SYMPOSIUM 15: MARSHALING EXISTING BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT TROPICAL BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Bonito, 20th June 2012 (Wednesday)

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Tropical biodiversity and conservation have some very immediate objectives, centered on avoiding massive biodiversity loss over coming decades. Hundreds of years of biodiversity science have accumulated considerable information, yet this information is not readily available to science and conservation. Recent initiatives have begun to remedy this problem, with distributed biodiversity databases now providing improved access to primary biodiversity data in massive quantities. In this symposium, we gather experts and leaders in the field to discuss ways forward. We assemble biodiversity informatics efforts to provide base-level, research-grade, efficient and effective access to biodiversity data. and experts to provide insights into key 'next steps' in the future of this field. The presentations will cover the analysis and interpretation of data, addressing issues on how data initiatives can effectively interact with data users to maximize the efficacy of the initiatives. The symposium goal is to: (1) present the emerging field of biodiversity informatics to the ATBC community; (2) provide a rich interchange of ideas and interlinking of efforts between data providers and data users in biodiversity informatics; and, (3) develop a paper among the symposium participants to be offered as a "Commentary" for publication in Biotropica.

TALKS (Room Kadiwéu 1, 16h30-18h00)

16h30-16h45 (S15.OC.01) **The value of sharing primary, research-grade biodiversity data: applications to biodiversity inventories, understanding species' distributions, and effects of environmental change.** *A. Townsend Peterson*

16h45-17h00 (S15.OC.02) **Advances promoted by the INCT-virtual herbarium of Brazilian plants and fungi.** *Leonor Costa Maia*

17h00-17h15 (S15.OC.03) **E-infrastructure to support biodiversity research in Brazil.** *Dora Ann Lange Canhos*

17h15-17h30 (S15.OC.04) ***Lacunas*: a new tool to help identify taxonomic and distribution data gaps of plants.** *Mariane Silveira de Sousa Baena*

17h30-17h45 (S15.OC.05) **Taking biodiversity informatics into the cloud.** *John Wieczorek*

17h45-18h00 (S15.OC.06) **EU-Brazil open data and cloud computing e-infrastructure to support the analysis and conservation of biodiversity.** *Vanderlei Perez Canhos*

POSTERS (Karuha Space, 15h30-16h30)

S15.P.01. **The importance of humans to data management.** *Flávia Pezzini*

S15.P.02. **Exsiccatae: an image service to e-taxonomy.** *Letícia Couto Garcia*

S15.P.04. **The National Institute of Science and Technology virtual herbarium of plants and fungi of Brazil.** *Leonor Costa Maia*