

LifeWatch Data Grant 2014

Filling the gaps in the World Register of Marine species (WoRMS)

Copepoda (planktonic)

Final Report

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1. Data grant background

Through LifeWatch, The Flanders Marine Institute – host of the WoRMS database – had a budget available for 2014 to financially support editors to address gaps within their group. The application for updating the Copepoda was selected for a small grant. The aim of the grant project was to review all marine planktonic copepods in WoRMS (ca. 2900 species); in comparison with the OOB Banyuls Database and the existing literature (taxon match for higher and lower taxa; authority, year, etc.).

The work plan comprised: 1. Reviewing all marine planktonic copepods in WoRMS (ca. 2900 species) in comparison with the OBS Banyuls Database and literature (taxon match for higher and lower taxa; authority, year etc.). 2. Discuss anomalies between the two databases with WoRMS taxonomic editors for Copepoda (Chad Walter, Geoff Boxshall), agree on actions to be taken and carry those out [and with consulting WoRMS data managers] 3. Adding species & lit. sources [after consulting and approval with Chad Walter and Geoff Boxshall). 4. Update synonymies, check relevant literature, add sources and updates (after approval by Ch. Walter for each change, so he can modify the World of Copepods bibliographic website). 5. Add links to identification plates (currently more than 16000 Figs). 6. Update OBS Banyuls Databases with new described species present in WoRMS, absent in OBS Banyuls (if any). 7. Make a report of updates and remaining gaps (Excel Table).

2. Agreed deliverables (as specified in the Data Grant contract)

- Inclusion of new species and literature sources to WoRMS Copepoda
- Updates of synonymies, literature and sources
- Links to nearly 16.000 identification figures

3. Results of the project:

- List of the concrete completed actions (# added, # revised, # corrected, etc).

1. Added ca. 2900 links and/or notes. The links go directly to up-to-date species cards in the Marine Planktonic Copepods database (Banyuls/OOB/UPMC/CNRS), including identification plates, remarks, geographic distribution, ecological information and full reference list for the species.

2. Revised 181 species

3. Added 18 species

4. Spelling correction ca. 20 species (ongoing literature search)

5. Added synonymy sources

6. Added literature sources

4. (Brief) description of the work/methodology

For the updates of the WoRMS planktonic copepods the Banyuls database: "*Diversity and Geographic Distribution of Marine Planktonic Copepods (1883-2014)*" was used as a first reference. This site, created by the Laboratoire Arago (Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls sur Mer), is the result of more than 30 years of research and multiple collaborations at the international level, coordinated by Claude Razouls. All species, present in this database were compared with all planktonic species in WoRMS (taxon match tool). Differences were examined and updated. For each species in WoRMS a link was created to the concerning species card in the OOB database. Where relevant, synonymy sources, literature sources, environmental & taxonomy notes were added to the species cards in WoRMS. When literature sources could not solve uncertainties in taxonomy, classification or spelling, specialists were contacted for solutions. Where no consensus could be reached, notes were included in the WoRMS species cards. All copepod species were listed in excel files where actions, proposed actions and comments were exchanged with the WoRMS copepod editors (Chad Walter, Geoff Boxshall), who gave feedback and advice. These files are included as Annexes to this report.

5. Problems encountered and how it was solved (or expected solutions).

See description above.