

SCAMIT hosted presentation and workshop for Morphbank (www.morphbank.net)

What is Morphbank?

Morphbank is a continuously growing database of images that scientists use for international collaboration, research and education. Images deposited in Morphbank document a wide variety of research including: specimen-based research in comparative anatomy, morphological phylogenetics, taxonomy and related fields focused on increasing our knowledge about biodiversity. The project receives its main funding from the Biological Databases and Informatics program of the National Science Foundation (Grant DBI-0446224).

Who can use Morphbank?

Any research scientist who wishes to use images to communicate information. Images may be shared publicly or privately, annotated with comments and arrows, arranged in collections, linked to other projects, embedded in project Websites, given determination labels, and marked with character state/character information. The idea is to make Morphbank 'user friendly,' thus it is not required to have any programming skills to use the service.

Why share images?

Images are used for communication of characters and definitions where words do not suffice. They provide the gestalt of an organism or an overall impression that stimulates interest and collaboration. The ability to organize these images and have them easily available to others extends this communication. In scientific publication the cost of printing full color images has been prohibitive. Morphbank provides the resource to make any image a research scientist deems important available to the research community. We also provide a method to then link these images back to traditional publications.

What will happen at the presentation? (Morning session 10 AM – Noon)

Katja Seltsmann will provide a non-technical introduction to the software plus a demonstration of its capabilities. How others use Morphbank will be outlined through examples from researcher's actively using the system, demonstrating its flexibility for any project. Part of the presentation will cover biodiversity informatics initiatives and data standards that Morphbank is presently involved. Discussion during the meeting is open and encouraged as we benefit from research scientist's opinions on Morphbank and the biodiversity informatics community as a whole.

What will happen at the workshop? (1:30 PM – 4 PM and beyond)

Workshop participants will be given Morphbank accounts and we will walk through uploading, annotating, making collections and sharing images. Participants should bring about 10 images (or more!) they wish to upload. Along with the images bring the collection location, specimen name, photography technique, habitat or other image-associated data that may be important. Morphbank can accommodate whatever data associated with an image the user feels is valuable.

Katja Seltsmann
Morphbank curator
School of Computational Sciences
400 Dirac Science Library
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4120
(850).644.6366