



**Dear colleagues,**

I would like to ask you to fill out this questionnaire that is about **taxonomic tools** and your experiences by using it in your work. The results of this questionnaire will be used by making standards and rules for taxonomic tools. This initiative is organized by international institution of EDIT.

EDIT (The European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy) is an excellent network of 27 leading institution from Europe and North America that are dealing with taxonomy (natural history museums, universities, institutions of sciences, etc.). This project started at 1st march 2006 and will last 5 years. It is found by the 6 frame program of European Union. Slovakia is involved by Botanical Institution (Slovak academy of sciences) and Department of zoology (Faculty of natural sciences, Comenius university of Bratislava).

The aim of this project is **to harmonize the taxonomic research** in all European countries and to **provide access to taxonomical information for taxonomic community**, which are necessary to make taxonomic research.

In the present the IT is used in all fields of life and these technologies are making the work with a huge amount of information easier. As in biological research so in taxonomic research, it is useful to analyze many data's. Project EDIT is trying to integrate IT in the taxonomic community. The Work Packet 5 (**WP5**) is one of eight packets. It's dealing with development of cybernetic platform for taxonomic tools. That means it's trying to make definite standards and rules for taxonomic tools.

Taxonomic tool is computer software, by which it is possible to create and analyze taxonomic databases. These databases can include various kind of information e.g. list of taxa, their scientific descriptions, known distribution information, terms vocabulary, references of used literature etc. So, taxonomic tools should help to make identification of taxa easier.

The creation of standards and rules for taxonomic tools is very complicated and complex issue and it needs a feedback from all users. **The aim of this questionnaire is to ascertain your experiences with electronic taxonomic tools and their products. Your experiences and opinions are very important for optimization standards and rules of taxonomic tools.**

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire and for gathering information about using taxonomic tools by Slovak scientists.

With kind regards,

Mgr. Jozef Plachý

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University of Bratislava

## Questionnaire

1. Did you ever use a product of electronic taxonomic tool (e.g. electronic identification key)?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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- 1.1 If yes, please type the name or link of this product (-s).

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2. Did the product make your identification easier?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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- 2.1 How did the product make your identification easier?

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3. Was the identification with electronic identification key easier than with classical printed identification key?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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- 3.1 Type why, please.

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4. Did you use taxonomic tools e.g. to create identification key or description of taxa (-s)?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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- 4.1 If yes, write the name of used taxonomic tool (-s), please. (*Delta Access, Delta Intkey, ETI Linnaeus II, Xper2, Lucid, a other*)

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5. Was the taxonomic tool user friendly, intuitive?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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6. If you have used a product of taxonomic tool,

6.1 were the descriptions structured?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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6.2 was the content of the taxa descriptions full of numerical data's?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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6.3 were the descriptions of taxa linked with many figures?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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7. What are your criteria for choosing a taxonomic tool? (e.g. randomly, at a recommend of colleague, empirical trying etc.)?

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8. How did you get information about taxonomic tools or about certain product of taxonomic tool? (e.g. from my colleague, by browsing on internet, from literature etc.)

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9. By choosing a taxonomic tool, would you like to use freeware or paid taxonomic tool?

<input type="checkbox"/> paid software	<input type="checkbox"/> freeware
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10. If you would create e.g. identification key by using a taxonomic tool, would you like to provide it to public for free or for fee?

<input type="checkbox"/> for free	<input type="checkbox"/> for fee
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11. In what kind of electronic format do you have your own taxonomic data? (e.g table, access databases, text file, another format)

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12. Are you interested in to convert your own taxonomic data's to a format, that can be used in taxonomic tool e.g. to create an identification key or taxon description?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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13. Are you sharing your databases or your products of electronic taxonomic tool online?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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13.1 If yes, type the link, please.

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13.2 If yes, the access is free or the user must be registered?

<input type="checkbox"/> free	<input type="checkbox"/> registered
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14. Are you interested to compare and analyze your taxa descriptions by using IT?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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15. Are you interested to publish your products (e.g. electronic identification key, taxonomic databases etc) in electronic format?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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16. What is for you the best solution of identification key, printed or electrical interactive version?

<input type="checkbox"/> electronic interactive version	<input type="checkbox"/> printed version
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17. Are you interested in wider integration of electronic form of identification in biological praxis?

<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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For completeness, fill out following fields, please:

The name of your institution:

Choose the age group that you are part of:

click and make a choice

**Thank you** for filling out the questionnaire. Your experiences and opinions are very important by optimization of standards and rules for taxonomic tools.

Please send your filled questionnaire to [plachy@fns.uniba.sk](mailto:plachy@fns.uniba.sk).

You can find more information about the aims and activities of EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy) on [www.e-taxonomy.eu](http://www.e-taxonomy.eu) or on <http://zoology.fns.uniba.sk/edit>.