



LifeWatch-WoRMS editor workshop: Improvements and perspectives of the World Porifera Database

The World Porifera Database (WPD), the Database of all Recent sponges ever described, is part of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), a global initiative that aims to register all the species of marine organisms.

In December 2004, the first sponge data were entered by Rob van Soest and by the data management of WoRMS. Since then, a group of volunteer taxonomic specialists joined the WPD and continued entering new data and improving the already existed ones. Since the beginning, the Aphia Platform of WoRMS was continuously being improved. This means that the Editors have to constantly learn how to use the new tools and this is not always obvious. Consequently, some Editors frequently have problems with the general functioning of the WoRMS tools. Therefore, after all these years of the WPD, it is time for a meeting of all the Editors to standardize their actions, to learn together the new available tools and to improve the database.

Aims:

The aims link directly with the above information:

- Learn the editors how to work with the online editing interface
- Focus on a number of gaps: original descriptions, distributions, images
- Quality control reference information
- Relationship with users
- Plan the future of the World Porifera Database

Venue:

- Online - Zoom

Somewhere before 7 June 2021

Time: at your own pace and convenience, walk through the online training course, which is an online substitute for the live talks and demonstrations. This includes a general introduction to VLIZ - host institute of WoRMS -, WoRMS itself and how WoRMS links to other initiatives. This online course also includes videos demonstrating the functionalities and tools of the database.

Location: online, Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA)

Practicalities:

- Link to course: <https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/view.php?id=702>
- Registration to get access to the course: see email with topic "LifeWatch-WoRMS editor workshop – Porifera – practicalities" where instructions to access the online course are given

Monday 7 June 2021 (day 1)

Time: 14h – 16h (16h30) Central European Summer Time (CEST = GMT+2 = UTC+2)

Location: online, Zoom, link & password received through email invite

Topics:

- Welcome [Leen Vandepitte]
- Practical information [Leen Vandepitte]
- Round table [all]
- Short introduction by responsible organising editor [Nicole Boury-Esnault]
 - Need for this workshop
 - Status of WPD
 - General problems
- Online training course – in summary
- General impressions and questions related to the online training course

Tuesday 8 June 2021 (day 2)

Time: 13h – 15h (15h30) Central European Summer Time (CEST = GMT+2 = UTC+2)

Location: online, Zoom, link & password received through email invite

Topics:

- Entering data and solving doubts: Taxonomy
 - Original reference
 - Original combination name
 - Type specimen

Wednesday 9 June 2021 (day 3)

Time: 13h – 15h (15h30) Central European Summer Time (CEST = GMT+2 = UTC+2)

Location: online, Zoom, link & password received through email invite

Topics:

- Entering data and solving doubts: Distribution
 - Check distribution and type-locality
- Database contents: adding images (sponges and skeleton-from types)
- Debugging data on WPD
 - Sources standardization

Thursday 10 June 2021 (day 4)

Time: 13h – 15h (15h30) Central European Summer Time (CEST = GMT+2 = UTC+2)

Location: online, Zoom, link & password received through email invite

Topics:

- Entering data and solving doubt: miscellaneous
- Relationship with users
 - Networking and social media
 - Bibliography requests

Friday 11 June 2021 (day 5)

Time: 11h – 13h Central European Summer Time (CEST = GMT+2 = UTC+2)

Location: online, Zoom, link & password received through email invite

Topics:

- The future of WPD. Priorities for the next 5 years
 - Editor group
 - Responsibilities within the group: any changes?
 - Do we need new editors?
 - How do we choose new editors?
 - General evaluation online editor workshop
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