

Overview of marine taxa suppliers in the Catalogue of Life

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The Catalogue of Life (CoL) is aiming to be a taxonomic inventory of all known living species on earth from all ecological environments. The latest annual edition (AC 2013) of the CoL covers 1.35 million species supplied by 132 taxonomic databases around the world (www.catalogueoflife.org/annual-checklist/2013). This might represent about 70% of the global species diversity recognised by taxonomists.

54 databases in the CoL contain information on marine species. WoRMS, FishBase, URMO, Hexacorals, ITIS and NZIB are among major marine species suppliers. In last four years WoRMS naturally became a biggest CoL provider for marine taxa. It supplies 101,5K species in total through 37 checklists to the CoL. It is only a half of the species available in WoRMS and it consists 7.5% of entire CoL. Most of strictly or predominantly marine groups from WoRMS have been already included in the CoL during 2009-2012. Much more editorial efforts are needed to accommodate WoRMS checklists for taxa with distinct portion of non-marine species. The CoL is exploring now a procedure for creating proto-GSDs as a new development in EC FP7 i4Life project (261555, 2010-2013). Following this, we are taking marine taxa from WoRMS and assembling them with terrestrial and freshwater taxa available in regional and thematic databases (e.g. ITIS, CoL of China, NZOR and FADA). Detection of taxonomic conflicts and intelligent checklist assembly is required.

2013 Annual Checklist contains experimental proto-GSDs for the phyla Mollusca, Platyhelminthes, Myxozoa, and in the class Clitellata (Annelida) to fill temporarily major gaps in the CoL.