



Vienna, 2011-01-31

Dear Trichoptera friends,

there is a current science project, funded by the EU (FP7), going on, which deals with freshwater biodiversity:

BioFresh, <http://www.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu/>

Aim of the project is to collect freshwater biodiversity data of the whole world to evaluate status, trends, pressures and conservation priorities. All available data will be summarised in a data portal, which can be queried by every interested party. BioFresh will include other biodiversity initiatives as e.g. GBIF.

Wolfram Graf and myself are involved in this project and together with Peter J. Neu, who already started to work on such a project on the Conference on faunistics and zoogeography of caddis flies in Europe in 2005, we now want to take this project as an opportunity to set up a Distribution Atlas of European Trichoptera (DAET). We think that in times of increasing importance of biodiversity, we should also point the way regarding caddis flies and raise the public awareness of this important taxagroup. We are pleased to invite you to take part in this big challenge.

What we can offer to you:

1. There is a certain amount of money available which could be distributed among contributors, e.g. as a certain sum per record (list of Trichoptera species per coordinate (and date)).
2. Data provided by you will be summarised in a database, which then could be used by all contributors. The name of the data provider will always stay visible.
3. The work will be published as a book: Distribution Atlas of European Trichoptera.
4. Data that are only available in paper format, but needed for the DAET (and of course your further use) can be digitalised (i.e. a list of Trichoptera species and coordinates will be generated) by one of our BioFresh partners.

5. If we get a good coverage of Trichoptera data in Europe we could aim for an IUCN list of threatened species. A member of the IUCN has already very much appreciated this initiative.

In a first step we would like to know:

1. Are you interested in being a part of the DAET consortium?
2. Are you willing to contribute adult (or reliably identified larvae) data of Trichoptera (i.e. species name, location or coordinates, date of collection, number of males/females, leg., det.)?
3. If yes, under which circumstances?
4. If yes, how many of these data can you contribute?
5. Which literature do you think is relevant to be included into the DAET? Could you please add a list of references.

We will decide on the exact further procedure of data collection as soon as we have an estimate about data contributors and available datasets, but most likely we will send out a standardised species list in which you indicate your occurrences. General data collection will either be done by Peter Neu or the BOKU team. Data, which were already submitted to ZoBodat (Landesmuseum Linz; Michael Malicky) can easily be included without extra effort.

It would be very nice, if you could please give us feedback on this idea not later than February 9th as we have to prepare an application (for money) for the BioFresh meeting in mid February. If you have further question, please do not hesitate to contact us (preferably Astrid AND Peter).

Hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards

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