BIODIVERSITY.AQ

Whether you are looking for information on Antarctic organisms for scientific, conservation or management purposes or even just out of interest, your main gateway to such data is www.biodiverisity.aq. This online data portal provides free and open access to Antarctic primary biodiversity data from a network of data-providers, but also has other interesting features.

WWW

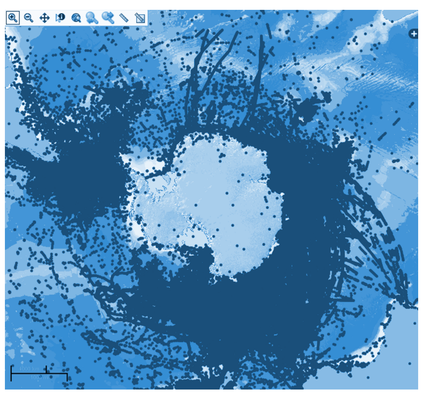
"[…] SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS FROM ANTARCTICA SHALL BE EXCHANGED AND MADE FREELY AVAILABLE."

ARTICLE III.1c OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

Biodiversity.aq is an open-access platform designed for the discovery and publication of baseline scientific data on Antarctic biodiversity. Its roots can be traced back to SCAR-MarBIN, the Marine Biodiversity Information Network of SCAR, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. It is the reginal nod for Global biodiversity initiatives such as the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) and the GlobalBiodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). Currently the Antarttic Biodiveristy Platform is fundend as one of the belgian federal contributions to the European Lifewatch project, That aims to build an e-infrastricture for the discovery and analysis of biodiversity data.
As such biodiversity.aq is further developping into a virtual labaratory. Within the structure of the www.biodiversity.aq portal there are specific subdomains that respond to various community needs.

IPT DATA RAmS WWW ATLAS mARS

DATA

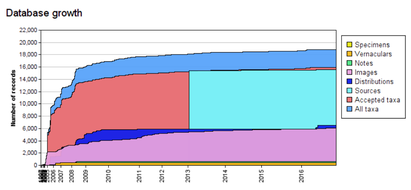


The biodiversity.aq network provides access to data from both the marine and the terrestrial realms. Data.biodiversity.aq not only provides access to data submitted through the IPT. It also aggregates Antarctic biodiversity data from various providers such as the Australian Antarctic Data Centre, OBIS and GBIF.
It also feeds this information back into global biodiversity initiatives such as the Ocean Biogeographic Information system (OBIS), which offers access to marine species datasets from around the world, and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). As such all publicly available Antarctic biodiversity data can be searched and retrieved through this data platform.
Currently you can search on taxonomy, metadata and environmental data. In the future we will continue to add additional data types to the search.

IPT

The Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT), created by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), allows its users to standardize, document and share their primary biodiversity data using a simple web interface.
An IPT dedicated to Antarctic biodiversity data can be found at ipt.biodiversity.aq offering a data hosting and publishing service to nations or research institutes that lack such facilities. This allows all researchers to easily publish their data and make it available to future generations of scientists.
Another new development is the event core and the extend measurement or fact by GBIF and OBIS. The event core will allow not only providing occurence data but also presence absence and densities to the system. The exended measuremnt or Fact permits adding various measurement to events and occurences.

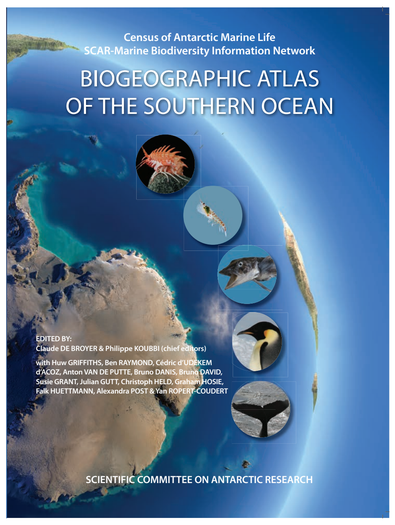
RAmS



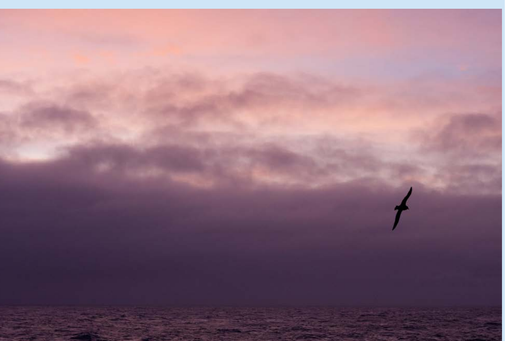
The Register of Antarctic Marine Species (RAMS) was set up in the framework of the International Polar year. The register is part of the World Register of Marine Species (WORMS) hosted by the Flemisch Istitute for the Sea (VLIZ). Currently we are working on extending the scope of the Register to all Antarctic organisms, both marine and terrestrial. This extension fits within the framework of the Marine Lifewatch e-Infrastructure project. The objective of the Register is to compile and manage an authoritative taxonomic list of species occurring in the Antarctic environment, for establishing a standard reference for Antarctic biodiversity research, conservation and sustainable management.
RAS is managed by an Editorial Board comprising an Executive Committee and associate Taxonomic Editors. These Taxonomic Editors are world experts on the taxonomy of their relevant taxa and are in charge of the content and quality control of data for their specific group.

ATLAS

At the end of five years of extensive biodiversity exploration and assessment by CAML (www.caml.aq) and the OBIS Antarctic Node (the SCAR Marine Biodiversity Information Network, www.scarmarbin.be), a new initiative, the multi-authored "CAML Biogeographic Atlas of the Southern Ocean", has been established under the aegis of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to provide an up-to-date synthesis of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic biogeographic knowledge and to make available a new comprehensive online resource for visualisation, analysis and modelling of species distribution.
It constitutes a major scientific output of CAML and SCAR-MarBIN as well as being a significant legacy of CoML and the International Polar Year to fulfill the needs of biogeographic information for science, conservation, monitoring and sustainable management of the changing Southern Ocean.



mARS



The microbial Antarctic Resource System is an information system dedicated to facilitate the discovery, access and analysis of molecular microbial diversity (meta)data generated by Antarctic researchers.
This includes the ability to upload information that describes (i) a research project that involves molecular microbial diversity sequence information (this goes into the Integrated Publishing Toolkit system that was developed by GBIF), (ii) communicating descriptive environmental information through a relatively newly accepted standard set of terms (Genomic Standards Consortium, MiMARKS), (iii) uploading links to DNA, RNA, proteomic or metabolomic data sets that have been deposited in public repositories, and the required metadata describing them.

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