

BIOfid Steps Up to Provide Introduced Species Information: The case of myriapods in German greenhouses

Christine Driller[‡], Carlos A. Martínez-Muñoz^{‡,§}

[‡] Senckenberg – Leibniz Institution for Biodiversity and Earth System Research, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

[§] Zoological Museum, Biodiversity Unit, University of Turku, Turku, Finland

Corresponding author: Carlos A. Martínez-Muñoz (archiegt@gmail.com)

Abstract

The German [Specialized Information Service Biodiversity Research \(BIOfid\)](#) is an infrastructure that provides scientists with information tailored to the specific needs of biodiversity research and related disciplines (Koch et al. 2017). The service, in particular, promotes digital access to legacy literature and enables the retrieval of research-relevant data using natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning (ML) techniques (Hemati et al. 2016, Abrami et al. 2020, Lücking et al. 2021), and provides a customized semantic search engine (Pachzelt et al. 2021). Thus, historical species records can be found and help to estimate past and present species distributions as well as potential range shifts. Future BIOfid services are planned to specifically address interoperability and linking of research data for rapid integration into national and international databases such as the [German Federation for Biological Data \(GFBio\)](#) and the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility \(GBIF\)](#). To this end, for example, [BIOfid](#) will contribute to further developing the open-source virtual research environment (VRE) [Scratchpads](#) (Smith et al. 2011) and promote its usage in the scientific community.

Based on a use case on myriapods, we will test the ability of the two tools mentioned above to accelerate information retrieval and knowledge sharing by professional data mobilization and management methods. Certain myriapod species are known to have been introduced from tropical and subtropical environments to Germany, a country that lies in the north temperate zone. In this regard, we will scour BIOfid's legacy literature for these species to find spatio-temporal evidence. Moreover, we will explore the usefulness of [Myriatrix](#), a [Scratchpads](#) instance specialized on Myriapoda and Onychophora, to collate information on millipede and centipede species introduced to German greenhouses. Data on 35 diplopod and 18 chilopod species in German greenhouses (Decker et al. 2014) have been integrated into [Myriatrix](#) using the "Taxon Description" content type provided by [Scratchpads](#). Subsequently, more comprehensive, recent information on the millipede *Cylindrodesmus hirsutus* Pocock, 1889 (Martínez-Muñoz 2020 onwards) has been

incorporated. Finally, we will show how this compiled information can be integrated into [GB IF](#) through the Scratchpads' [Darwin Core Archive \(DwC-A\)](#) export.

Keywords

biodiversity informatics, legacy literature, FAIR data, millipedes, centipedes

Presenting author

Christine Driller, Carlos A. Martínez-Muñoz

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Conflicts of interest

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