TCN / iDigBio Monthly Standing Meeting (Internal Advisory Committee)
July 11th, 2012 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Onsite: Larry Page, Shari Ellis, Kevin Love, Cathy Bester
Skype: Nahil Sobh (sub for InvertNet), Toby Schuh, Katja Seltmann, Bruce Lieberman, Neil Cobb, Alex Thompson, Andrea Matsunaga,
Absent: Gil Nelson, Deb Paul, Corinna Gries, Barbara Thiers , Rob Naczi, Patrick Sweeney – all attending Botany; and Chris Dietrich (meeting in China)

Action Items

- **July-Aug 2012: Larry and Shari will send out a pre-Summit topic questionnaire to the TCN PIs**
- **July-Aug 2012: Bruce will share database with Andrea through the Specify database**

Minutes

Welcome
Larry: Year 1 has just ended, NSF is pleased with our progress. iDigBio will be hosting a Summit in October 2012, each TCN should think about whom they should send including PIs and IT staff among others. Larry and Shari will be sending out a Summit topic questionnaire to the TCN PIs.

iDigBio Strategic (High-Level) Project Summary
(To be discussed later in the meeting under "iDigBio Portal v0 Demonstration and Review.)

InvertNet Strategic Project Summary
Nahil: Collaborators can upload slide boxes and slide trays to invertnet.org through a simple process: login, get permission to upload which includes a unique ID and taxon information, upon upload of images, they are immediately available online through the invertnet.org web site. We expect a large number of slides to be uploaded in the upcoming month. The slides will be separated by using in-house slide splitting software (InvertNet will assist Katja with splitting trays of slides). You will be able to zoom in on a slide, pick up an ID # and link to a database. This will all be linked to "Bug Guide".

Tri-Trophic Strategic Project Summary
Toby and Katja: Katja attended the GBIC Conference in Copenhagen that focused on influencing policy for funding natural history and biodiversity in Europe. Specimen-level data is considered very important for global climate change studies; interaction level data is important to niche and climate change studies as well.
Approximately half of the sub-contracts are geared up and running – over 50,000 plant images captured and 60,000 transformed bug database records. They currently have 42 digitizers working.
Work is being done to streamline workflows using volunteer effort. One example is barcode label cutting which they have taken minutes off of the process. Works is also being done on how to capture observational data from labels. The number of records is increasing exponentially.
The TCN web site will have graphical capabilities by late summer/early fall. This will be presented at the Summit in October. They are willing to share this capability and to work with iDigBio.

PALEONICHES Strategic Project Summary
Bruce: Georeferencing activities are in progress. They are interested in looking at biogeographical and niche studies, however database limitations include records are not in a format to be repurposed. PALEONICHES would like to database a series of collections, repurposing in format to be readily usable for biogeographical research.

A web site has yet to be created for the PALEONICHES TCN.
They are working with Specify and georeferencing with a focus on three time periods that have climatic changes. Goals include approximately 450,000 fossil records comprised of 850-900 species including images and range maps. Bruce will share database with Andrea, accessible from Specify database.

Southwest Collections of Arthropods Network (SCAN) Strategic Project Summary
Neil: Signed in late, difficult to understand due to technical issues – he will participate fully at our next meeting.

iDigBio Portal v0 Demonstration and Review
Alex: Portal Version 0 demo and review; examples used were databases from Morphbank and FLMNH Fish Collection. The data should expand quickly over the next year. The finalized API documentation will be released soon along with source code. There are two views on the portal: specimen record (view) and media record (view). Dates are represented by month/day/year and event date field which is a time stamp in Darwin Core. In the future, the database will be searchable by time for paleo specimens; all fields should be searchable. Also, they are looking at improving efficiency of the download of large numbers of records for analysis.
The order of fields as they appear on the portal needs to be addressed. The portal has been tested in Chrome, Safari, IE 9/10 and Firefox (the portal won't work in earlier browser versions of 7 and below). A tutorial is available on the iDigBio web site along with a feedback link. Work is being done on the backend ingestion side of things however we are not ready to ingest data due to quality control issues which are currently being addressed. Also there is a need to ingest data from a wide variety of sources.

Andrea: Data field input can occur through the MISC working group.

Meeting Adjourned