

# **The workshop on the taxonomy and data management for the International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY)**

Towards collaborating  
with taxonomists and other biodiversity programs

**August 30 – September 1, 2001**  
**The National Science Museum, Shinjuku, Tokyo**

This workshop is the last of a series of preparatory meetings/workshops to implement the IBOY, and focuses on handling specimens and primary data for successive taxonomic studies to grow IBOY in the context of ongoing global projects such as Global Biodiversity Information facility (GBIF) and Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI). The workshop also aims at promoting collaboration with existing regional and international biodiversity programs, with which IBOY participants can share the interests.

## **The goals of the workshops are:**

1. Setting standard procedures of specimen preservation for each of the representative taxa so that taxonomists can study specimens in a sound condition
2. Establishing standard procedures for collectors (i.e. collaborators at each site) to sort specimens into appropriate taxonomic levels
3. Establishing IBOY protocols for the prompt creation of digital inventory and successive updates by collaborating with taxonomists followed by data repatriation.
4. Establishing effective specimen loan systems to distribute the specimens, that are housed at each collection site, to world taxonomic experts
5. Developing a data management/base system to organize an enormous amount of data for pattern analyses

## **Preliminary program**

The workshop will begin by introducing a model case where a field biodiversity observation is linked with specimen collection, effective storage, prompt primary sorting and digital inventory systems. Then, several taxonomists will be invited to suggest ideal collaboration between ecologists and taxonomists through the IBOY activity, particularly on the procedures to treat specimens after sampling. Participants will then split for taxonomic groups to produce protocols of specimen preservation, or a group to discuss protocols of specimen-loan and prompt development of digital inventory systems.

Day 1: Model case presented (forest, freshwater and coastal sites)  
Ideal preservation methods (example of termite specimens)  
Collaboration between taxonomists and ecologists  
Procedures to process data set

Day 2: Group meeting to produce protocols of specimen sorting, preservation, distribution and loan

Day 3: Group meeting continued

## **Collaboration**

This workshop will be co-organized with DIWPA, Species 2000 Asia Oceania, the Union of Japanese Society for Systematic Zoology, GaiaList 21 and the National Science Museum. In order to achieve successful biodiversity observation, close collaboration among taxonomists, systematists, ecologists and musea be established.

*Species 2000* is an international federation of database organizations working closely with users, taxonomists and sponsoring agencies. The goal of Species 2000 is to provide a uniform and validated quality index of names of all known species through the Internet. Visit: <http://www->

[sp2000ao.nies.go.jp](http://sp2000ao.nies.go.jp) Contact: *Dr. Junko Shimura*, Laboratory for Intellectual Fundamentals for Environmental Studies, National Institute for Environmental Studies, 16-2 Onogawa, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8506, Japan

**GaiaList 21** is an international project to record all living creatures present on the earth and to store their gametes and other cells along with genome DNA. The project is being coordinated by the GaiaList 21 Committee of the Zoological Society of Japan. Contact: *Dr. Haruo Katakura*, Division of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-0810, Japan

## **INTERNATIONAL FIELD BIOLOGY COURSE 2001 PASOH FOREST RESERVE, MALAYSIA**

29 August – 30 September, 2001

### **Introduction**

This field course will provide an introduction to different aspects of the study of ecology in a tropical forest, from plant and insect sampling to modern chemical and molecular techniques, and give students hands-on experience in a variety of forest habitats found throughout the region. The course will also provide training in standardised biodiversity inventory methods. Students from Southeast Asia and around the world will participate and course instructors will be drawn from the large body of experienced scientists in FRIM([www.frim.gov.my](http://www.frim.gov.my)), CTFS ([www.ctfs.si.edu](http://www.ctfs.si.edu)), and DIWPA ([ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp](http://ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp)).

The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) will host an introductory field course in tropical ecology and biodiversity inventory at the Pasoh Forest Reserve, one of few remaining tracts of lowland rain forest in Peninsular Malaysia. Excursions to other forest types, such as hill forests and mangroves, will also be conducted. The course is being organised in collaboration with the Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS, Smithsonian Institute) and Diversitas in Western Pacific and Asia (DIWPA).

The course is open to graduate entry level students (master's or 1<sup>st</sup> year doctorate course) or equivalent level government and NGO scientists. Priority will be placed on applicants who intend to follow the course with research projects in the Southeast Asian region and a broad geographical representation will be sought. There will be approximately 25 students.

The cost of the course is \$US1200 per student (not including international flights) and students should find financial support from their own institutions or funding sources. Students will be provided with a letter of acceptance to assist them in obtaining financial support. The course will provide some sponsorship for students from the Southeast Asian region who would otherwise be unable to attend.

### **PROGRAM**

29 Aug. 01: Introduction to FRIM

30 Aug. 01 – 06 Sept. 01:

Lecture and practical course at Pasoh Forest Reserve. Topics will include: plant and insect identification, canopy biology, plant - animals interactions, birds and mammals, plant physiology, chemical ecology, soil and soil animals, forest streams, and molecular ecology.

04 Sept. 01: Oil palm estate and rubber tree plantation excursions

07 Sept. 01: Hill and secondary forest excursions

08 Sept. 01 – 20 Sept. 01:

Inventory census: tree-plot establishment, insect trapping and sorting, vertebrate recording, data analysis and report writing.

21 Sept. 01: Peat swamp forest excursion

22 Sept. 01: Mangrove forest excursion

23 Sept. 01 – 27 Sept. 01

Student research projects

28 Sept. 01: FRIM, preparation for presentations

29 Sept. 01: Group presentations, Course closing

01 Oct. 01 – 03 Oct. 01 ICFFPR 2001

Students interesting in applying to participate in the course should send a Curriculum Vitae and Cover Letter to one of the following before 31<sup>st</sup> May 01:

i. Dr Supardi Noor,

Forestry Environment Division, FRIM,  
Kepong 52109, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel: +603- 62702116 Fax: +603- 62765531  
[supardi@frim.gov.my](mailto:supardi@frim.gov.my)

**ii. Dr. I Fang Sun,**  
CTFS Asia Office, NIE7-03-05,  
Natural Science Academic Group,  
National Institute of Education, NTU, 1 Nanyang Walk, Singapore 637616  
Tel: + 65-790-3881 Fax: + 65-896-9432  
[ifsun@hotmail.com](mailto:ifsun@hotmail.com)

**iii. Dr. Rhett D. Harrison,**  
DIWPA, Center for Ecological Research,  
Kyoto University, Kamitankami Hirano-cho,  
Otsu 520-2113 Japan  
Tel: +81-77-549-8200 Fax: +81-77-549-8201  
[rhett@ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:rhett@ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

Those applying for financial support for the course and international flights please indicate this in the cover letter. Only limited support is available. Candidates may receive full or partial funding at the discretion of the organisers.

Note: All students attending the course will be required to obtain full overseas medical cover. Students will also be asked to sign an accident disclaimer form before starting the course.

Further information can be obtained from: <http://www.frim.gov.my/100years/IFBC.htm>

## DIWPA OFFICE

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