

## **Call for proposals – 2017**

### **Proposal submission guidelines**

#### **Context**

The Joint Experimental Molecular Unit (JEMU) was established in 2007 as an integrated infrastructure of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA). Since then JEMU is conducting and supporting DNA research activities related to the use of the natural history collections of both institutes. JEMU team currently consists of Yannick De Smet (RMCA), Gontran Sonet (RBINS), Carl Vangestel (RBINS) and Massimiliano Virgilio (RMCA). For more information about JEMU, please visit our website: <http://jemu.myspecies.info/>.

#### ***JEMU call for proposals 2017***

A wide range of DNA techniques are available to scientists working with natural history collections and willing to address specific evolutionary, ecological or taxonomic issues. The goal of this call is to make these DNA techniques more accessible to RMCA/RBINS researchers and support collaborative research between JEMU and scientists of RBINS and RMCA. In this respect the resident scientists are expected to provide stimulating scientific questions, a robust experimental setup (to be further discussed and adjusted depending on the molecular tools available) and, of course, their unique expertise on the target taxa. JEMU will provide a substantial support in terms of collection and analysis of molecular data, contribute to paper drafting and submission, and where applicable and if within the means, finance or co-finance the working costs. JEMU will preferentially support research focusing on the museum collections of RBINS and RMCA, addressing fundamental scientific questions and/or applied issues in taxonomy, ecology, biodiversity, conservation, agriculture, public health, forensic science, etc.

## **Implementation of the project**

This year, JEMU has a total budget available of 20.000 € for support to the research projects that will be selected. Preference will be given to projects using the JEMU budget as matching funds to the financing that the applicant has available. Projects will start in the end of 2017 and will ideally be completed in one year. In order to ensure a timely progress, all research material related to the proposed project (i.e., specimens and tissue samples) must be readily available and, when possible, morphologically identified, before the start of the project. Samples and sample data will be prepared and stored according to the standard procedure used at RBINS and RMCA for the long-term storage of tissue and DNA samples (2D barcoded tubes and spreadsheet templates).

### ***Submission procedure***

JEMU is willing to assist and contribute to the preparation of the research proposals. Informal meetings with the JEMU team are therefore encouraged to discuss the feasibility of the project, define the optimal methodology and evaluate the working costs. Final proposals should be submitted before **30 September 2017** (proposal form attached).

### ***Eligibility***

Individual researchers or research teams led by individuals working at the RBINS or RMCA can apply for JEMU projects. Collaborative projects involving RBINS, RMCA, as well as other national and international research institutes are encouraged.

### ***Terms and conditions***

After acceptance of the proposal are subject to the terms and conditions set forth below: In submitting a JEMU research proposal, the partners accept the terms and conditions set forth. The budget is managed by JEMU and no funds will be transferred to the project coordinator. The allocated budget can only be used to support the DNA work (e.g., consumables); there will not be any support to personal costs, field work, etc. Neither party will be liable for any indirect or consequential damages, including but not limited to lost profits, contracts and opportunities. Timeline, responsibilities, access to non-published data, presentations at conferences and authorships of the resulting scientific publications will be preliminarily discussed, and eventually defined according to the relative contribution of the research partners.

## **Contact information**

Please contact the JEMU team for further information:

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