

Updates on **Working Group “Reference Libraries”**

November 20th, 2025 meeting

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Chair: Georgi Bonchev

Co-chair: Michal Grabovsky

iBOL Europe Community Meeting, 24.11.2025

Objectives:

1. Develop/improve new or existing but not completed DNA barcode reference libraries

Goals:

a/Develop/assemble taxa checklists for target regions/groups

- at country level starting from ecological regions – e.g mountains, lakes (Work with data aggregators, taxonomists relying on national data, GBIF database)
- starting with taxa that are relatively well studied (more information available) and with optimized resource management (taxonomic expertise, available check-lists but which need to be completed)
- Define taxonomic groups of interest for the WG (**immediate objective**)

Target groups identified broadly:

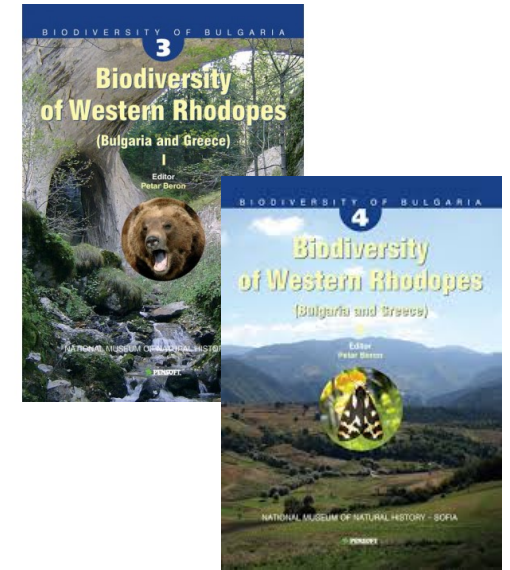
1. Freshwater, subterranean taxa focus
2. Vascular plants
3. Algae, phytopathogenic fungi
4. Endemic taxa
5. Focus on taxa from Balkans

Share file in Google folder within the WG with taxonomic groups of interest, people interested, people allocation to specific tasks, define a leader of a taxonomic group

b/ Identify gaps(missing taxa) following *by country* approach: compare check-lists against available DNA barcode records in public repositories (BOLD)

- upload check-list data into BOLD and request species gap
- **BOLD requests are limited to 100 requests/hour**
- **not possible at country level!**

We need support from BOLD: to share updates on script/tools to extract barcoding data by country from BOLD



Objectives:

2. Systematization of protocols/guidelines for taxon-specific DNA barcoding and metabarcoding

sampling, DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing, etc. for target taxonomic groups

Goals:

1. Create a repository for protocols for different taxa (immediate objective)

Looking for experts: *algae/microalgae*, *phytopathogenic fungi*

3. Bring together the community – within the WG “Reference libraries” and global iBOL community

- Define relevant representatives at regional level
- Countries involved (so far) in the discussion of the WG – Poland, Bulgaria, Croatia, Austria (extend to other members of the WG -**14 countries**)
- Approach research groups from other countries – Balkan region of special interest- e.g Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Romania, Greece etc. with limited barcoding capacity (share a file in Google folder with contacts suggestions)



Use the materials (gap lists, protocols, etc.) to apply for funding to address barcode gaps

Options for financial support: subcontracting projects within the BGE+ (if approved), COST actions