



## Report from workshop: World Nemertea Database



### **Venue:**

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

### **Participants (all current editors of Nemertea):**

Alfonso Herrera Bachiller, Jon Norenburg, Malin Strand

WoRMS Data Management Team (DMT): Wim Decock, Stefanie Dekeyzer, Leen Vandepitte, Bart Vanhoorne, Sofie Vranken

The World Nemertea Database workshop was arranged back-to-back with the Worlds register of parasites of marine species-workshop. On Day 1 we shared the WoRMS introduction presentations and the first hands-on-session. On Day 2 we shared the last and concluding session with the Parasite workshop. Between the shared sessions the Nemertea workshop worked separately from the Parasite workshop. It was relevant and rewarding to discuss questions of general character in the combined sessions, and it was interesting for us in the Nemertea group to follow their conclusions and future plans since we have very different set-ups and prerequisites.

For the first time all Nemertea editors were gathered in one meeting. This was highly motivating and the time was very efficiently spent - much due to the DMT that were really informative and fast in their feedback and support during the working-sessions.

### **Aims (from the application/agenda) & Results:**

**Aim:** 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.

**Result:** We all learned a lot and we all made progress in editing. Thank you WoRMS DMT! During the hands-on-sessions we learned of technical functionalities which were very time-

saving (e.g. 'adding sources' / 'linking sources' – technicalities and the platform technique for separate portals).

**Aim: Updated database with species (app. 30) described latest 3 years.**

**Result:** We believe we are currently in phase with the descriptions published in the latest 3 years. When working with this, we identified some minor issues that were also attended to within the workshop (e.g. the latest suggestion on how to handle parts of the genus *Ototyphlonemertes*).

**Aim: Decisions on handling of certain taxonomic ranks in WoRMS (in specific: heteronemertea, palaeonemertea, pilidiophora, anopla and enopla).**

**Result:** From the compiled evidences on nemertean systematics published in the last 20 years we made a taxonomic proposal on action taken in the nemertean taxonomy. It is to be circled and discussed in the community and later published (separate document) in relevant journal (*Zootaxa* was suggested at the workshop).

**Aim: "Feeding type" to be filled for 50% of the species**

**Result:** This was done. Some minor corrections are yet to be done for a low number of species with symbiotic life styles. We learned in the workshop that we could add feeding type at higher hierarchical levels instead of filling in the bulk template form which was our first idea.

**Aim: Priority list for future work regarding:**

**a) "dead" names review**

There are many (hundreds of) names regarded as "taxon inquirenda" within the phylum. There is also a substantial number of names/species names in the class category "Nemertea incert sed". According to current knowledge this category should basically not be needed at all. We have started to review these lists firstly by updating the database with missing authorities and the year of description. With this approach we will in a first step shorten these lists, and in a second step we can plan new actions for the taxon names that remain. We asked the DMT for a list of taxa missing authorities as a starting point, and during the workshop we worked through around 40 taxon names. This work is to be continued (we set up a Google-document for this), and will be followed up in June 2017.

**b) occurrence map/occurrence data**

During the workshop we learned about the different possibilities to add data on type localities. Distribution maps functionalities were also presented by the DMT and we discussed the use of these functions for many of the vague, non-specific type localities. We have a suggestion for future adding of type localities that will be communicated and discussed within the nemertean community before action is taken. The follow-up for this is planned to January 2018.

**c) photos**

It was new to us (but as we learned, really old news for WoRMS) that the pictures from WoRMS upload in EOL after validation action is taken. After a brief discussion we

concluded that the WoRMS gallery is a suitable place for photos. A template will be used to bulk-import photos with safe species ID during 2017. We estimate that we in a first step will import photos of around 50 species (live specimens). After doing so, we will evaluate the interest for any larger efforts. Follow-up in January 2018.

#### **Additional actions**

Within the nemertean community we have, over the years, made several attempts to keep an open platform showing data and information for Nemertea. One very clear and stated need is a common platform that in a functional way can handle literature (especially older/rare/unavailable). We have already scanned larger parts of this literature, and to some extent we have been able to share this with temporary solutions such as Dropbox. During the workshop we came to realize that a separate Nemertea portal into WoRMS provide some technical solutions for these issues, eventhough not being a database for references, and we decided to launch a nemertean portal: World Nemertea Database (<http://www.marinespecies.org/nemertea/>). We are very happy to have this in place and we have a working plan scheduled out for developing this platform (separated document). Our aim is to have active use and contributions by the nemertean community in March 2018.



