

# THE BARCODING FACILITY FOR ORGANISMS AND TISSUES OF POLICY CONCERN (BOPCO) & THE JOINT EXPERIMENTAL MOLECULAR UNIT (JEMU)

SOPHIE GOMBEER, ANN VANDERHEYDEN, KENNY MEGANCK, NATHALIE SMITZ,

CARL VANGESTEL, GONTRAN SONET, MASSIMILIANO VIRGILIO, NELE MULLENS, THIERRY BACKELJAU AND MARC DE MEYER













LIFEWATCH MEETING @ CIBIO-INBIO  
26-28 FEBRUARY 2020, PORTUGAL

# JEMU



# ORGANISATION & AFFILIATIONS

- Jointly run by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA)
- BopCo = Belgian Federal in-kind contribution to LifeWatch

	RBINS	RMCA
BopCo	 	 
JEMU	 	 
Coordinators		

# A BARCODING FACILITY FOR ORGANISMS & TISSUES OF POLICY CONCERN



- Aim: Supplying identifications of policy concern organisms and derived products
- Objective: Provide access to knowledge (taxonomic expertise) and infrastructure (laboratory) necessary to identify biological samples of policy concern
- For whom: All stakeholders who deal with biological materials of policy concern and who need an accurate identification
- How: Using 'traditional' morphological characteristics and/or DNA-based identification technology
- Conditions: Compliance with BopCo scope & Costs may be charged

# A BARCODING FACILITY FOR ORGANISMS & TISSUES OF POLICY CONCERN



[HTTP://BOPCO.MYSPECIES.INFO/](http://bopco.myspecies.info/)



## A Barcoding Facility for Organisms and Tissues of Policy Concern

[HOME](#) [ABOUT BOPCO](#) [BOPCO SERVICES](#) [BOPCO PROJECTS](#) [NEWS ITEMS](#) [CONTACT](#)

☒ All ☐ Taxonomy

### Welcome to BopCo

The **Barcoding Facility for Organisms and Tissues of Policy Concern** (BopCo) aims at developing an expertise forum to facilitate the identification of biological samples of policy concern. Such identifications can rely on traditional morphology-based approaches requiring taxonomic expertise and/or DNA-based techniques demanding specific skills and access to a fully equipped molecular laboratory.


The intent of BopCo therefore is (1) to act as a focal point for identifying biological materials upon request, using both morphological and DNA-based techniques, (2) to produce well-documented DNA barcodes of relevant taxa, (3) to maintain reference collections of barcoded organisms and the corresponding DNA barcode databases, and (4) to explore and implement new tools and techniques for species identification and DNA barcoding.

[Download Folder](#)

[Request Now](#)





[Request Now](#)



## Request species identification

[Download Folder](#)

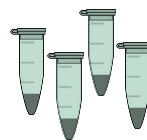


## Information folder

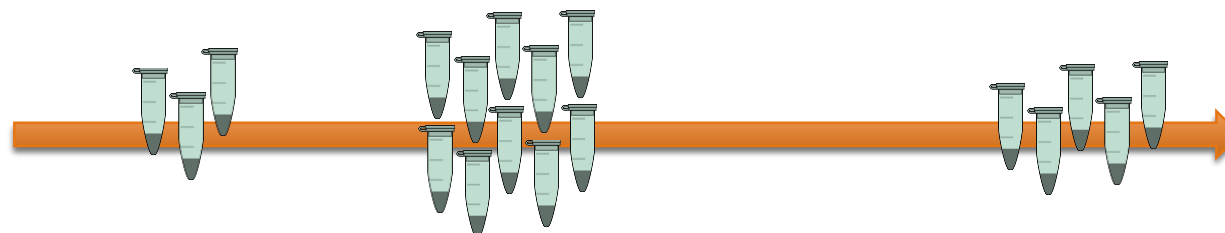
# IDENTIFICATION REQUESTS AND PROJECTS



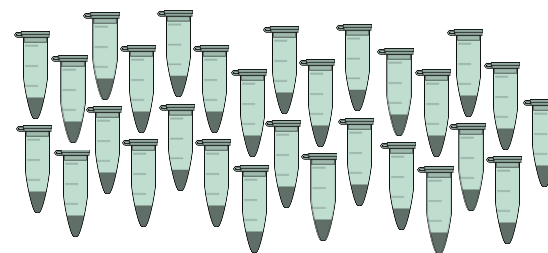
- Punctual identification requests



- Recurrent identification requests



- Identification projects & filling the gaps



# PUNCTUAL IDENTIFICATION REQUESTS UNTIL JANUARY 2020 (REQUESTS = 68)

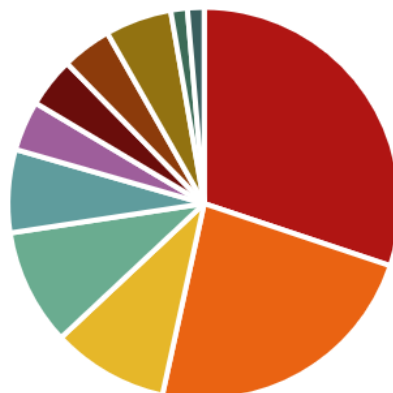


## Policy Concern



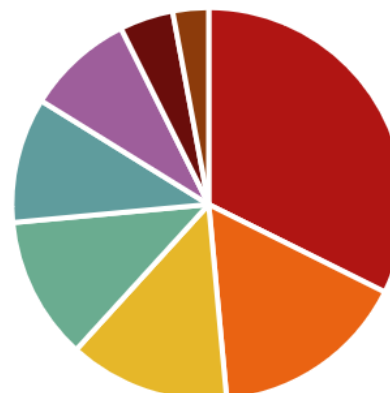
- Pest species
- Agricultural pest
- Protected species
- Exotic species
- Public health
- Food safety
- Museum validation
- Biodiversity

## Taxon Diversity



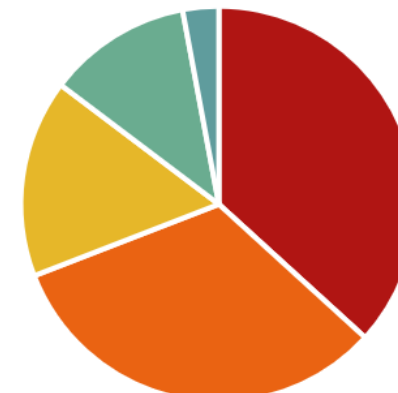
- Diptera
- Other Insecta
- Mammalia
- Mollusca
- Arachnida
- Aves
- Plantae
- Reptilia
- Other invertebrates
- Fungi
- Pisces

## Stakeholders



- Government
- Research Institute
- University
- Company
- Private person
- Museum
- Small business

## Outcome



- DNA-based ID
- Morphology-based ID
- Morphology-based + DNA-based ID
- Literature-based information
- Referral to an external expert

# RECURRENT IDENTIFICATION REQUESTS EXAMPLES



- ID of bird strikes for the Belgian Air Force



- ID of mosquitoes for the Belgian Army



- Monitoring of exotic mosquitoes for a nation-wide project in collaboration with the Institute of Tropical Medicine





# IDENTIFICATION PROJECTS & FILLING THE GAPS EXAMPLES



- Evaluation of publicly available DNA sequence data to reliably identify IAS of Union concern → One factsheet per species available on BopCo website
- Building barcode database of forensically important rove beetles with the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology
- Identifying snail and slug species which act as vectors for cardio-pulmonary parasites in collaboration with Greek and German universities
- DNA barcoding of selected samples of (African) fruit flies of agricultural importance

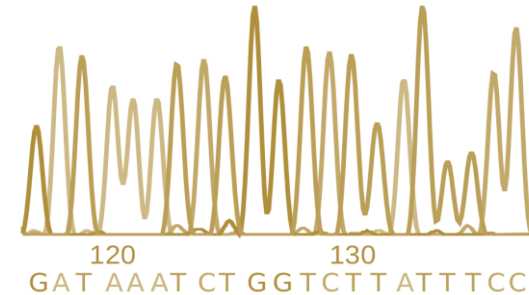




# BOPCO SEQUENCE OUTPUT



- Sanger sequencing of  $\neq$  marker regions:  
COI, 16S rRNA, NADH4, 28S, EF1-alpha, wg, LW  
Rh, ITS, cytb, rbcL, matK, trnH-psbA, COII, ...



- Generated sequences:

- Deposition in GenBank

- Voucher specimen barcodes



- Other technologies → technical support from

JEMU

## SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

JEMU

supporting scientific investigation in

- molecular systematics
- phylogeny, phylogeography
- DNA barcoding & species delimitation
- population/evolutionary genomics

# SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

# JEMU

supporting scientific investigation in

- molecular systematics
- phylogeny, phylogeography
- DNA barcoding & species delimitation
- population/evolutionary genomics

→ Collaborative research projects

## Last publications

	Scientific publication: <a href="#">Impact of sample preservation and manipulation on insect gut microbiome profiling. A test case with fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae)</a> , M. De Cock, M. Virgilio, P. Vandamme, A. Augustinos, K. Bourtzis, A. Willems, M. De Meyer, 2019, Frontiers in Microbiology, 10 (Dec. 2019).
	Scientific publication: <a href="#">Phylogenetic analysis of the <i>Baikalodrilus</i> species flock (Annelida: Clitellata: Naididae), an endemic genus to Lake Baikal (Russia)</a> , P. Martin, G. Sonet, N. Smits & T. Backeljau, 2019, Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, 187(4): 987–1015 (Nov. 2019).
	Scientific publication: <a href="#">Integrative taxonomy resuscitates two species in the <i>Lasioglossum villosulum</i> complex (Kirby, 1802) (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Halictidae)</a> , A. Pauly, G. Noel, G. Sonet, D.G. Notton, J.L. Boevé, 2019, European Journal of Taxonomy, 541 (Sept. 2019).
	Scientific publication: <a href="#">First mitochondrial genomes of five hoverfly species of the genus <i>Eristalinus</i> (Diptera: Syrphidae)</a> , Gontran Sonet, Yannick De Smet, Min Tang, Massimiliano Virgilio, Andrew D. Young, Jeffrey H. Skevington, Ximo Mengual, Thierry Backeljau, Shanlin Liu, Xin Zhou, Marc De Meyer & Kurt Jordaens. 2019. Genome, 2019; 62(10): 677-687 (Jul. 2019).

<http://jemu.myspecies.info/>

## SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

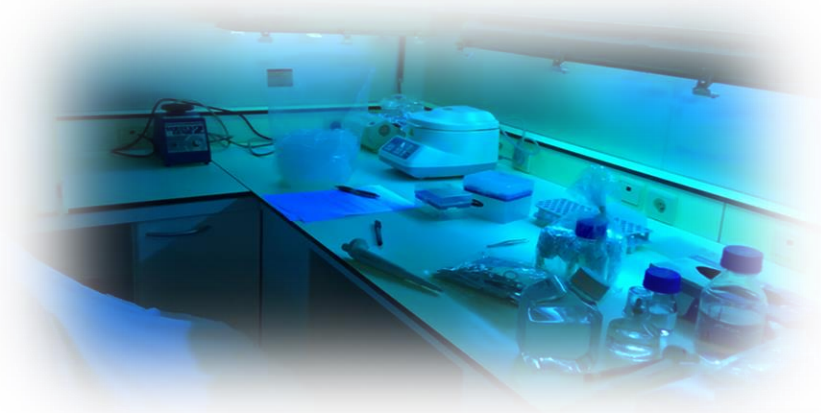
# JEMU

supporting scientific investigation in

- molecular systematics
- phylogeny, phylogeography
- DNA barcoding & species delimitation
- population/evolutionary genomics

→ Collaborative research projects

→ Evaluation of new NGS protocols



## SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

# JEMU

supporting scientific investigation in

- molecular systematics
- phylogeny, phylogeography
- DNA barcoding & species delimitation
- population/evolutionary genomics

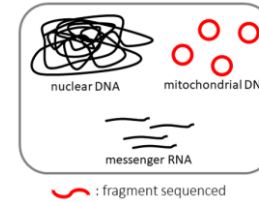
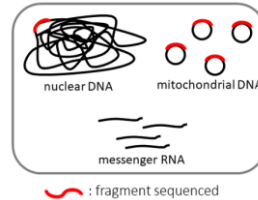
- Collaborative research projects
- Evaluation of new NGS protocols
- Education and training



# SEQUENCING DATA & BIOINFORMATICS

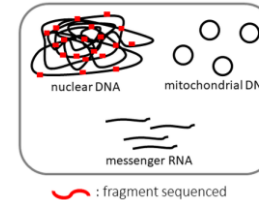
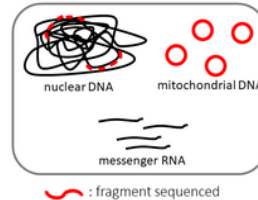
# JEMU

Targeted Amplicon  
Sequencing



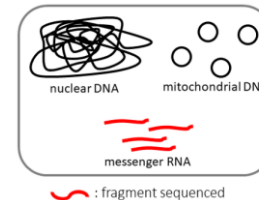
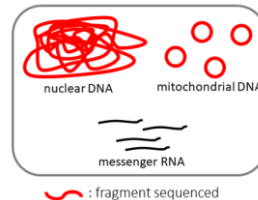
Mitogenomics

Genome Skimming



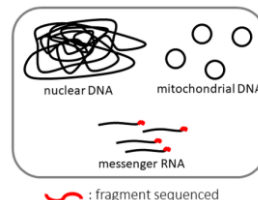
RAD-Seq, ddRAD,  
HyRAD

Whole Genome  
Resequencing



RNA-Seq

QuantSeq



# SEQUENCING DATA & BIOINFORMATICS

# JEMU

High Performance Computing infrastructure  
of UGhent

Partner of the Flemish Supercomputer Center  
(VSC)





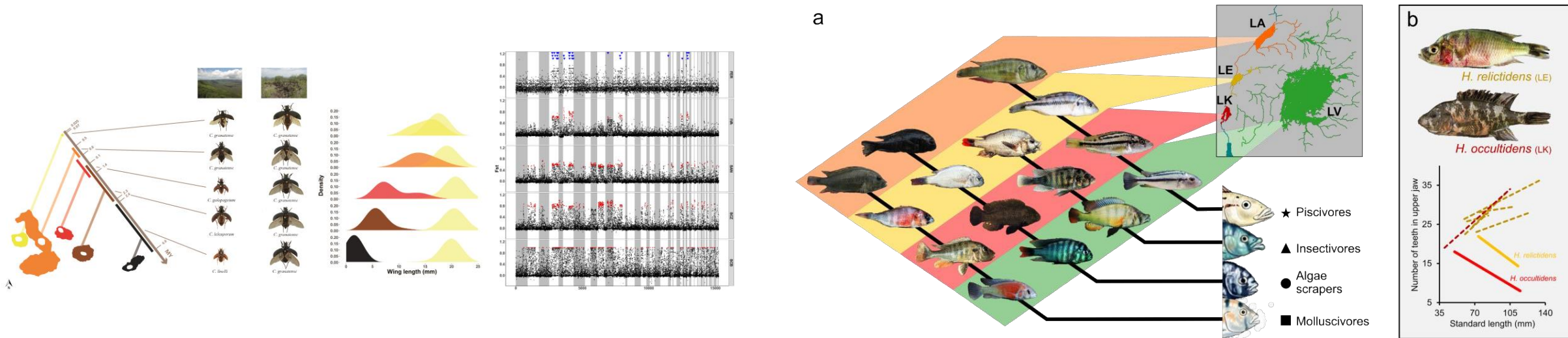
# JEMU

**A**

Phylogenetic tree showing relationships between *Helostoma* species. Morphological data (wing length, density) and feeding ecology (Piscivores, Insectivores, Algae scrapers, Molluscivores) are presented for each species.

**B**

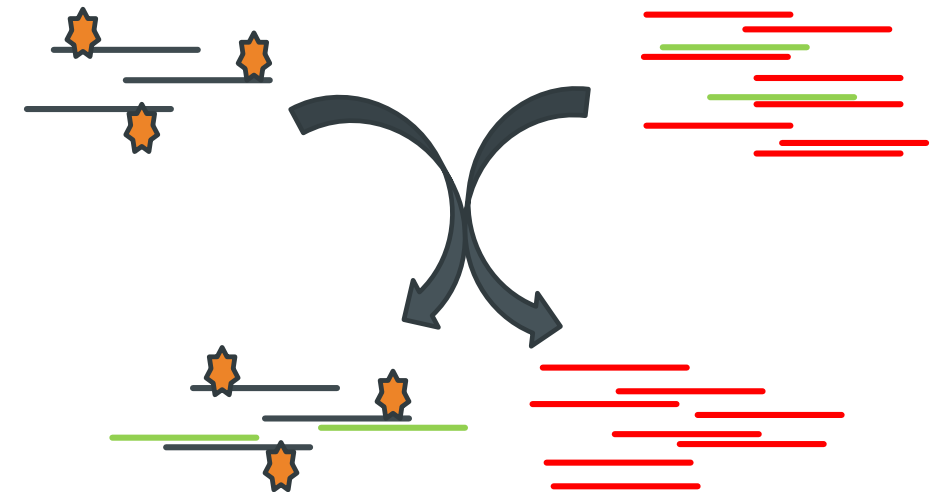
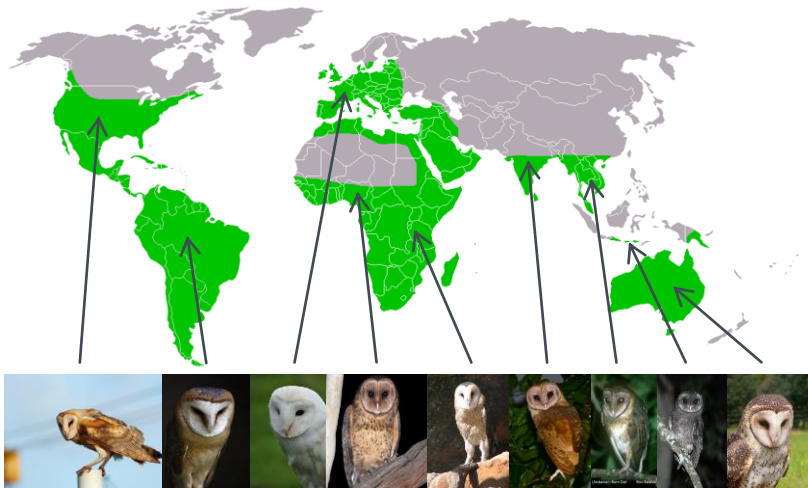
Map of the Amazon basin showing sampling locations (LA, LE, LK, LV). A graph shows the number of teeth in the upper jaw versus standard length (mm) for *H. relictidens* and *H. occultidens*.



# PROJECT EXAMPLES

# JEMU

## Hybridization signatures between native and non-native barn owls



- Non-target DNA (bacteria, human, ...)
- Target DNA
- Bait DNA