# The Journey to a TDWG Mappings Task Group and its Plans for the Future

David Fichtmueller ‡

‡ Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Corresponding author: David Fichtmueller (d.fichtmueller@bgbm.org)

## Abstract

Some Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) standards have had mappings to other standards for years or even decades. However each standard is using its own approach to documenting those mappings, some are incomplete and often hard to find. There is no TDWG recommended approach for how mappings should be documented, like the Standards Documentation Standard (SDS) does for the standards themselves.

During TDWG 2022 in Sofia, Bulgaria, the topic of mapping between standards was mentioned several times throughout the conference, which led to an impromptu discussion about standards mappings at the Unconference slot on the last conference day. Afterwards a dedicated Slack channel within the TDWG Slack workspace was added to continue the conversation (#mappings-between-standards). During further discussions, both within the Technical Architecture Group (TAG) of TDWG and during separate video conferences on the topic, it was decided to form a dedicated task group under the umbrella of the TAG. This task group is still in the process of formation. The goal of the group is to review the current state of mappings for TDWG standards, align approaches by the different standards to foster interoperability and give recommendations for current and future standards on how to specify mappings. Further work to define the strategy and scope for achieving these goals is needed, particularly to gain community input and acceptance. Consideration has been given to a range of possible types of mappings, which serve the different use cases and expectations for mappings such as machine actionability and improved documentation of the TDWG standards landscape to aid user understanding and implementation. In this talk we will show the work that has already been done, outline our planned steps and invite the community to give input on our process.

## Keywords

data standards, standards mapping, Technical Architecture Group

## Presenting author

David Fichtmueller

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## Conflicts of interest

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.