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Claude Herbulot speaking at the official ceremony of the transfer of his collection to Munich, ZSM, June 24, 2000
(fragment of video presentation)

Evidemment, c'est avec une certaine tristesse, avec un peu de regret, que j'ai vu ma collection quitter mon petit appartement parisien. Mais, quand j'ai vu où elle arrivait, c'est une immense satisfaction que j'ai eue, qui a fait disparaître complètement les regrets desquels je vous ai parlé. Quand j'ai vu dans quelles conditions cette collection avait été transportée, avait été rangée, avec amour dirais-je, dans l'ordre que j'avais moi-même adopté, et tous ces soins qui lui ont déjà été donnés et qui ne manqueront pas de lui être donnés dans les années qui viennent – eh bien, à ce moment-là je dois dire que j'étais content et que j'oubliais les regrets […].

Obviously, I felt a certain sadness, some regret, when I watched my collection leave my little appartment in Paris. But when I saw where it arrived I was immensely satisfied, and that did completely away with the regrets I mentioned. Seeing under which circumstances my collection was transported, was ranged – with love, I would say – in the same order that I had myself adopted, and all the care that was spent on the collection and will be spent in the years to come – well, I must say, in that moment I was happy and I forgot any regret […].

Abstracts and brief versions of the talks of the Seminar Session

Taxonomic research: perspective from a research funding organisation

Pasi Sihvonen

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Pasi Sihvonen, Academy of Finland, P.O. Box 99, FI-00501 Finland;
e-mail: pasi.sihvonen@aka.fi

An overview of recent and ongoing taxonomy initiatives and research projects is given, emphasis being on the European and North American projects. It is hoped that the knowledge of recent and ongoing initiatives will enable better coordination and planning of future projects, and ultimately, to improve their chances to succeed in research funding competitions both at the national and European level. In Europe among the most visible projects are Creating a Taxonomic E-science (CATE), European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT), Swedish Taxonomy Initiative and SYNTHESYS, the last being an European Commission funded project allowing researchers access to museums and herbaria across Europe. In North America the National Science Foundation funds most of the basis taxonomic research through programs such as Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy (PEET), Assembling the Tree of Life (AToL), Revisionary Systematics (RevSyS) and Planetary Biodiversity Inventories (PBI), the last two of which concentrate on descriptive taxonomy. The barcoding initiative is among the visible projects in North America also. When the large scale funding programs of Europe and North America are compared, the latter are more focused on researcher training. In the presentation concrete examples are given how the research funding applications could be improved, particularly in the field of (web-based) taxonomy.

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