

Taxonomy and the Global Taxonomy Initiative

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What is taxonomy?



Taxonomy = Science

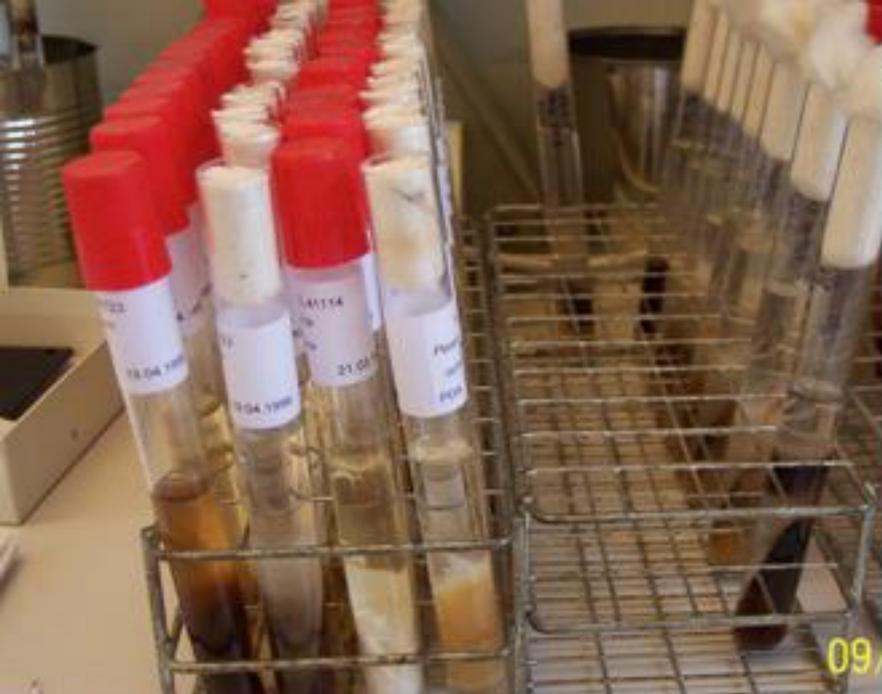
Taxonomy detects, describes, names and, through the application of the theory of evolution, classifies all organisms.

How does taxonomy work?



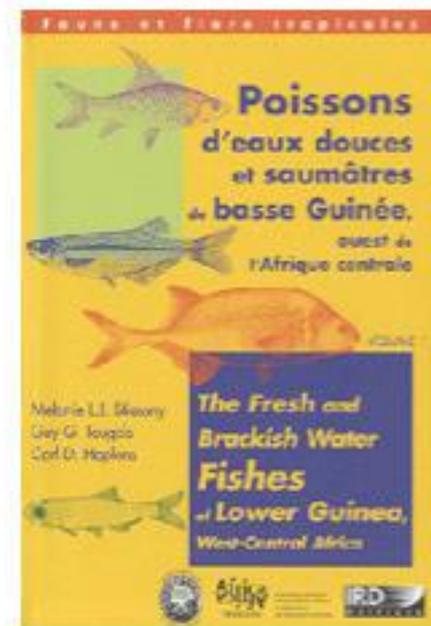
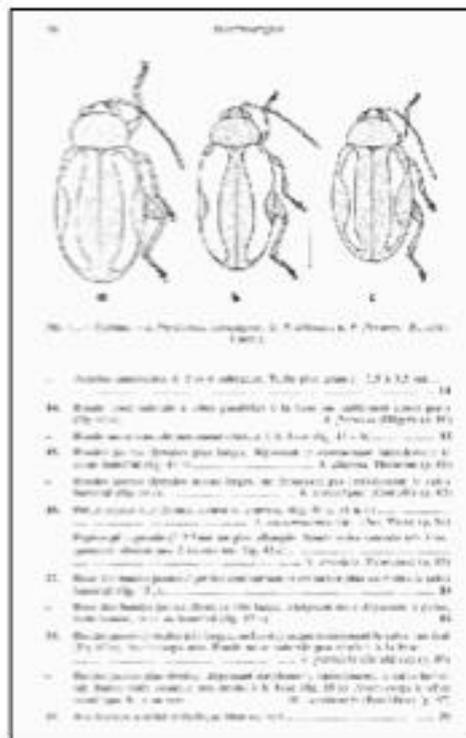


Detection





Identification



TAXONOMY

Delivers

SCIENTIFIC NAMES

& stores these names in a

CLASSIFICATION

that allows

UNDERSTANDING.

So what's the problem?



The taxonomic impediment

Knowledge gaps in the taxonomic system (e.g. taxon bias, concepts, characters,...)



Acute shortage of well-trained collectors, curators & taxonomists



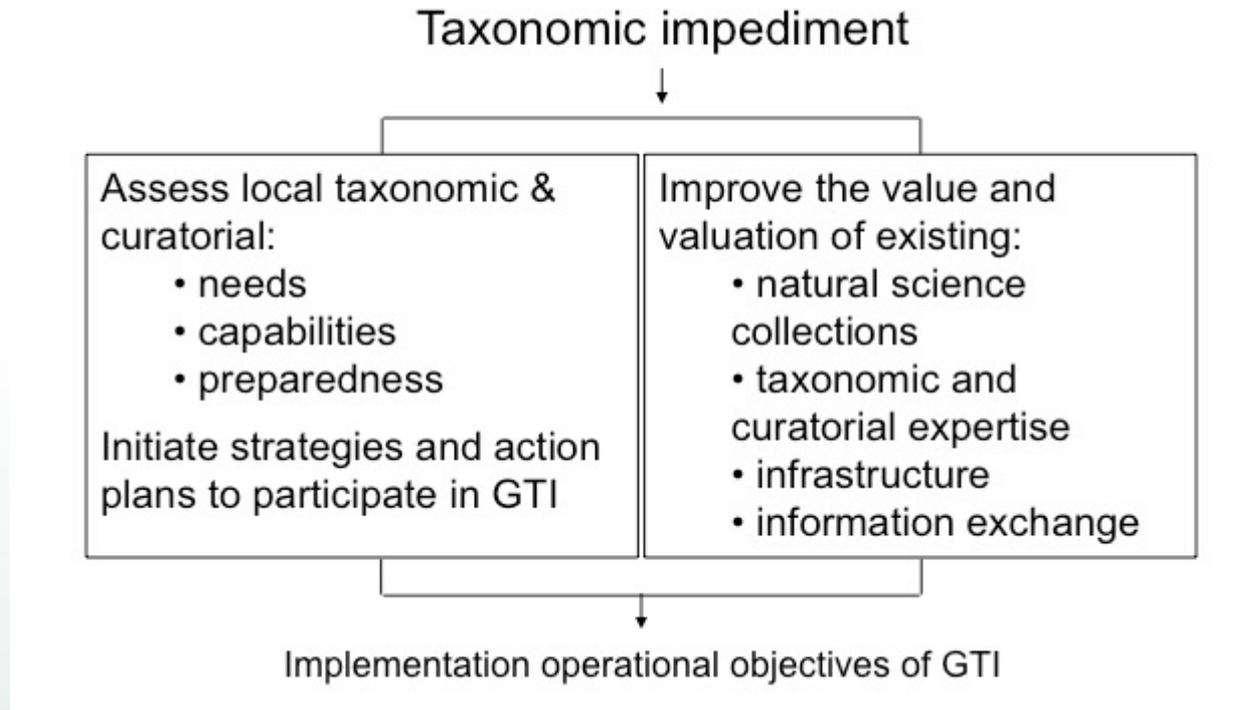
Limited or outdated infrastructure



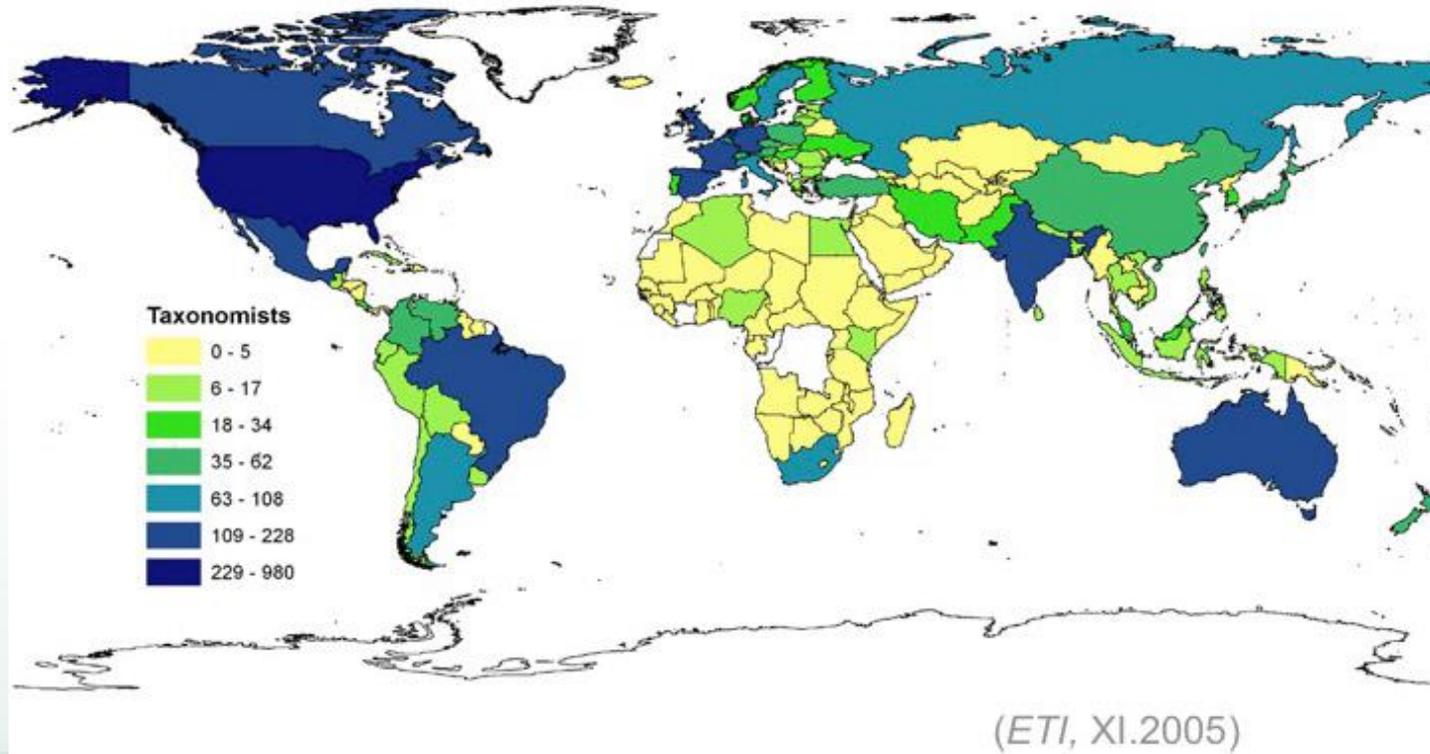
Limited access to collections and collection-based information



Reduce the taxonomic impediment



Lack of expertise in the South



Countries accounting for **80%** of
the named species have only **6%**
of the world's specialists

(cf. Wilson, 2003)

What is the solution?

At a global level:



Convention on
Biological Diversity



At a national level:



Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative

In Belgium:

- 2001: The RBINS is designated as the Belgian National Focal Point to the GTI
- 2003: The RBINS and the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) sign a 5 year specific convention
- The DGD–RBINS specific Convention is renewed in 2008 and in 2014 for 10 years.

To what aim?

Arm the developing countries with sufficient taxonomic capacities to enable them to inventor, monitor and sustainably manage their biodiversity and ecosystem services.

For whom?

Eligible countries for Belgian support
from 2016 onwards:

Benin – Burkina Faso – Burundi – DR Congo
– Guinea – Mali – Morocco – Mozambique –
Niger – Palestinian Territory – Rwanda –
Senegal – Tanzania & Uganda.

Needs-driven, expertise & collection dependant **CAPACITY BUILDING**

TAXONOMIC TRAINING *IN SITU*



Needs-driven, expertise & collection dependant **CAPACITY BUILDING**

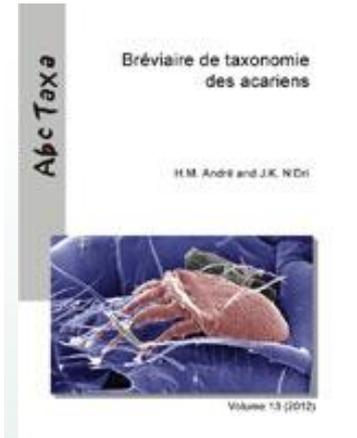
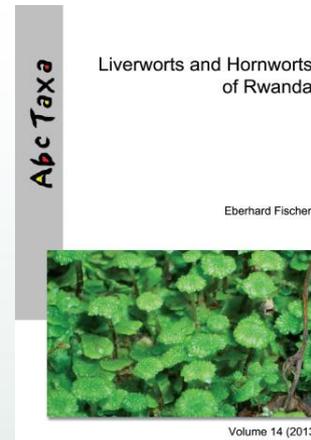
SPECIFIC TAXONOMIC TRAINING IN BELGIUM



Needs-driven, expertise & collection dependant CAPACITY BUILDING

LIBERATION OF TAXONOMIC KNOW-HOW

Abc Taxa



Needs-driven, expertise & collection dependant
CAPACITY BUILDING

TAXONOMIC TRAINING *IN SITU*

TAXONOMIC TRAINING IN BELGIUM

LIBERATION OF TAXONOMIC KNOW-HOW

GENERATION OF TAXONOMIC DATA



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD

To conclude (1 / 2)

- Human action deeply affects the planet and causes heavy biodiversity loss.
- This loss endangers ecosystem services and thus biodiversity-based livelihoods...

To conclude (2 / 2)

- Taxonomy detects, describes, identifies and classifies organisms and thus allows predictions that lead to sustainable management of biodiversity and sustainable development.
- The Belgian GTI is committed to building taxonomic capacity in the South.

Thanks for your attention!

Visit our website

<http://www.taxonomy.be/>