Connecting with the NBN

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What is the NBN?

- Set up as an independent charity in 2000
- c. 217 million species records
- Priority is to grow national commitment to sharing biological data and information
- To understand our natural world and use that knowledge to educate and inform
- UK’s largest Partnership for Nature
Aims

- Create and maintain as complete a picture as possible of UK biodiversity
- Share biological data
- Develop standards for data collection and exchange
- Promote the collective work of the Network
- Promote biological recording as a critical part of the process of learning about and caring for the environment
The NBN Atlas is the country’s largest collection of biodiversity information.
NBN Atlas record requirements

Who, what, when, where

Who – museum data often doesn’t have a recorder name

When – often no date of collection

Where – often no co-ordinates for where specimen found
Display of museum data

• Should specimen records be combined with field observations?

• Should they be displayed differently?
  • Different colour?
  • Different icon?
The Future?

• DigiVol
• An add-on to the Atlas of Living Australia
• Allows volunteers to help digitise museum collections
• ‘Virtual expeditions’
  • Collection labels
  • Historical documents
SUPERB PARROTS IN THE ACT – breeding success and hollow competition

This project involves detailed monitoring of superb parrot nests located in the Australian Capital Territory. The superb parrot is an iconic Australian woodland bird currently listed as threatened (Vulnerable). The superb parrot is threatened by climate change and the ongoing loss of critical breeding habitat, specifically large hollow-bearing trees that they need for nesting. Our research aims to track the breeding success and nest hollow competition of superb parrots in the ACT: an important breeding region for the species. Data gathered by this project will assist land managers to protect this beautiful bird and ensure that it has the resources it needs to persist in the Bush Capital.
Australian Museum Fungus Gnats 2 expedition

The larvae of most fungus gnat species feed on fungi, decaying plant materials or plant roots. They help in the decomposition of organic matter. The adults are 3-5 mm long and are exceptionally prolific; populations of plants and elites of mushroom spores. They also may carry diseases such as pythium (which causes “tamping-off” in seedlings) on their feet. Most fungus gnats are weak fliers, and can often be seen walking rapidly over plants and soil, rather than flying.

These flies are sometimes confused with fruit flies.
Opportunities & challenges

Opportunities

• Use existing databases and digital infrastructure
• Opening up data partners’ data collections
• Display of collections on the NBN Atlas
• A platform for co-ordinating volunteer input
• Engagement with new audiences
• Co-ordinating joint initiatives
• Automating processes

Challenges

• Resources
• Technical development & implementation
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