

LifeWatch-WoRMS Decapoda Editor Workshop Report

Date: 10-13 May 2022

Venue: VLIZ (Oostende)



Attendees:

Sammy De Grave (Oxford University Museum of Natural History, U.K.; reporter)
Shane Ahyong (Australian Museum, Australia)
Chris Boyko (Hofstra University, U.S.A)
Keith Crandall (George Washington University, U.S.A.)

Valentin de Mazancourt (Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, France)

Charles Fransen (Naturalis, The Netherlands)

Enrique Macpherson (Centre d'Estudis Avançats Blanes, Spain)

Peter Ng (Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, Singapore)

Gary Poore (Museums Victoria, Australia)

Sancia van der Meij (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands)

WoRMS Data Management Team:

Leen Vandepitte, Stefanie Dekeyzer, Wim Decock, Bart Vanhoorne, Khadjia Bouirig.

Introduction

The goal of the workshop was to work towards establishing a Global Species List of Decapoda, which not only will incorporate all the basic taxonomic information, but will also host all the literature records (incl. an extensive pdf library), document the distributions of the species, as well as list their ecological (depth, habitat, etc.) attributes in a uniform and hierarchical way.

Objectives

The objective of the workshop was, for the first time, to bring together the Decapoda editors with an overarching view to establish DecaNet, a Global Species List for decapod Crustacea. Additional targets for the workshop were 1) gap filling, specifically targeting taxa without original names or lacking type locality information, 2) establishing priorities for traits inclusion and 3) outlining the projected scientific output of DecaNet.

Activities

Day 1. Tuesday 10th May 2022

AM discussions centered around the workshop goals, an overview of legacy issues, as well as an overview of advanced editing and functionalities in Aphia by Stefanie (DMT)

PM discussion centered on designing the DecaNet website, as well as discussions on the target audience.

Throughout the day, several sessions were devoted to hands-on editing by the group.

Decisions were taken on DecaNet lead editing, editing rights for all editors, citation of the website, whilst various editors volunteered to lead on spreadsheets with legacy issues.

Day 2. Wednesday 11th May 2022

AM discussions centered around the definitions of freshwater and terrestriality to be used for Decapoda. Further, the various options to capture distribution data were discussed, based on an overview presented by Stefanie (DMT). The possibility of making a List of Available Names (LAN) was also discussed.

PM discussions centered around traits inclusion and prioritization.

Throughout the day, several sessions were devoted to hands-on editing by the group.

Decisions were taken on considering symbiosis related information as a trait priority, the production of a MS on freshwater and terrestriality across all groups, whilst the production of a LAN was postponed until database completion.

Day 3. Thursday 12th May 2022

AM discussions centered on the projected scientific output of DecaNet, as well as the proposal to include images for taxa.

PM was largely devoted to hands-on editing.

Decisions were made on the production of several manuscripts, their scope and topic.

Day 4. Friday 13th May 2022

AM discussions centered on the upcoming key to marine genera and how to capture some of the information on DecaNet, as well as the possibility of including fossil taxa. Additionally, a raucous discussion was had on a projected public engagement article on decapod factoids.

Decisions were made on incorporating some of the information on the DecaNet website. Inclusion of fossil taxa was deemed desirable, but of low priority.

The following concrete decisions were taken during the workshop:

- SDG to serve as co-ordinating editor
- Editing privileges for all all editors to be at Decapoda level
- Users asked to cite the GSL portal as DecaNet
- During the workshop, CB to lead on completing species names without linked references, GP to lead on genera listed without type species, SDG to lead on non editor checked notes, CF to lead on Palaemonidae, VM to lead on Atyidae, SA to lead on including larval polychelid names, SDG to complete missing lobster names
- Revert long citation to short citation format
- List both incorrect original spellings (hyphen etc.) and ICZN compliant original spelling
- Only check environment flags for species level and below, DMT to upward clean
- Set up working group for terrestrial/freshwater MS, incl. external members.
- Accept *Clibanarius fonticola* as freshwater
- Postpone decision on LAN production and inclusion of fossil taxa.
- List major information sources and identification literature on separate tab in DecaNet
- Host DELTA files from Poore & Ahyong new book on DecaNet
- GP and KC to lead on seeking images from Andres and crayfish people
- SDG and KC to discuss communalities with IUCN
- Use MEOWS for distribution mapping of marine/brackish water taxa, equivalent system for freshwater once operational.
- Standardise unaccepted reasons as far as is possible and desirable.
- Set up discussion group for anchialine taxa

Outcome

The workshop was the first time the Decapoda editors met as a group, and proved to be very successful. Much editing was done during the week, with further division of tasks to complete and upgrade decapod information in WoRMS. Agreement was reached on a separate GSL for Decapoda, DecaNet, whilst priority information beyond taxonomy was established.

During the workshop, 144 images were added, 38 taxa added, 3,090 taxa updated; whilst 41 distributions were added, 14 type localities, 80 specimen records, as well as 9 notes.

Action points

- **All editors:** when adding new taxa, also add distribution information, type specimen information and images (if possible). **Continuous**
- **All editors:** complete distributed Excell spreadsheets (genera without type species, accepted species without linked reference, unaccepted reason, unchecked images). **December 2022**
- **All editors:** complete environment flags for accepted taxa. **November 2022**
- **DMT:** revert long citation style for De Haan, etc. to short style. **Completed during workshop**
- **SDG/DMT:** Construct website for DecaNet. **September 2022**
- **SvdM/DMT:** Construct symbiosis scheme. **October 2022**
- **DMT:** Establish contact with IUCN to make taxonomy compatible in Red List assessments. **December 2022**
- **SDG:** Clean non-editor checked distribution entries. **Completed during workshop**
- **DMT:** Implement freshwater ecoregions as a distribution option. **October 2022**
- **SDG:** Construct Decapoda MS for input by all editors. **September 2022**
- **All editors/DMT:** Compile data for public engagement MS. **October 2022**

Acknowledgments

The organization of this workshop and the support of the WoRMS Data Management Team (DMT) are supported by LifeWatch Belgium, part of the E-Science European LifeWatch Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research. LifeWatch is a distributed virtual laboratory, which is used for different aspects of biodiversity research. The Species Information Backbone of LifeWatch aims at bringing together taxonomic and species-related data and at filling the gaps in our knowledge. In addition, it gives support to taxonomic experts by providing them logistic and financial support for meetings and workshops related to expanding the content and enhancing the quality of taxonomic databases.

We are grateful to the LifeWatch program for providing (financial) support and also to the WoRMS Data Management Team at Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) for making the arrangements which allowed the workshop to happen. The valuable contribution by participants is also very much appreciated.