- ...we are witnessing exponential growth of scientific data of which only fracture is being published.
- •Scientific community is facing necessety to effectively store, manage and access interdistciplinary machine readable data.
- •There are numerous initiatives from local to global scales, but effective interdistciplinary management of scientific (big) data remains a challenge.

# **UNITE**: Curated and Evolving Database for Molecular Identification



and for Communicating Fungal Species





**UNITE** provides a unified way for delimiting, identifying, communicating, and working with DNA-based **Species Hypotheses** (SH).

All fungal ITS sequences in the International Nucleotide Sequence Databases (INSD: GenBank, ENA, DDBJ) are clustered to approximately the species level by applying a set of dynamic distance values (<0.5 - 3.0%). All species hypotheses are given a unique, stable name in the form of a DOI, and their taxonomic and ecological annotations are verified through distributed, web-based third-party annotation efforts. SHs are connected to a taxon name and its classification as far as possible (phylum, class, order, etc.) by taking into account identifications for all sequences in the SH.

...the system and the data are updated automatically as the number of public fungal ITS sequences grows.



### Agaricus bisporus Species Hypothesis DOI page





\*Locations without exact coordinates are displayed as spherical country centroids

#### Agaricus bisporus SH DOI page

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### UNITE resources, SH datasets are downloadable UNITE serves as a data provider for a range of metabarcoding software pipelines and regularly exchanges data with all major fungal sequence databases and other community resources.



✓ CREST release

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

✓ Top50 release

✓ General FASTA release



# **UNITE Milestones:** 2018 – UNITE SH DOIs are implemented in GBIF taxonomic backbone



Hygrocybe conica, observed in Trondheim, Norway by Ole Reitan, via Norwegian Species Observation Service. Photo licensed under CC BY 4.0.



Until a few weeks ago, the GBIF backbone taxonomy fit snugly within a traditional model, classifying and ranking organisms' names using the system that Carl Linnaeus first outlined in *Systema Naturae* in 1735. By combining name-based information from dozens of different authoritative sources like the Catalogue of Life, IRMNG and the World Register of Marine Species (affectionately known as 'WoRMS'), the backbone provides a consistent means of organizing all species-related content on GBIF.org—like

## **UNITE Milestones**



2020 – New UNITE version 8.2 released in January. New versions cover all Eucaryota (also ITS, not curated yet, absence of represenative sequences etc). Incorporates Sequel (PacBio) full ITS sequences from various eDNA samples, still under development.



# **UNITE future developments**



### 2020-2022

new UNITE web services and resources available through European Open Science Cloud (H2020 project EOSC-Nordic)

Services: defining alien, invasive, threatened, undescribed, etc. species in DNA based communities

Collaboration with GBIF, iBOL and SILVA communities to develop common space for the identification and communication of DNA based taxon occurrences.

# Thank you!



UNITE community is using **flexible PlutoF** platform for their data management and publishing of DNA based species with DOIs.



