

Biological Records Georeferencing and Digital Localities Gazetteer

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SUMMARY

The GIS Unit of the Biological Resources Alexander von Humboldt Research Institute (IAvH) is in charge of all the spatial analysis research in the institution. Previous to the formation of this unit, the biological collections datasets of historical biological records contained insufficient information of location or gave a general description about the locality of the organism. With the technological advances in the handling of the information management, and the increasing use of the GIS, the investigators have improved the capacity of calculation and storage of this information. By the use of standards precise data of the description and geographic location of the biological collections have been obtained, allowing relate specimens to different ecosystems or environmental conditions.

The increased necessity to have georeferenced biological information, led us to the construction of a standard for georeference standard; a methodology for the geographic location and a digital of localities of biological registries, accessible to different users. The documentation of data of the locality or place where the registries are collected is indispensable because it provides origin data, and allows present/display and analyzes this information in space and time, generating capacity and knowledge for decision making as far as conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

We constructed a localities gazetteer considering it to be one of the most useful tools for the handling of geographic information. This allows collect scattered geographic data that and are of difficult documentation, cost reduction it can help us in with the purpose of allows the reduction of costs, duplicity of efforts and the interchange of data, thus the quality of the data becomes a decisive factor for its use (ICONTEC - technical committee 034).