

...Under the Initiative of LEB , ZIAF
and Goethe University-Frankfurt



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Capacity Building in tropical Mycology and Plant-Fungi interactions to face food insecurity in West Africa

Summer School 2: Identification and Ecology of Tropical African Fungi
from the field to the laboratory
University of Parakou, July 23rd to August 14th 2016

Context

The remarkable diversity of West African fungi strongly contrasts with the scarcity of native mycologists, insufficient infrastructures and little documentation of native fungi. The lack of national mycological capacities led to (1) an unfortunate and poor valorization of wild useful fungi, (2) the bad management of plant/crop pathogenic fungi, (3) the absence of domestication policies and (4) inadequate post-harvest control of infectious fungi. Still, fungi play an important role in the life of millions of people in West Africa in addition to the essential role they assume in woodlands functioning and regeneration. In the present project, scientists from Germany and West Africa merge their effort and know-how in order to secure and promote a north-south transfer but also a south-south exchange of mycological knowledge including plant-fungi interactions.

Objectives

Through a series of three summer schools (2015 to 2017), we expect to train West African and German students on various mycological aspects notably on taxonomy, distribution, ecological and economical significance of parasitic and mycorrhizal fungi in the tropics.

Training schedules and scenario

Target groups

For the 2016 edition, we will select German, West and Central African students and junior scientists in the field of forest ecology, botany, mycology, biodiversity measure and conservation and Agronomy. We will give priority to PhD students who are more likely to perpetuate mycological research and teaching at their home institution. A total of 25 students will be selected for the 2016 summer school. Interested participants are invited to extend their stay at the Laboratory of Ecology, Botany and Plant Biology (LEB, UP, Benin) in order to perform mycological activities they can not complete at their home institution.

Application procedure:

Deadline: Sunday, 15th May 2016

Send a motivation letter plus one page CV to:

Dr. Nourou S. YOROU & Dr. Honoré BIAOU

Laboratory of Ecology, Botany and Plant Biology (LEB), Faculty of Agronomy, University of Parakou.

Email. Dr. NS YOROU, n.s.yorou@gmail.com

Email Dr. Honoré BIAOU, hbiaou@gmail.com

A course certificate equivalent to 5 Credit Points will be delivered to each participant. The certificate is co-signed by the University of Parakou and the University of Frankfurt

Coaching team

Expert mycologists and botanists from Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany) and from the University of Parakou (Benin), with a worldwide reputation in tropical mycology, including Prof. Dr. Meike Piepenbring, Dr. Ralph Mangelsdorff and Dr. Nourou S. Yorou .

Course venue

University of Parakou, Benin, West Africa

The course is scheduled in three phases

First phase : 25th to 29th July, Updates in general mycology. The aim is to bring all participants in the same level of understanding about general mycology. All fungal and fungi-like organisms will be addressed.

Second phase: July 30th to August 05th, forest visits and field demonstrations in the mornings + anatomo-morphological and ecological characterisation during afternoons.

Third phase: August 8th to August 12th. Laboratory works at the university of Parakou. Anatomical characterisation + identification + literature search on sampled taxa.

Full support to the selected participants. This course is a unique one not to miss: Consisting in a full mycological package. All fungal and fungi-like organisms will be covered along with their significance in agriculture. Field demonstrations and laboratory works will be supported by oral talks.