



## Workshop: World Register of Parasites of Marine Species

### **Aims:**

- All participants will learn how to use the online editing interface and make progress in editing their taxon of responsibility during the focused hands-on editing sessions.
- An analysis of current gaps in taxonomic coverage of parasitic taxa in WoRMS.
- A prioritized strategy to fill those gaps.
- A prioritized list of potential new taxonomic and thematic editors; with an agreed process to engage the new editors exploiting direct personal contacts with workshop participants.
- A plan to prioritize the capture of marine parasitic taxa, but then to expand coverage to include freshwater taxa, creating a focus for data on all metazoan parasites of aquatic hosts.
- The creation of links between WoRMS and other relevant databases, for example the Australian ABRS database (AFD, Australian Faunal Directory) and, if possible, the Global Cestode database (developed by Janine Caira).
- A long-term and sustainable plan to maintain host and parasite data within WoRMS and to expand from our initial metazoan focus, to include important protistan taxa.
- To create a presentation of the progress, plans and results to be presented to the most active parasitological community at the next International Symposium of Fish Parasites (the highest profile international meetings for whole organism parasitologists).

### **Venue:**

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) – Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende  
24-25 April 2017

### **Confirmed participants:**

Robert Adlard, Stephen Atkinson, Geoff Boxshall, Christopher Boyko, Rod Bray, Janine Caira, Thomas Cribb, Scott Cutmore, David Gibson, David Solis González, Kerry Hadfield, Roman Kuchta, Shokoofeh Shamsi, Haylee Weaver, Christopher Whipps, Tingbao Yang, Nico Smit, Jimmy Bernot

<b>Monday 24 April 2017 (day 1)</b>
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**9h:**

- Welcome [Shokoofeh Shamsi & Malin Strand]
- Practical information [Leen Vandepitte]
- Round table [all]
- Short introduction by responsible organising editor [Shokoofeh Shamsi & Malin Strand]
- General introduction to WoRMS [WoRMS DMT]

**10h30: coffee / tea break (30')****11h:**

- WoRMS online editing [WoRMS DMT]
  - o How to edit online
  - o Overview of existing tools & functionalities

**12h30: sandwich lunch****13h30:**

- Hands-on online data entry [all]

**15h: coffee / tea break (30')****15h30:**

- Hands-on online data entry [all] (continued)

**17h30: End of day 1**

*Possibility for participants to stay later and continue working (18h)*

**19h30: dinner in Ostend, offered by LifeWatch (location + time TBC)**

**Tuesday 25 April 2017 (day 2)**
**9h: "Taxonomy" problems [Shokoofeh Shamsi]**

- Introductions by participants with short report (5 min) on their taxonomic groups highlighting how complete WoRMS is at present, what needs to be done, what are major obstacles to completing the database, what support is needed?

**10h30: coffee / tea break (30')**
**11h: How to deal with host data based on host-parasite spreadsheets brought by participants [Thomas Cribb]**

- What is the optimum way to include in host data?
- How should updates in host taxonomy dealt with (given that taxonomic concepts of host species' identity have often become more restricted and more tightly defined)?
- How to structure and present host fields in the database, as well as how to annotate dubious records.

**12h30: sandwich lunch**
**13h30: The way forward [Geoff Boxshall]**

- Recruitment of new editors to cover all major parasitic species; Agreement on how to develop the database to include metazoan parasites of freshwater host species, including the priorities of linking to other existing databases;
- Discussion of future plans to expand into protistan taxa, e.g. the haemogregarines of marine fishes and the gregarines of marine invertebrates. This discussion would include the identification of possible new taxonomic editors.

**15h: coffee / tea break (30')**
**15h30: The way forward (continued)**

- User priorities: consideration of data priorities for user groups, including institutions involved in national biodiversity assessments, as well as researches addressing more ecology-driven questions.
- Drafting the agreed outcome, including a timetable for drafting a manuscript on the biodiversity of marine species

**17h: Closure of workshop**

*Possibility for participants to stay later and continue working (18h)*

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**Some important practical information for the hands-on online data entry**

- Bring your own laptop
- Please can all participants bring with them a dataset? This can be a recent or not so recent publication (e.g. a revision or an excel file of associated data) which contains information to be entered to the World Register of Parasites of Marine Species. E.g. this can include a list of new (and/or old) taxa and may include information on synonymy, type material, distributions, diagnoses that can be added to the database. Training will be provided in how to carry out additions of new information and editing/updating of problematic data.