Combining National and International Efforts to Establish a Global List of Lichen Names
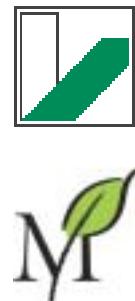
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The GBIF-D Project "LIAS names"

Since 1993, LIAS is established as global information system for lichenized and non-lichenized ascomycetes. One major aspect of a recent structural optimization of LIAS has been the establishment of a LIAS names server. This database of lichen names is an important service for the special demands of the lichen projects within the German GBIF Node for Mycology. It serves as taxonomic reference database, thus forming a **backbone** for lichen names within the system. The standardized list of names is an essential pre-requisite to assure that each record, storing descriptive data, specimen information, direct observations and literature references, will unambiguously refer to a single taxon only.

The majority of 20,000 names now stored in LIAS names is validly published and currently accepted. Author names follow standard abbreviations and accurate spelling of taxon names has been checked. The names list is used to populate a drop-down menu for data entry for several projects: the "Lichens collected by G. Lettau at B", the "Index of Lichen Distribution Maps" as well as for LIAS main, LIAS light, and LIAS checklists (see www.lias.net and figure).

The underlying database application is *DiversityTaxonNames_Lichens*. A web interface is currently developed for this database of lichen names. It will allow user-friendly public access for checking accepted names, synonyms, nomenclatural, and taxonomic concepts used by LIAS. This web interface will be installed as SOAP web service being linked with other LIAS information.
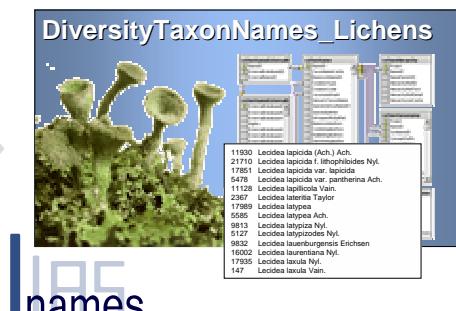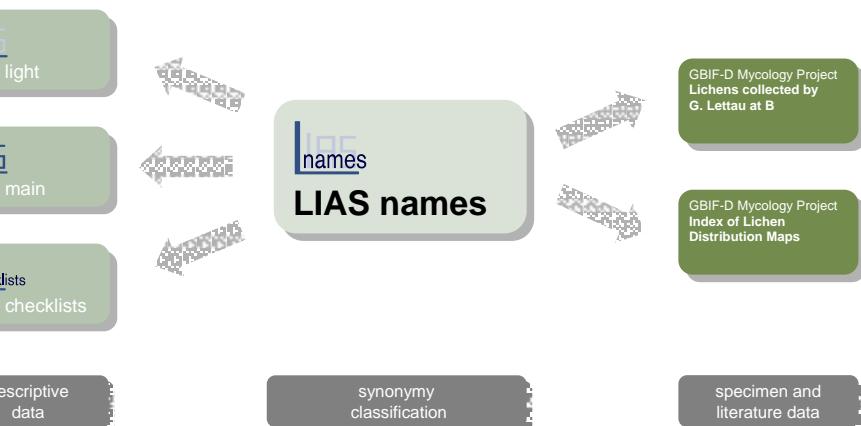
The EU-Project "Species2000 europa" and LIAS as GSD for Lichens

The database LIAS names will be accessible by Species2000 as part of the Catalogue of Life partnership. In addition, some core data from LIAS main will also be supplied. A SPICE wrapper for taxon data exchange with Species2000 and thereby with GBIF will be developed within the next months. The Species2000 europa project is funded by the European Commission. As a partner project, LIAS is currently evaluated as Global Species Database (GSD) for lichens.
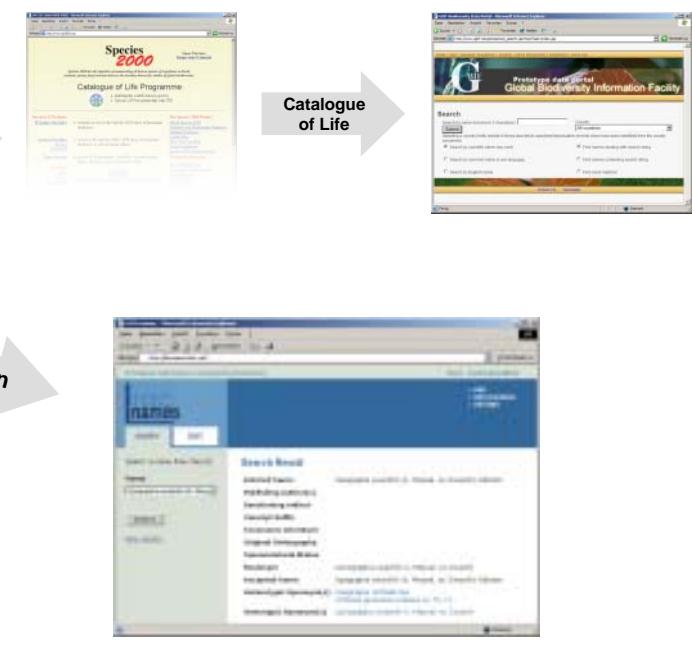
LIAS names – Perspectives and Goals for the Future …

(1) Expand the functionality of LIAS names as "taxonomic backbone".

(2) Establish international cooperation for a "lichen synonymy project".

→ To achieve these goals, two new web interfaces are planned. Both services will be password-restricted and include access and options for remote editing:

An already existing web interface **Synonymy Editor** will have to be strongly modified to match the structure of the newly developed PostgreSQL database *DiversityTaxonNames_Lichens*. This editor could thus become the central work platform for LIAS participants to edit and contribute taxon names. It would allow time-saving and efficient assignment of names from a list provided from the underlying database. It would also permit the addition of new names.

A web interface **Classification Editor** with the underlying PostgreSQL database will have to be designed. It should provide a work platform for editing the classification system for lichenized and non-lichenized Ascomycetes to reflect recent changes in taxonomic concepts above genus level. This service will be password-protected to restrict editing to specialists like O. E. Eriksson (Umeå, Sweden), the editor of MYCONET.