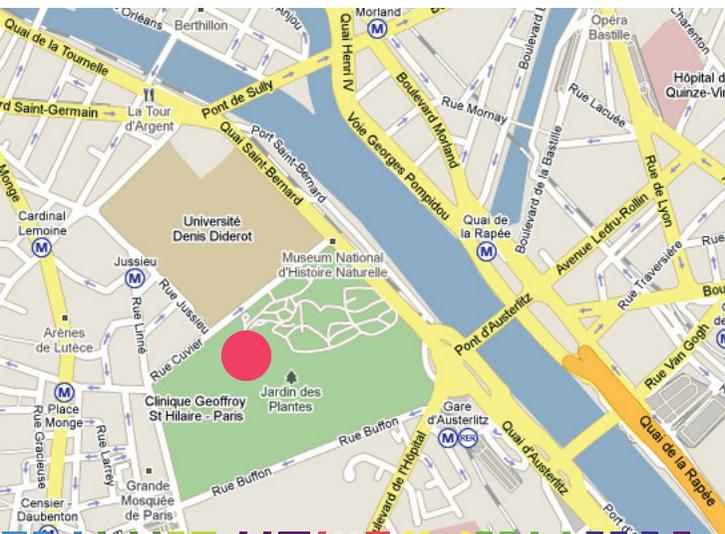The congress is organised jointly by three large European projects dedicated to biodiversity and/or biological identification: KeyToNature, EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy), and STERNA (Semantic Web-based Thematic European Reference Network Application), in collaboration with the UNESCO Office of Venice.

Paris
September, 20-22 **2010**
Museum national d'Histoire naturelle
Grand Amphithéâtre,
57, rue Cuvier, 75005.

KeyToNature
www.keytonature.eu

European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT)
www.e-taxonomy.eu

STERNA
www.sterna-net.eu

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SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

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Tools for identifying biodiversity: progress and problems

Paris / September 20-22 **2010**
Museum national d'Histoire naturelle

EDIT
European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

KEY to nature

STERNA

The correct identification of organisms is fundamental not only for the assessment and the conservation of biodiversity, but also in agriculture, forestry, the food and pharmaceutical industries, forensic biology, and in the broad field of formal and informal education at all levels. In the last decades, important advances have taken place in the way identification is carried out, from molecular and biochemical methods of rapid identification to the development of interactive identification systems based on morpho-anatomical data. This congress will provide an overview of recent advances in this field. It will stimulate integration of existing methods and systems, fostering communication amongst different research groups, and laying the foundations for integrated projects in the next decade.

Scientific Program

The program is divided into four sequential sessions with short oral presentations, and a bio-informatics market consisting of posters and hands-on demonstrations. All sessions are open to selected contributed papers. The selection will be made by the conveners on the basis of the submitted abstracts. If you want your presentation to be considered for a specific session, please indicate the session of your preference when submitting the abstract.

Session I – Interactive identification tools based on morpho-anatomical data.
Many types of interactive identification tools based on morpho-anatomical and ecological data are presently being produced by different centres, based on a wide array of different software and with widely different aims and data-structures. Standardization of data formats and data exchange among different centres and software are an important topic of this session, together with an overview of recent advances in software development and of novel identification tools, including those based on morphometry and image analysis.

Session II – Molecular and biochemical methods for the identification of organisms.
In a few years, DNA barcoding has deeply impacted on the scientific community, leading to a revolution that is even greater than expected. However, the main innovations in DNA barcoding and related approaches are not in the discriminating methods themselves, but in the contemporaneous implementation of three innovations of modern taxonomy: molecularisation, computerisation and standardisation. Recent developments in the fields of DNA barcoding and other biochemical methods for the identification of organisms are the main focus of this session.

Session III – Identification and education.
Both molecular and interactive identification tools are being increasingly used in educational establishments at all levels as a means for introducing students to the knowledge of biodiversity. This leads to important and interesting challenges for those who produce these tools, in order to make them more user-friendly, and adaptable to a wide spectrum of users' needs, from elementary schools to universities.

Session IV – Industrial and practical applications of the new identification tools: case-studies and markets.
The rapid identification of organisms is important in several economic and social fields, such as the food industry, agriculture, forestry, environmental monitoring, forensic biology, etc. Both molecular-biochemical methods and novel interactive tools based on morpho-anatomical data are being used. This session intends to show the most recent applications, with a special focus on the integration between the molecular-biochemical approaches and those deriving from Biodiversity Informatics.

Round-table: International networking.
The final part of the congress will be devoted to the presentation of the most recent international opportunities for launching new projects and/or collaborating with existing ones. Invited speakers will be a representative of UNESCO, a representative fo the EU Commission, and those responsibles for some of the main international projects devoted to biodiversity.

Bio-Informatics market: Poster sessions and demonstrations.
Two poster sessions are scheduled. During these sessions it will be also possible to organise demonstrations in a special room with computers.

Agenda

September 20, 2010

11.00 - 14.00	Registration; hanging up posters, setting up stands
14.00	Official opening
14.30 - 18.00	Session I

September 21, 2010

09.00 - 12.30	Session II
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 - 15.00	Bio-Informatics market: Poster session, hands-on demonstrations
15.00 - 18.30	Session III
20.00	Dinner

September 22, 2010

09.00 - 12.30	Sesson IV
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 - 15.30	Bio-Informatics market: Poster session, hands-on demonstrations
15.30 - 17.00	Round-table: International networking