

# Belgian Network for DNA Barcoding

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## General

The Belgian Network for DNA Barcoding was launched in 2011. The network is a research network that will provide an integrated and multidisciplinary molecular systematic and DNA barcoding task force. The task force will address both conceptual and practical problems associated with, and technical and theoretical issues related to, DNA barcoding. The network is financially supported by the Fund for Scientific Research Flanders (FWO).



## Aims of the network

1. To coordinate the efforts and knowledge in the field of molecular systematics and DNA barcoding in Belgium.
2. To exchange experience and provide training opportunities for people in the field of molecular systematics and DNA barcoding.
3. To stimulate joint research in animal and plant groups where molecular systematics and DNA barcoding plays a pivotal role.
4. To centralize and integrate DNA barcoding activities in Belgium in international initiatives such as CBOL, ECBOL and iBOL.



## The activities of the network will include:

- a forum for discussion on molecular taxonomy and DNA barcoding, including the development and maintenance of a dynamic and interactive website
- the organisation of discussion meetings, focussed workshops and training seminars with (inter)national experts to provide up to data insights, know-how and new ideas with respect to emerging topics, tools, procedures, and analytical methods in molecular systematics and DNA barcoding
- the organisation of an annual DNA barcoding symposium.



## Executive task team of the network: the Joint Experimental Molecular Unit (JEMU)

In 2007 the Belgian Science Policy Office launched the “Joint Experimental Molecular Unit (JEMU)” initiative as a molecular systematics task force jointly run by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the Royal Museum for Central Africa. The aim of JEMU is to scientifically promote the collections of both museums by providing a DNA barcoding team that, amongst others, produces barcodes for a large number of animal taxa. As such, the JEMU team not only collaborates with taxonomists of both institutes but also with external research partners.



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