



Taxonomy is the science and practice of discovering, describing, classifying and naming species.

Taxonomy in Action is a world wide campaign to highlight the relevance of taxonomy for all aspects of biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use.

Led by BioNET – the global network for taxonomy – this activity is part of the celebrations for the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.









The giant East African snail (Achatina fulica), giant Ghana tiger snail (A. achatina), and giant West African snail (A. marginata) are collectively known as "Giant African land snails". The snails grow up to 20cm in size and have been observed to feed on more than 500 different plant species. They carry pathogens and are a major biosecurity risk to many tropical and sub-tropical regions.

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Taxonomists have helped to compile pest alerts and identification guides with descriptions and photographs to help officials and the general public to identify the giant snails as a first step towards early detection, eradication or control.







The new iguana species is closely related to the two other iguanas endemic to Fiji and Tonga: the crested iguana (B. vitiensis) and the banded iguana (B. fasciatus). This species was described after taxonomic and DNA analyses showed that B. bulabula was physically and genetically different from the two other species.

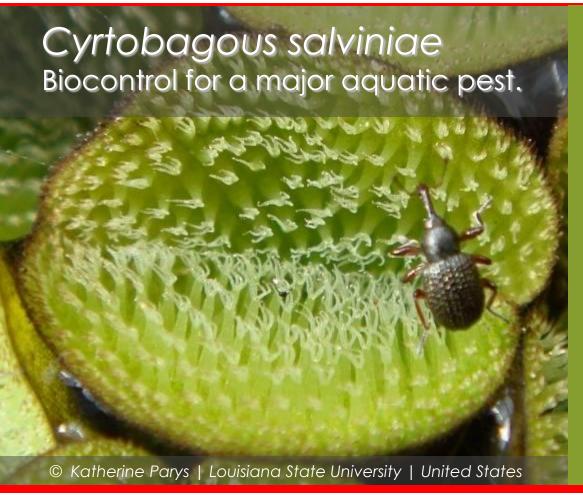
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Taxonomy is the knowledge base for conserving and sharing the benefits of biodiversity. For example, numerous nature reserves have been established because of the discovery of a rare species, or rediscovery of a species thought to be extinct.









Salvinia molesta, a South American water plant, is invasive in many regions in the world. The weed was originally misidentified and several attempts to manage it with known biocontrol species failed. Following the correct identification of Salvinia molesta, a host-specific agent was discovered - the weevil Cyrtobagous salviniae – and introduced to many countries where it now successfully controls the weed.

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Invasive species affect nearly every ecosystem type on the planet and pose a big threat to biodiversity. Managing these risks calls for taxonomists able to provide the species information and rapid identification tools needed.





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Read more on the importance of taxonomy, species & biodiversity

BioNET case studies | GTI case study on taxonomy & climate change | UN Convention of Biodiversity – 2010 International Year of Biodiversity BioNET is a global network for taxonomy with ten government-endorsed regional partnerships encompassing institutions in over 100 countries, and a Secretariat in the UK hosted by CABI, an international not-for-profit organisation.

BioNET's mission is to enhance human well-being and biodiversity conservation by building capacity to discover, name and classify the world's living organisms.





See next slide for guidance notes for your conributions





Logo author of text

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Latin species name Title or vernacular name (English)

High resolution digital image of the species (jpg or other)

Text about the species:

e.g. where the species was discovered, by who, when, what is special about this species, whether it is endangered, etc. (350 characters)

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Text linking to taxonomy: e.g. how taxonomy helped to discover, identify or protect the species, outcomes for biodiversity conservation, human well-being, societal benefits, etc. (200 characters).