

Names are our primary framework for organizing information on the living world. But how do we tie scientific names to a foundation so they provide stability and repeatability to otherwise fluid conceptual topics such as taxonomies? Biodiversity informatics aims to solve this issue, and its founding father was Charles Davies Sherborn. His magnum opus *Index Animalium* provided the bibliographic foundation for current zoological nomenclature. In the 43 years he spent working on this extraordinary resource, he anchored our understanding of animal diversity through the published scientific record. No work has equaled it and it is still in current, and critical, use.

This volume celebrates Sherborn, his contributions, context and the future for the discipline of biodiversity informatics. The papers in this volume fall into three general areas. Papers in the first section present facets of Sherborn as a man, scientist and bibliographer, and describe the historical context for taxonomic indexing from the 19th century to today. Papers in the second section discuss current tools and innovations for bringing legacy biodiversity information into the modern age. The final section tackles the future of biological nomenclature, including digital access, innovative publishing models and the changing tools and sociology needed for communicating taxonomy.



The cover is a detail from a book sculpture by Alexander Korzer Robinson (<http://www.alexanderkorzerrobinson.co.uk>). The images have been released from a reference book, Meyer's *kleines Lexikon*, by cutting away much of the material, but each image has been left exactly in place, resulting in a composition all on its own, that was already held within the volume when it was closed and complete. It is a literal revelation of the animals in this volume. I hope you like it and can see how it speaks directly to Sherborn's work.

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ANCHORING BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FROM SHERBORN TO THE 21st CENTURY AND BEYOND

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Edited by
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ANCHORING BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION

FROM SHERBORN TO THE 21st CENTURY AND BEYOND

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Paper within conference proceedings: Orr AG (2006) Odonata in Bornean tropical rain forest formations: Diversity, endemism and applications for conservation management. In Cordero Rivera A (Ed) Forest and Dragonflies. Fourth WDA International Symposium of Odonatology, Pontevedra (Spain), July 2005. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow, 51-78.

Book chapters: Mayr E (2000) The biological species concept. In: Wheeler QD, Meier R (Eds) Species Concepts and Phylogenetic Theory: A Debate. Columbia University Press, New York, 17-29.

Books: Goix N, Klimaszewski J (2007) Catalogue of Aleocharine Rove Beetles of Canada and Alaska. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow, 166 pp.

Book with institutional author: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1999) International code of zoological nomenclature. Fourth Edition. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature.

PhD thesis: Dalebout ML (2002) Species identity, genetic diversity and molecular systematic relationships among the Ziphiidae (beaked whales). PhD thesis, Auckland, New Zealand: University of Auckland.

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