

Species 2000 Europa and the Catalogue of Life

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The Species 2000 organization is one of the leading partners in a global programme to assemble a Catalogue of Life. This Catalogue comprises a quality synonymic taxonomic checklist of all species, including the major marine groups. Its operation is as a 'virtual catalogue' with different sectors provided by an array of supporting taxonomic databases. The EC is supporting a Species 2000 Europa Project which will take this programme to production scale operation from 2003 – 2005. Major components of the Species 2000 Europa Project are to assemble taxonomic sectors for marine taxa from participating global databases (e.g. FishBase, AlgaeBase, CephBase, UNESCO Marine Register), and to integrate these with European regional databases such as the European Register of Marine Organisms, Euro+Med PlantBase and Fauna Europaea.