



Workshop: Ascidiacea World Database

This workshop will be the first time ever all Ascidiacea editors meet in person. This workshop will provide an invaluable opportunity for knowledge transfer from senior to more junior editors & vice versa. The workshop will discuss more efficient ways to coordinate the work of the editors, as well as between the editors and the WoRMS Data Management Team based at VLIZ. This workshop is seen as the start of a comprehensive revision of the contents of Ascidiacea World Database (AWD) and editors will learn how to use all the available online tools allowing a more efficient editing of the AWD content.

Goals:

- Improve data quality and availability of the AWD.
- Incorporate information from researcher's databases to the AWD.
- Learn more about the available on-line tools in WoRMS so the Ascidiacea editors can more easily incorporate taxonomic and geographic information into the AWD.
- Showcase the resources available in the AWD to both the scientific community and general public

Venue:

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) – Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende
15-17 February 2016

Confirmed participants:

Dr. Arjan Gittenberger
Gretchen Lambert
Dr. Marc Rius
Prof. Rosana Moreira da Rocha
Dr. Noa Shenkar
Prof. Billie J Swalla
Prof. Xavier Turon
Françoise Monniot

Monday 15 February 2016 (day 1)

12h: arrival & sandwich lunch

13h:

- Welcome participants [Rius]
- Practicalities [Dekeyzer]
- Round table – short introductions [all]

13h30:

- WoRMS – short introduction [WoRMS DMT]
- Summary of Ascidiacea work conducted to date (including web page format)
- Discuss way forward [Rius]
 - o e.g. need to assign the different Ascidian families to specific editors?
- Discuss taxonomic problems inherent to the group [all]
- Find ways to more quickly resolve problems [all]
 - o For example, the combined use of both morphological (taxonomic work) and genetic (e.g. Genbank) data often helps revealing cryptic diversity (e.g. *Ciona intestinalis* species complex).

15h: Coffee / tea break (30')

15h30:

- Revisit the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and discuss possibilities and/or limitations [Rocha]
- Discuss the proposed reduction in the number of families and synonymies to streamline the systematics of Ascidiacea and how AWD should deal with this. [Turon]

17h:

- Visit the Marine Station Ostend (MSO) [Jonas Mortelmans]
- Possibility to examine own samples for group discussion [Shenkar]

19h: Free evening

Tuesday 16 February (day 2)

9h:

- Hands-on training with the Data Management Team to optimize the editors' use of the online editing interface. This training will cover all existing and newly developed tools of WoRMS, including:
 - o direct pdf links to key studies that detail species descriptions and/or synonyms
 - o species photographs
 - o identification keys
 - o new geographic records, so global distribution maps remain up-to-date
 - o Create links between AWD and the World Register of Introduced Marine Species (WRIMS, www.marinespecies.org/introduced/)

10h30: coffee / tea break (30')

11h:

- Hands-on training continued

12h30: sandwich lunch

13h30:

- Discuss with the Data Management Team challenges and possibilities of incorporating the extensive information held in the Monniot & Monniot database into the AWD. [Monniot and Gittenberg]
- Examine ways to identify mismatches in authority and year between the Monniot & Monniot database and the AWD

14h:

- Introduction to Prof. Rocha's mediafire website (www.mediafire.com/?6zf33tvvdaecz) [Rocha]
- Discuss how the hundreds of taxonomic papers from this site could be directly linked to AWD
- Discuss how to incorporate these and other old papers (e.g.: http://www.tunicateportal.org/wordpress/?page_id=132).

15h: coffee / tea break (30')

15h30:

- Discuss how to incorporate Aniseed (<http://www.aniseed.cnrs.fr>, a database of ascidian genomics and development) into the AWD. Over the next months, 7-9 ascidian genomes and new developmental biology data will be released. [Swalla]
- Discuss how to incorporate particularities of the groups in the AWD [Lambert]
 - o AWD could include the distinction between species that have embryos with tails and the ones that are tailless
- Identify key libraries (mostly in Europe) where old articles can be scanned and become accessible via the AWD. Consider possible copyright issues. [all]

17h-17h30: end of day 2

19h: Dinner in Ostend, offered by LifeWatch

Wednesday 17 February (day 3)

9h:

- Summary of previous days
- Plan future work, set deadlines & assign responsibilities
- Identify target goals and specific directions to obtain a more accurate and complete database

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

- Discuss the best way to showcase the progress of this workshop, considering both scientific conferences and public media
 - o presenting the results of this workshop in the next Tunicate meeting, which will be held in summer 2017 in the United States of America,
 - o presenting the results of this workshop during the 4th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, which will be held in Montréal (Québec, Canada) from May 20-23, 2018.
 - o presenting the results of this workshop during the next International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions, which will be held in Argentina in October 2018.
 - o Billie Swalla and Gretchen Lambert will write a Tide Bites over the workshop. Tide Bites (http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/news_index.html) is a publication sent out once a month from Friday Harbor Laboratories to over 6,000 people, including scientists and the general public.
 - o News message on the Ascidian News web page <http://depts.washington.edu/ascidian/>
 - o Other ideas

12h30: sandwich lunch**Afternoon: closure of workshop & travel home**