information networks at the [Biosystematics](#) conference, in Berlin. You can visualize or download the presentation [here](#). The presentation is under a [CC0](#) waiver.

[ANTABIF and SCAR-MarBIN sponsorship brochure available](#): Want to become a partner for the Antarctic biodiversity information networks? Thanks to the help from the [International Polar Foundation](#), a sponsorship brochure is now ready for [download](#) and distribution. The brochure includes background information on the achievements of [SCAR-MarBIN](#) and [ANTABIF](#) and give details about the different levels at which your organization can get involved. The brochure will be part of a package that will be circulated to request financial contributions to maintain and develop the networks in a fast-evolving environment.

ANTABIF Group added to the GBIF community site: A new ANTABIF group has been added to the GBIF community site, to share our experience and tools for the upcoming Antarctic Biodiversity data portal. Pay us a visit!

[50 Million Records downloaded](#): We've just reached another milestone, with 50 million records downloaded from the SCAR-MarBIN webportal since 2007. The [Southern Ocean Continuous Plankton Recorder \(SO-CPR\) Survey and SCAR Action Group on CPR Research](#) totals an impressive 8,612,190 downloads!