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SYMPOSIUM

ENNREB – European Network for Neotropical Research in Evolution and Biogeography

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Tropical America – the Neotropics – is the most species-rich region on Earth. Understanding the mechanisms underlying the historical assembly and evolution of this extreme biodiversity constitutes a major challenge in biology, and will require hitherto unrealized inter-disciplinary scientific collaboration.

European exploration of Neotropical biodiversity has a long and distinguished tradition. Today, research on aspects of Neotropical biodiversity is being carried out in nearly every European country, yet there is limited synergy between different research projects and institutions. In this symposium we wish to bring together representatives from as many disciplines and affiliations as possible sharing an interest in Neotropical Evolution and Biogeography. The primary goals of this network are to:

- Promote scientific interaction
- Stimulate the exchange of material, students and researchers
- Increase inter-disciplinarity between different fields (e.g. botany and zoology, biology and geology/palaeontology, ecology and systematics, classical taxonomy and molecular systematics)
- Discuss and plan joint projects and grant applications
- Stimulate collaborative field work and reciprocal help with field collection of research material
- Inform on upcoming events, recent papers and other relevant material

Membership in the network will be free of charge. We plan to organize a satellite symposium at each BioSystematics meeting, followed by an informal dinner together. We will establish a webpage linking to individual research projects, and a joint e-post list among registered members to facilitate communication.

This first ENNREB symposium will be devoted to a series of short presentations, when at least one representative from each research group or institute will be given a time quote. Talks will focus on past, current and future research projects and the personnel involved, lines of research, and desired interactions. In the last session of the symposium (2 hours) we will officially launch the network and discuss its structure and aims.