Milestone M4.18

Human Interface for CDM-ViBRANT

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Introduction

We have created a simple web-based user interface to enable querying of names of taxonomic data imported into the Common Data Model (CDM) from a variety of sources.

Implementation

Web service methods to search for distinct taxonomic names and search for associated taxonomic data, including reference and link to the original source of the data have been implemented. Using a combination of HTML forms and XSLT a simple query interface was created to enable a user to query a CDM data source (the ViBRANT Index) for an exact name match, or to perform wildcard searches. XML generated from the web service queries was transformed to generate pages displaying the search results. The web application code is available from EDIT’s subversion repository: 

User Interface

The interface and associated test data source is currently only locally accessible, but can be published as soon as naming of the URL has been clarified. However, we suggest to wait until data from Scratchpads can be incorporated, too. Screenshots of the user interface describing a simple query scenario are shown in figures 1,2 and 3.

Figure 1: Screenshot of the form for querying the ViBRANT index. The example shows a wild-card search, including an asterisk after the first part of the name e.g. to enter data beginning with 'Limonium a*
Figure 2: Screenshot of the results from querying the ViBRANT index with *Limonium*. Clicking on a link to a distinct name provides further taxonomic data and information of the sources where that species is found. Each page contains up to 25 hits and the user can click the page links to view further pages.
Figure 3: Screenshot the results from clicking on the name ‘Limonium acutifolium subsp. obsifolium’ from the results of the previous search (Figure 2). Clicking on ‘View Source URL’ shows a link to the source database from where the data originated. Note that in the example the name is found in two sources (Euro+Med PlantBase and Med-Checklist).

Testing

To test the interface we used a data source containing data for 2 different databases (Euro+Med PlantBase and Med-Checklist). These databases contain different classifications of the same species which enabled us to confirm that the interface can select and display unique names originating from different sources.

Further work

We plan to import taxonomic data from different Scratchpads, CDM sites and other taxonomic sources into the CDM via the tools to export and import DwC-A data.