

Evaluation of a Scratchpad Template as an Online Database for the University of Guam Insect Collection

Aubrey Moore

Extension Entomologist
Western Pacific Tropical Research Center
University of Guam

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Where the is Guam?



Challenges

- Limited taxonomic expertise
 - ▶ only 6 active Ph.D. level entomologists in all of Micronesia (4 on Guam; 2 in Palau)
- High endemism (~45%); many undescribed species
- Very high introduction rate for alien insects

Resources

- Limited Literature

- ▶ Hawaii Sugar Planters' Association survey of 1936 published by Bishop Museum in "Insects of Guam" (2 volumes)
- ▶ Bishop Museum surveys of 1950s and 60s published in "Insects of Micronesia"

- Entomological Collections

- ▶ University of Guam
- ▶ Northern Marianas College, Saipan
- ▶ Palau National Museum

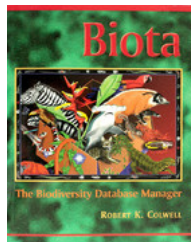
University of Guam Insect Collection

Description

30,000 specimens

Fly from dead Jap.

Progress Towards Digitization



- Initial attempts at specimen level databasing failed.
- All data lost due to hardware failures / ineffective back-up procedures

Progress Towards Digitisation



- “Biodiversity Information Management System” provided free by CSIRO, Australia
 - ▶ development and support discontinued in 2005
 - ▶ however, BioLink has recently been reborn as an open source project
- written in Visual Basic 6/C++ and sits on top a MicroSoft SQL Server database
- typically run in client / server mode on a LAN or Internet

Current Status of Digitisation



- All pinned specimens have been given a globally unique identifier (GUID) and each has a BioLink record

Desirable Features for an Online Collection Database

- Free and open source
- Reliable data security / backup
- Flexible data security (user permissions)
- Web browser used for data entry and information delivery
- Specimen records compliant with Darwin Core
- Storage for images, bibliographic data, informal notes, etc.
- Data shared via GBIF

Web 2.0 and Social Networking to the Rescue

EOL and Scratchpads

EOL vs ScratchPads; both Drupal; both hosted/maintained for free

Summary

- The **first main message** of your talk in one or two lines.
- The **second main message** of your talk in one or two lines.
- Perhaps a **third message**, but not more than that.

For Further Reading I



A. Author.

Handbook of Everything.

Some Press, 1990.



S. Someone.

On this and that.

Journal on This and That. 2(1):50–100, 2000.