



Call for project proposals – 2019

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 Nele Mullens (RMCA), Gontran Sonet (RBINS), Carl Vangestel (RBINS) and Massimiliano Virgilio (RMCA). For more information about JEMU, please visit our website: <http://jemu.myspecies.info/>.

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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 researchers of RMCA and RBINS. 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. JEMU encourages collaborative projects involving RBINS, RMCA as well as other national and international research institutes, and project proposals covering subjects that are also relevant for the Barcoding Facility for Organisms and tissues of Policy Concern (BopCo, <http://bopco.myspecies.info/>).

Implementation of the project

This year, JEMU will support research projects with a total financial contribution of 20.000 € to be allocated to two to four different projects, with a maximum contribution of 10,000 euros per project. Applicants can propose to co-finance their proposals, (even if co-financing in itself won't be considered as a selection criterion). JEMU projects

support collaborative research between JEMU and other 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. Projects will **start in June 2019**. Data collection and analysis 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 and encourages preliminary discussions on the feasibility of the project, on methodology and on working costs estimations. Final proposals should be submitted before **30 January 2019** (proposal form attached).

Eligibility

Individual researchers or research teams coordinated by scientists working at the RBINS or RMCA can apply for JEMU projects.

Terms and conditions

Acceptance of the proposal is subject to the terms and conditions set forth below: 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 scientific publications resulting from the JEMU project 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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