

SEV (Servicio General de Investigación, Universidad de Sevilla, Avda Reina Mercedes nº 6, 2ª planta, Apdo. 1095, E-41080 SEVILLA, Spain). The herbarium contains about 370000 sheets from the Mediterranean area and the Canary Islands, about 6,000 of which are pteridophytes. It includes the previous Boutelou Herbarium with 11,964 sheets, 437 of which are pteridophytes collected in the Scientific Expeditions of the 18th century. Thirty sheets are type material of Cavanilles' taxa from the New World. The most important collector in the Boutelou Herbarium is Luis Née. Important collectors from the last century are E. F. Galiano, B. Valdés, S. Talavera, S. Silvestre, B. Cabezudo, A. Aparicio, J. A. Devesa, Mª J. Gallego y J.

Arroyo. Keeper: F. J. Salgueiro. E-mail: franja@us.es. Telephone: 34 954552763.

UNEX (Dpto. de Biología y Producción Vegetal: Botánica, Universidad de Extremadura, Avenida de Elvas s.n., E-06071 BADAJOZ, Spain). It holds 630 sheets mainly from Extremadura. Plants from Morocco and the Azores are also represented. Important collectors are J.A. Devesa, A.Ortega Olivencia, T. Ruiz, R. Tormo, A. Muñoz, F. Vázquez, P. Gómez, J. Malato-Beliz, P. Escobar, M.C. Viera and J. López. The groups with the greatest number of sheets are *Aspleniaceae*, *Isoetaceae*, *Polypodiaceae* and *Sinopteridaceae*. Keeper: J.A. Devesa. E-mail: jadevesa@unex.es. Telephone and Fax: 34 924289423.

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W E B N E W S *

by José Luis Benito

EPIC, THE ELECTRONIC PLANT INFORMATION CENTRE

Kew Gardens has released the first stage in a new on-line information resource discovery service. You can now search for plant information across four databases held at Kew in one action. The first release includes:

a) The International Plant Names Index (IPNI). A list of plant names giving place of publication, storing ca. 1.4 million scientific plant names. Comprising data from 3 hitherto separate indices (Index Kewensis, Gray Card Index and the Australian Plant Name Index).

b) Bibliographic data in the Kew Record of Taxonomic Literature. A bibliography of over 200,000 publications published since 1971 and relating to the taxonomy of flowering plants, gymnosperms, and ferns.

c) The Survey of Economic Plants of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL). Information on the economic uses of plants in a database of useful species of "wild" and semi-domesticated vascular plants of tropical and sub-tropical drylands. Uses, distribution, use-related properties, environmental tolerances, synonymy and vernacular names are stored for more than 6,200 species.

* Please send all items suitable for publication under this heading to the editor of this column: José Luis Benito Alonso. Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, CSIC. Apdo. 64. E-22700 Jaca, Huesca, Spain. jlbenito@ipe.csic.es

d) The living collection of Kew Gardens comprising some 70,000 specimens of 30,000 different taxa. www.kew.org/epic/

THE KEW LIBRARY CATALOGUE

makes information about Kew's collections available to a worldwide readership for the first time.

This resource currently holds more than 145,000 individual records, mostly for published material like monographs and pamphlets. About 700 of the ca. 4,000 periodical titles held at Kew have entries on the catalogue, mainly those acquired by purchase.

More recent additions to the catalogue include recommended Internet resources relating to botany, which can be viewed via hyperlink from within bibliographic records. Another key feature of this botanical gateway is the ability to search other libraries from within the catalogue itself. Live connections to the Library of Congress and the Natural History Museum, London, are already set up and links to further libraries with relevant collections will be added in the future. www.kew.org/library/catalogue.html

PROYECTO ANTHOS

This information system about Spanish plants originated from the experience of the project *Flora iberica* and the collaboration of Fundación Biodiversidad. Thus, the Real Jardín Botánico (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas) has set up an on-line database that includes chorologic data (560,000 bibliographic citations) related to 54,000 names (accepted + synonyms), drawings, photographs, vernacular names (47,000), karyological data (10,000), conservation status, as well as distribution maps. www.programanthos.org

BIOCAT. DATABASE ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF CATALONIA (SPAIN)

It is the first and largest database on vascular flora and vegetation of Spain on the Internet. It has been developed by the Departamento de Biología Vegetal from the University of Barcelona. In this database information on the vascular flora (1,330,009 citations), cryptogamic flora (fungi: 45,000) and vegetation (17,000 inventories) of Catalonia is available. A module dedicated to lichens is currently in preparation.

This database allows searches by name, UTM coordinates, plant community, bibliography, etc. It has distribution maps (10x10 Km), photographs and data on chromosome numbers. <http://biodiver.bio.ub.es/biocat/homepage.html>

CONSERVACIÓN VEGETAL

The Flora Commission of the Spanish Committee of the IUCN has made its journal on information about plant conservation in Spain available on-line. It allows access to recovery plans and conservation and management of plants in Spain and in other countries, as well as access to legislation. www.uam.es/cv

Through the information server of the network of libraries of CSIC, the main research entity in Spain, it is possible to access all its bibliographic and electronic resources: network of libraries, catalogues, databases, electronic journals, etc. www.csic.es/cbic/cbic.htm