

Catalogue of Life 2004 Now Available on CD-ROM!

The WorldFish Center has produced the fourth release of the Catalogue of Life: Year 2004 Annual Checklist: Indexing the World's Known Species in CD-ROM format. The checklist acts as a stable taxonomic reference and contains a searchable database with information on animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms from 23 contributing taxonomic databases. The 2004 edition features two new databases: Orthoptera Species File and Computer-Aided Identification of Phlebotomine Sandflies (CIPA). Additional common names have also been included from Catalogue of Life. The Year 2004 Annual Checklist covers significantly more new information compared to the Year 2003 Annual Checklist:

Coverage	Year 2003 annual checklist	Year 2004 annual checklist
Species	272 101	323 680
Infraspecies	32 609	37 669
Synonyms	181 774	222 120
Common names	217 589	242 381
Hierarchies	5 411	6 024
Distribution	92 517	129 258
References	87 409	119 433
Contributing databases	20	23
Collaborators	204	232

The Catalogue of Life program is a partnership of Species 2000 and Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS). It will be a baseline species

list for use in inventorying projects and as a comprehensive worldwide catalogue for checking the status, classification and names of species. This is a work in progress and does not yet cover all of the world's species. The 2004 Annual Checklist is also available online at <http://www.fishbase.org/ph/sp2004/search.php>. The WorldFish Center, as a partnership activity with the Species 2000 Secretariat, ITIS and other contributors, compiles and produces the checklist on an annual basis. Inquiries about the CD-ROM, its databases or Species 2000 should be directed to the Species 2000 Secretariat, School of Plant Sciences, The University of Reading, Reading RG6 6AS, UK, or email: sp2000@sp2000.org.

ReefBase: International Workshop on Coral Reef Monitoring Data

Coral reef monitoring programs around the world generate volumes of important data on coral reef parameters, but standardized and easily accessible information from these programs is often lacking. Linking information from reef-monitoring programs in a coordinated framework will collectively generate key indicators and statistics for national, regional and global assessments of the status of coral reefs. Such collaboration will provide a quantitative basis for future coral reef status reports as well as the much needed, tools for promoting informed management of coral reef resources.

This objective is becoming a reality - an International Workshop on Coral Reef Monitoring Data was held on December 2-4 2003, at WorldFish Center's headquarters in Penang, Malaysia. The Workshop was organized by Japan's Ministry of Environment, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the WorldFish Center,

with subsequent funding from the World Bank. The Workshop brought together some 40 representatives from major reef monitoring programs around the world, with emphasis on the Southeast Asian region. The goal of the Workshop was to explore ways for improved collaboration between monitoring programs.

The Workshop focused on how the output from the various reef monitoring programs could be used to: (1) support the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and its central database ReefBase, to generate essential statistics, indicators, and status reports at the national, regional, and global levels; and (2) create a public knowledge-base on the status of coral reefs globally to support sustainable management and conservation of coral reefs.

The specific objectives of the Workshop were to generate:

- Greater awareness of existing monitoring programs and their databases.

- Ideas on how to develop common summary databases and data presentations for reporting on the status of coral reefs.
- Ideas on how to share data more effectively and the tools needed to do this.
- Agreement on the need to collaborate (formally and/or informally) in developing database systems and tools.
- A network of database systems (i.e., a Reef Monitoring Data Consortium).
- A comprehensive list of all major coral reef database systems and input/analysis tools.
- An outline for a standard format for national reef status reports.
- A draft list of common variables and measurement units for summary reporting and comparisons (including core and optional elements).
- A draft list of common data structures (tables, fields) to hold this summary data.
- A list of user needs for countries and organizations wishing to