



ECCO XXXIII

Molecular Taxonomy: from Biodiversity to Biotechnology



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ABSTRACT BOOK

Developing a standard for Biological Resources Centres

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Culture Collections play a vital role by expertly preserving biological material (BM) in ex-situ repositories and making it promptly available to several users such as industry, biotechnology and teaching. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recommended culture collections to work under certificated or accredited schemes thus reaching the status of Biological Resource Centre (BRC). To make a significant leap at the technical and quality assurance level, the BRCs have to have a good management system that covers all technical demands of the material preservation and authentication and that is going to be nimble to operate.

However, no relevant international normative document, covering all the BRC activities is available. The purpose of the presented work is to establish the launch pad for the OECD purpose on the establishment of a Global Biological Resource Centre Network composed by certified or accredited BRCs.

Despite of several standards could apply, no relevant international document exists covering fundamental issues for BRC operation. Based on existing normative documents it is possible to develop a consistent, credible and compatible standard that fits BRC purposes without overlap existing normative documents. The main structure of the proposed standard for BRC quality and competence management system is presented.

The developed standard will enable the culture collections accreditation by providing the necessary requirements for the quality and competence management system being though a fundamental step for the establishment of the Global BRC Network (GBRCN).