



TCN Quarterly Progress Report

TCN Name

Building a global consortium of bryophytes and lichens: keystones of cryptobiotic communities (GLOBAL)

Person Completing the Report

Jessica Budke (Lead PI)

Share Progress in Digitization Efforts

Our TCN started on September 15, 2020 and our plan is to report effort in 3 month increments going forward. For the Feb 2021 report we will report on progress from Oct, Nov, and Dec 2020. Thus this report is for September 15-30, 2020. Due to COVID-19 we have had a slow start to our digitization efforts. Some of our collaborating institutions are working partially to fully remotely and some are currently unable to access their collections or work spaces due to institutional regulations limiting occupancy of buildings. That being said, we have made some digitization progress. For September 15-30, 2020 we have barcoded 2,301 specimens, imaged labels for 801 specimens, imaged the organisms inside the specimen packets/boxes for 558 specimens, transcribed 1,428 specimen labels, and have georeferenced 2,536 specimens.

Share Best Practices, Standards, and Lessons Learned

We have had an Executive Committee meeting and we held a kickoff meeting for the entire collaboration after one of the iDigBio Summit sessions and have been working to strategize the initial phases of the project. Jessica Budke and Matt von Konrat also presented at the iDigBio Summit on the goals and aims of this TCN project. We have also connected members from all of our collaborating institutions using project management software to shared discussion boards and document folders. We are working together online to develop and trial digitization workflows for label and specimen image capture for specimens across a range of storage types, since there is a wide diversity across institutions and very few institutions have done this step in the digitization process before.



Share Identified Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology

We have started to build controlled vocabulary to establish a tagged image library; discussed necessary programming routines and development of the new platform to integrate and build up an image tagging library (including informal coordination meetings with collaborators). We are also working on revising batch image upload routines and new ways to present images (specimens, taxon profiles, checklists), as well as setting up an image hosting server.

Share Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts

Our internal Outreach & Training Team has begun sharing existing web resources (e.g., <https://help.lichenportal.org/index.php/en/cnalh-help-resources/>) and routine digitization guidelines (maximum image file upload size, naming conventions, recommendations on file formats, etc.) to help guide the work.

Share Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and/or Organizations

We are working towards establishing a Help & Resources site as an integral part of the new project website and are planning training workshops about Symbiota functionality.

Share Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability

NA

Share Education, Outreach, Diversity, & Inclusion (EODI) Activities

We are working to identify possible sets of specimens (or already imaged labels) that would be a good fit for crowdsourcing transcription, and are thinking ahead to winter citizen science initiatives and WeDigBio 2021.



Share Information About Your Website and/or Portal Usage

NA

Share Other Activities and/or Progress

Collaborators have started investigating and purchasing barcodes and imaging equipment.

The lead PI has been working to hire a Project Manager to assist with managing this collaborative grant. Collaborators at Arizona State University (ASU) have started and completed the hiring process for a Data Portal Manager who will be starting January 2021. Collaborators at ASU have also had several preliminary internal planning sessions on the new portal development.

Preliminary discussions have begun focusing on how to update the taxonomic thesauri for bryophytes and lichenized fungi (bryophytes: integration with Tropicos, but adding accepted names vs. synonyms catalog by research at the Missouri Botanical Garden; lichens: better integration tools to harvest data from Index Fungorum & Mycobank, preliminary discussion with MycoPortal).