

“11th INTECOL”, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND, 13 October 2021

Wetlands of the islands of French Polynesia (South Pacific) : ecosystems at risk !



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Wetlands in Pacific Islands (I)



Rano Kau (Rapa Nui)



Lac Lalolalo, 'Uvea (Wallis et Futuna)



Chutes de la Madeleine
(New Caledonia)

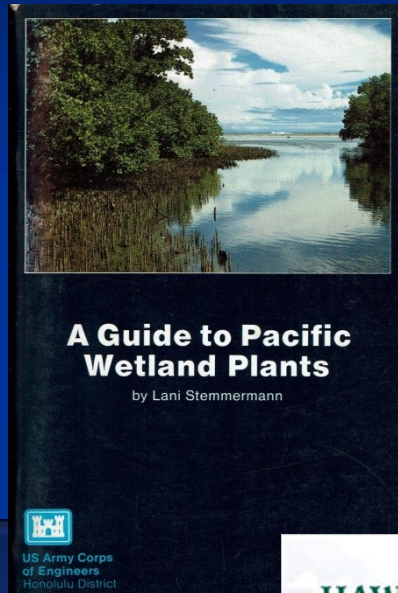


Te Roto, Atiu (Cook)

Wetlands in Pacific Islands (II)

2009

1981

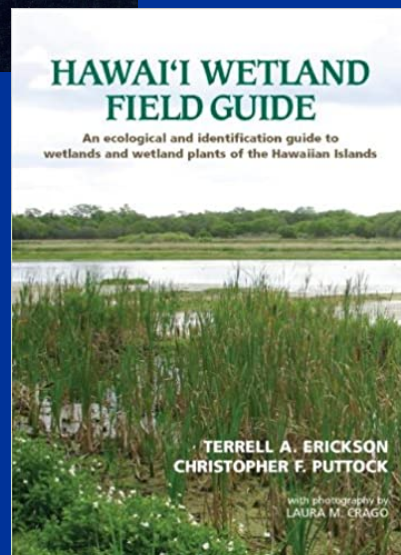


1993

A Directory of Wetlands in Oceania



2006

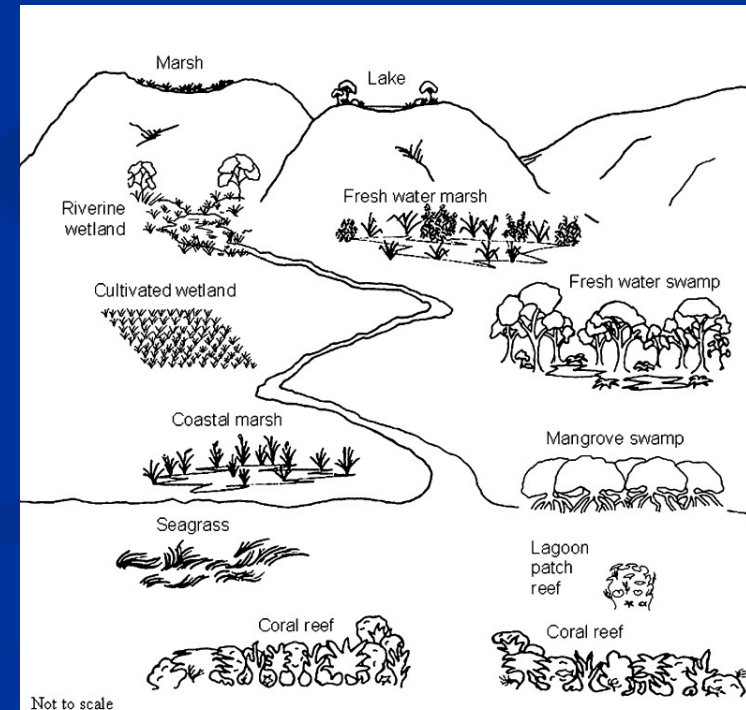


Wetlands Ecol Manage (2009) 17:169–206
DOI 10.1007/s11273-008-9097-3

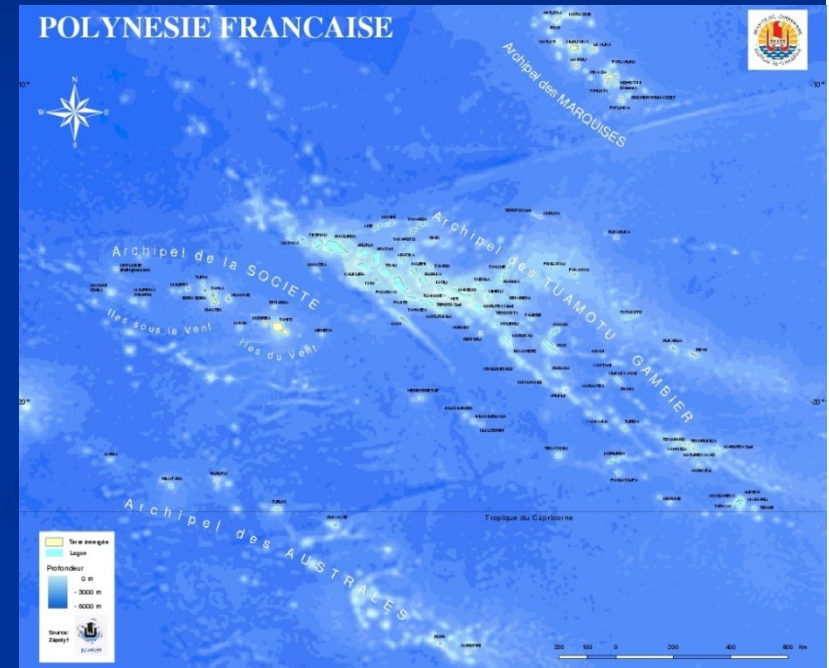
ORIGINAL PAPER

Wetlands of the Pacific Island region

Joanna C. Ellison



French Polynesia: the Southeastern corner of the Pacific



- 120+ tropical and subtropical oceanic islands
- 5 archipelagoes
- Total land area = 3,520 km²
- 280,000 inhabitants

Wetlands in French Polynesia

2016

Contribution à la Biodiversité de Polynésie française N°19

Sites Naturels d'Intérêt Ecologique et Patrimonial VIII

LES ZONES HUMIDES DE POLYNESIE FRANÇAISE : UN ECOSYSTEME MECONNU, MESESTIME ET MENACE

par

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française ; E-mail : jean-yves.meyer@recherche.gov.pf*



Tubuai (Austral)



Maiao (Society)



Niau (Tuamotu)



Motu Horoatera,
Tetiaroa (Society)



Anaorii, Tahiti (Society)



Lac Vaihiria, Tahiti
(Society)



Toovii, Nuku Hiva
(Marquesas)

Cultural and economical importance



Tubuai (Austral)



Rurutu (Austral)



Lac Maeva, Huahine (Society)



Colocasia esculenta (taro)



Rapa (Austral)



Lac Temae, Moorea (Society)

Ecological importance (I): plants

- Specific wetland habitats:
 - “*Almost-mangrove swamps*” (Mueller-Dombois & Fosberg 1998) = “*Ilots de submangrove*” (Papy 1951-54, Rivals 1952)
 - *Paspalum vaginatum* salty marshes



Vaipoiri, Tahiti iti (Society)



Huahine (Society)



Niau (Tuamotu)



Acrostichum aureum (’āoa)

Ecological importance (II): birds



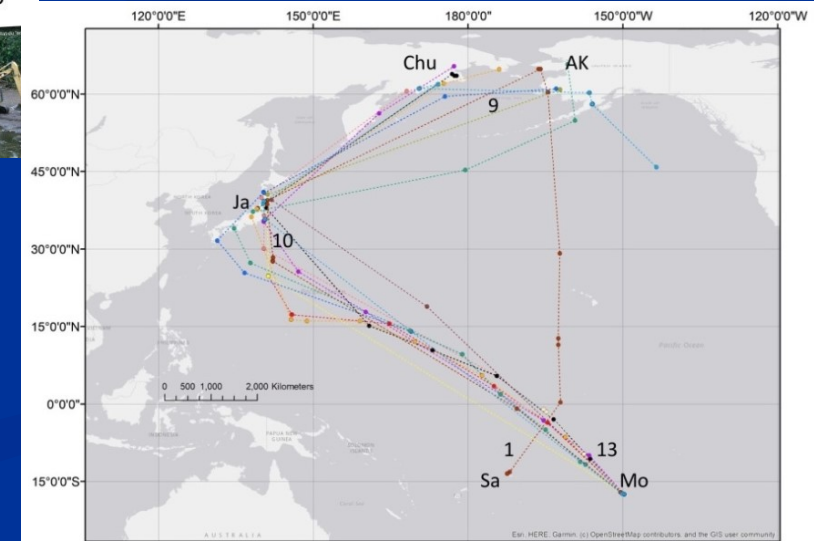
Butorides striata patrueilis (CR)



Pluvialis fulva (LC)



Anas superciliosa (VU)



(Johnson *et al.* 2020. *Wader Study* 127(1): 53-59)

Ecological importance (III): fishes

- Gobies ('o'opu, kokopu, kikopu): 6 genera, 16 species (*Awaous*, *Eleotris*, *Lentipes*, *Sicyopterus*, *Stenogobius*, *Stiphodon*)

2002



ATLAS DES POISSONS ET
DES CRUSTACÉS D'EAU DOUCE DE
OLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE

P. KEITH, E. VIGNEUX et G. MARQUET

Lentipes rubrofasciatus (kikitu ku'a)



R. ENGLUND ©

Awaous ocellaris (mo'omo'o)



P. KEITH ©

Sicyopterus pugnans ('apiri)



P. KEITH ©

Stiphodon elegans



R. ENGLUND ©

Stiphodon tuivi

- Eels (puhi): 1 genus *Anguilla*, 3 species



V. MAZEL ©

Ecological importance (IV): crustaceans

- 3 families, 18 species
 - Atyidae (shrimps): 2 genera (*Athyoida*, *Caradina*), 4 species
 - Grapsidae (crabs):, 5 genera
 - Palaemonidae (prawns): 2 genera (*Palaemon*, *Macrobrachium*), 9 species



Athyoida pilipes



Macrobrachium latimanus

Ecological importance (V): mollusks

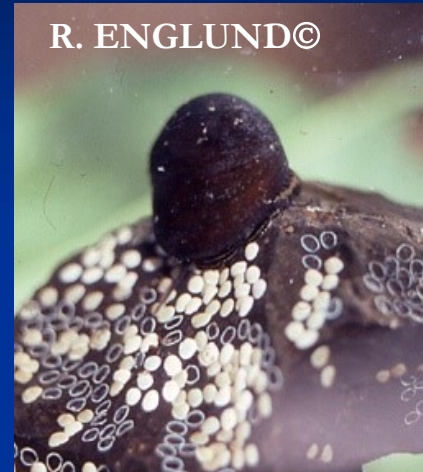
- 7 families, 15+ species
 - Neritidae: 4 genera (*Clithon*, *Neritina*, *Septaria*, *Neritilia*), 7 species
 - Hydrobiidae (*Fluviopupa*)
 - Thiaridae



Clithon spinosus



Septaria porcellana



R. ENGLUND©

Neritina canalis



O. GARGOMINY ©

Fluviopupa sp.



Molluscan Research 25(3): 145–163
<http://www.mapress.com/mr/>

ISSN 1323-5818
Magnolia Press



Rissooidean freshwater gastropods from the middle of the Pacific: the genus *Fluviopupa* on the Austral Islands (Caenogastropoda)

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Ecological importance (VI): insects

■ Diptera

- Culicidae (mosquitoes): 3 native *Aedes*, 10 *Culex*
- Dolichopodidae (water-skating fly): *Campsicnemus* with 34 endemic species
- Simuliidae (black flies): *Simulium* with 48 endemics (25 Society, 9 Marquesas)
- Chironomidae



R. ENGLUND ©

Campsicnemus sp. nov. (Rapa)

■ Heteroptera

- Gerridae (*Limnogonus*)
- Veliidae (*Microvelia*)
- Notonectidae (*Anisops*)

■ Coleoptera

- Carabidae (*Gyrinus*)
- Ditiscidae (*Rhantus*)
- Hydrophilidae



D. CRAIG ©

Simulium cataractarum



Rhantus englundii (Tubuai)



(Craig 2003 *BioScience* 53(11): 1079-1093)

2019

■ Odonates (20+ species, 10+ endemics)

- Anisoptera (dragonflies): 3 families, 7 genera (*Anaciaeschna*, *Anax*, *Diplacodes*, *Hemicordulia*, *Pantala*, *Thobymis*, *Tramea*)
- Zygoptera (damselflies): 1 family, 2 genera (*Bedfordia*, *Ischnura*)



Anas guttatus (Nuku Hiva)



Ischnura jeanyvesmeyeri
(Raivavae)

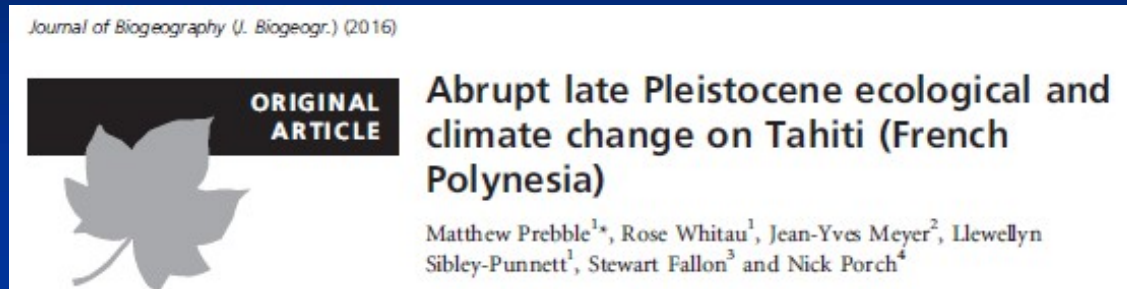


Bedfordia sp. nov. (Ua Pou)



Ischnura taitensis

Scientific importance: a window on the past (I)



Vaifanauraamoora,
Tetamanu plateau Punaruu
valley, Tahiti (Society)



Tubuai (Austral Is.)



Extinct *Pritchardia* spp.



Scientific importance: a window on the past (II)

Polynesian colonization and landscape changes on Mo’orea, French Polynesia: The Lake Temae pollen record

Janelle Stevenson,¹ Alexis Benson,¹ J. Stephen Athens,² Jennifer Kahn³ and Patrick V Kirch⁴

The Holocene
1–13
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DOI: 10.1177/0959683617715696
journals.sagepub.com/home/hol
SAGE



(R. TAPUTUARAI©)



Fitchia sp. nov. (Asteraceae)

A highly threatened ecosystem



Tubuai (Austral), 2003



Moorea (Society), 2018



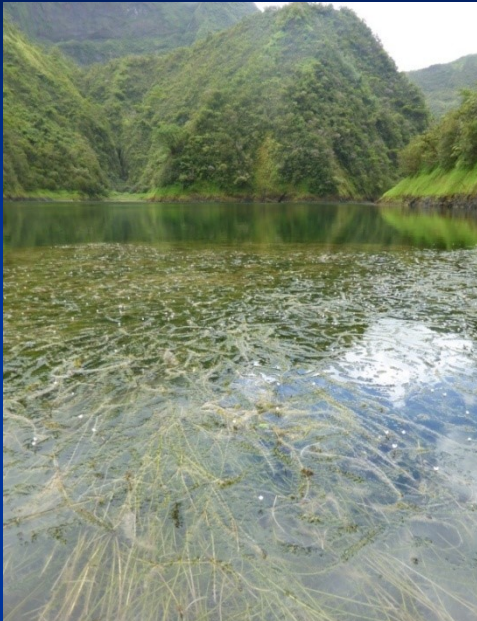
Faatautia, Tahiti Nui (Society), 2005



Faratea, Tahiti Iti (Society), 2002

Lac Vaiufaua , Tahiti Iti (Society), 2010

Invasive alien plants



Ceratophyllum sp.
(Moorea)



Pistia stratiotes (Moorea)



Egeria densa (Tahiti)



Eichhornia crassipes (Tahiti)



Invasive alien animals



R. ENGLUND©



Poecilia mexicana
(sphenops)



Oreochromis mossambicus



Feral pigs,
Temehani
plateau,
Raiatea
(Society)



Trachemys scripta elegans

Cattle , Toovii
plateau,
Nuku Hiva
(Marquesas)

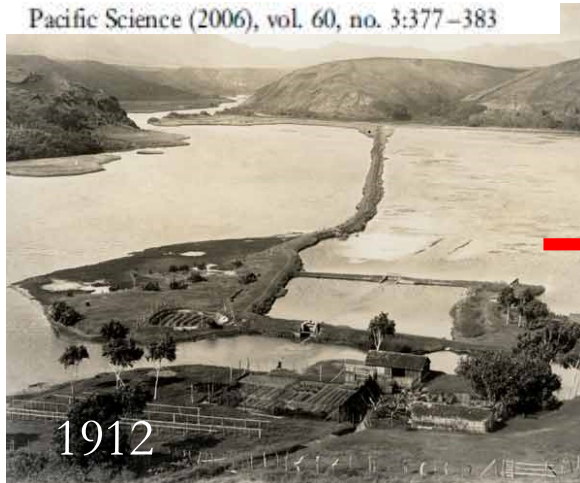


Introduced mangroves in Hawai'i and the Society Islands

Current Extent and Historical Expansion of Introduced Mangroves on O'ahu, Hawai'i¹

Rodney A. Chinner,^{2,3,4} Brian Fry,^{3,5} Mabealani Y. Kaneshiro,^{6,7} and Nicole Cormier³

Pacific Science (2006), vol. 60, no. 3:377–383



Global Ecology and Biogeography Letters (1998) 7, 61–71

MANGROVE SPECIAL ISSUE

Mangroves as alien species: the case of Hawaii

JAMES A. ALLEN U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, 1151 Punchbowl St., Rm. 323, Honolulu, HI 96813 U.S.A. email: jimallen@gte.net

Alekoko fishpond, Kaua'i (Hawaii)

« *Rhizophora mucronata* var. *stylosa* was introduced into the Society Islands on the south coast of Moorea in 1930 (fide Mr. Kellum, pers. comm.) » (Fosberg 1993. *Allertonia* 7(2): 69)

Pacific Science (1979), vol. 33, no. 2

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Rhizophora in the Society Islands¹

F. J. TAYLOR²

ABSTRACT: *Rhizophora stylosa* Griff. is recorded from Moorea and Bora Bora in the Society Islands. Earlier records from the Society Islands of *R. mangle* L. by Forster (1786) and *R. mucronata* Lam. by Gray (1854) are probably the result of mislabeling, and there is no evidence that the present stands of *Rhizophora* are not recent introductions.

A novel ecosystem?

Biol Invasions

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-021-02520-9>

ORIGINAL PAPER

Introduced mangroves in the Society Islands, French Polynesia (South Pacific): invasive species or novel ecosystem?

Jean-Yves Meyer  • Florent Taureau • Laetitia Bisarah • Rakamaly Madi Moussa • Elena Gorchakova • Anne Caillaud



Tetiaroa atoll , 2018



Raiatea, 2005



Huahine, 2007



Moorea, 2019

Conservation & Public awareness

2012



The current status and distribution of freshwater fishes, land snails and reptiles in the Pacific Islands of Oceania

H. Pippard



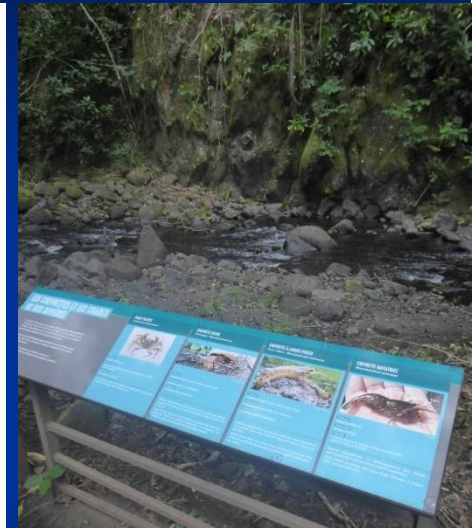
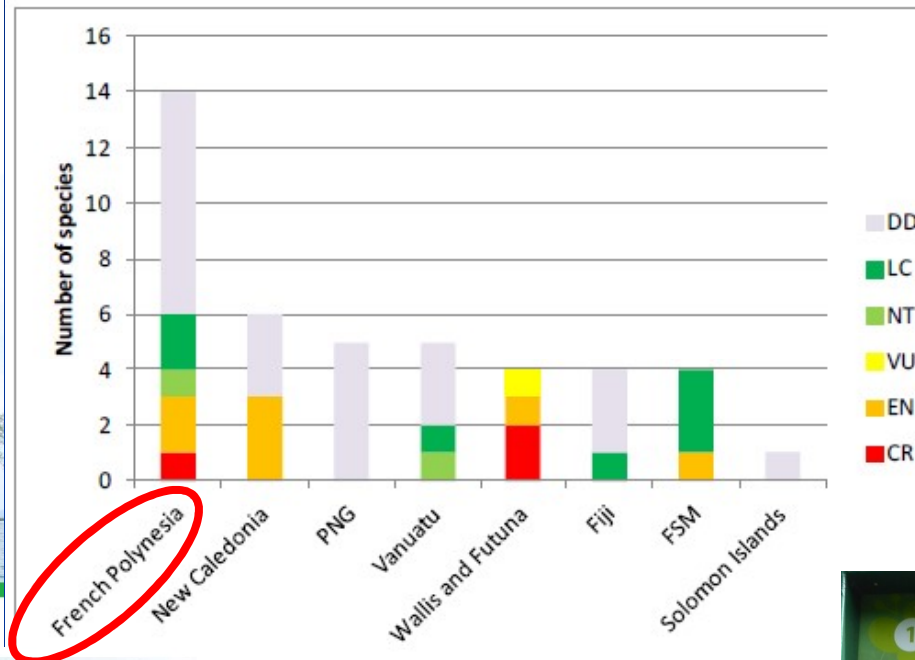
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



Stiphodon julieni, EN.
Endemic to French Polynesia, this species is known from three locations (3 rivers) on the small island of Rapa. It is experiencing a continuing decline in the quality of its habitat, largely caused by deforestation.
© E. Vigneux

Stiphodon julieni, Rapa (EN)

Figure 2.4: Endemic species by country and their threat status



Fautaua valley
(Tahiti)



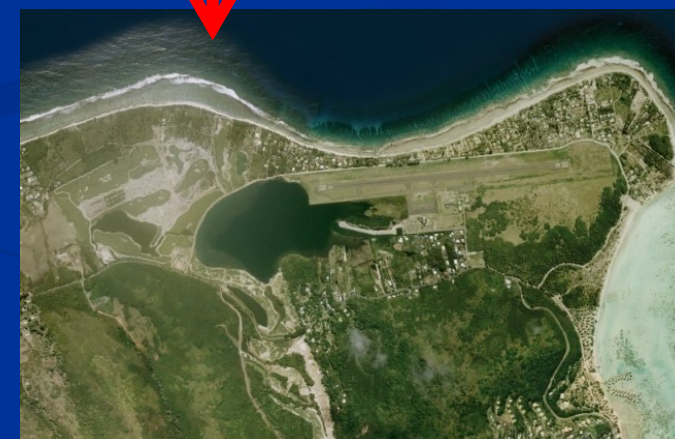
Lac Vaihiria (Tahiti)

■ Lac Temae, Moorea (Society)



France
Lagon de Moorea

2008



Date d'inscription 15 September 2008
Site numéro 1834
Coordonnées 17°30'S 149°49'59"W
Superficie 5 000,00 ha



Restoration projects in French Polynesia



Paea district, Tahiti (Society)

Mahu district, Tubuai (Austral Is.)



T. FRERE©

**BEST
2.0+**



TE ORA NAHO
Fédération des Associations de
Protection de l'Environnement



Acknowledgements



Matiu PREBBLE (Australian National University, Canberra), *Rimatara*, 2004



Ron ENGLUND (Bishop Museum, Honolulu), *Hakawi Falls, Nuku Hiva*, 2012



Neil EVENHUIS (Bishop Museum, Honolulu), *Anaorii plateau, Tahiti*, 2007



Philippe KEITH (National Museum of Natural History), *Paris*, 2010

Questions?

