BIEN DB Meeting – Friday 3 February 2012

Brad's notes

Next weeks deliverables in yellow

**Validations**

* All currently-developed validations ("shovel ready", to use Martha's term) should be considered in-scope. These include:
  + Taxonomic name resolution (TNRS)
  + Geographic name resolution (GNRS)
  + Geographic coordinate validation (point-in-polygon, using political divisions resolved and corrected by GNRS)
  + Detection of cultivated specimens
* Aaron's job will be to link these up into an automated validation pipeline
* Out-of-scope:
  + Georeferencing (unless Jim can identify an existing, ready-to-go service)
  + Inference of habit (growth form) from specimen descriptions (Barbara Dobrin's scripts; could be added later)
* However: ensure that schema supports georeferencing

**Timeline & Milestons**

* Aaron to finalize, send to Brad for final revisions
* Final version to Martha by end of week

**Schema**

* Complete first draft of comprehesive schemas for VegBien, VegX and DwC\_bien by end of February
* Further modifications will be made iteratively as actual datasets are loaded, but it is important to have a stable "best guess" comprehensive first version
* Remaining schema tasks:
  + **TaxonOccurrence**
    - Done (confirm with Bob, Mike and Nick)
  + **Methods**
    - A full ontology of methods is a separate project to be pursued by Mark with help of student he mentioned. Important, but should be considered out of scope with respect to milestones
    - In-scope: a short list of key plot methods that should to be represented as first-level elements
    - Brad, Bob, Mike: each make short list of key methodological elements they needed combine different datasets and ensure fitness for particular analyses. Be practical, we can't include everything (will leave that task to Mark). Get these lists to Aaron.
    - Aaron (with help from Jim, Mark): Decide how to model these elements within the schemas. Must be capable of applying these attributes to plots, subplots and strata.
  + **Review completed VegBien schema**
    - Aaron to produce initial draft of full schema with all tables and elements
    - Mike and Bob to review this, as they are most familiar with the parent VegBank schema
    - Incorporate any suggestion into final schema
  + **VegX**
    - Aaron to make whatever modifications are needed to match VegBien schema
    - Submit to Nick for approval
    - Over longer term, would be ideal to incorporate these changes into a revised VegX specification and submit to TDWG (Nick plus other VegX coathors)
  + **DwC\_bien**
    - Brad has provided first of comprehensive DwC schema
    - For each element of current DwC, we need to decide whether to use as-is, use with modification, or omit
    - Document still needs input from:
      * Jim (on georeferencing elements)
      * Mike, Bob (on taxon concept elements)
    - Once comments are in, Aaron will merge into single document and send to Brad for revision