

EVOLUTION MEGALAB NEWSLETTER: ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 2008

Thank you to everyone who submitted news for this issue. If you have any news that you would like to be included in a future issue, please email it to Jenny at j.p.worthington@open.ac.uk by the 20th of the month.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

From December we will be finalising the MegaLab website. This will include altering some of the current text and adding additional text. The new text will then require translating. The changes will be kept to a minimum and only vital text will be changed.

Viable suggestions gathered from the feedback we have received will also be implemented. These improvements will make the site more user friendly and accessible.

IDENTIFICATION GAME

A snail identification game is currently being developed which will test people's identification skills of *Cepaea*.

The scores from the game will be tied to the user's login name. This will enable the quality of user's observations to be evaluated.

SNAIL IDENTIFICATION VIDEO

A snail identification video is being filmed to be placed on the website. Robert Cameron will be talking about identifying *Cepaea* and giving advice on what to look for when deciding on shell colour and banding pattern.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

We are having some promotional material for the Evolution MegaLab produced. This will consist of a postcard with snail pictures, address of website and funder's logos.

Once ready and if required I will be able to send you a pdf of the postcard. You will be able to modify this to suit your needs.

WEBSITE ADDRESS

For purposes of consistency the Evolution MegaLab website address used should be:

www.evolutionmegalab.org

However, www.evolutionmegalab.com also points to the same website.

CEPAEA IMAGE BANK

A bank of *Cepaea* images has been created, it is available at:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/jenny19833>

Please can you acknowledge the photographer when you use these photographs. Copyright either lies with Peter Skelton or Mike Dodd depending on the images used (please acknowledge like this: © NAME).



© Peter Skelton

HISTORIC DATA

If you have any historic data that is able to go on the Evolution MegaLab please contact Mike Dodd (m.e.dodd@open.ac.uk).

He will inform you of the format the data needs to be in.

EVOLUTION MEGALAB ACTIVITIES: SWITZERLAND

- A working group has been set up to look over the snail collections held at the various Natural History museums.
- A small group of local experts (mainly amateur malacologists) has been established. They will give advice on the MegaLab and other gastropods to interested people and schools in their region. These experts, upon request, will help teachers in field excursions.
- BirdLife Switzerland is the main partner in helping to promote the MegaLab in Switzerland. The MegaLab will be presented at the annual meeting of BirdLife Switzerland in November 2008.
- The Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (scnat) is also helping to promote the MegaLab.
- Primary school materials are being developed and will be published in the in the Swiss Teacher Magazine in February 2009 (in German and French).



© Peter Skelton