

Presentation for workshop "Involvement of general public in biodiversity monitoring: experience in the Nordic-Baltic region".  
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## Biodiversity databases in Estonia

The website Estonian eBiodiversity is an output for project "Estonian biodiversity data base and information network supporting Natura 2000". Estonian Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of the Environment, University of Tartu, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonian Naturalists' Society and Estonian Museum of Natural History support the development of the information system Estonian eBiodiversity by grants, co-financing, participation or consultations.

Website and underlying database has several functions:

- species references in literature
- species in scientific collections (to the level of specimen)
- species observations
- DNA barcodes for specimen samples
- collective register of Estonian species

The address for website is <http://natmuseum.ut.ee/eestielurikkus>

Occurrence of species can also be recorded through observations. For this purpose the website has special workbench. There, after user has logged in, it is possible to fill data fields about different aspects of observation:

- location (coordinates, altitude, locality name)
- time
- habitat
- weather conditions
- soil conditions
- sample taking details
- determination (possible corrective determination)

It is possible to link photos and drawings to species records.

The input to the database has been done until now by specialists, but through joining the workgroups it can be done also by general public - teachers, students, amateur researchers etc. Specialists will monitor the correctness of data.

At the moment (Oct. 2009) there are **24811** species recorded in database. The number is constantly increasing, as new data from references and collections are added.

A very different database of nature photos can be found at address <http://www.looduspilt.ee>. This is managed by amateur photographers who are interested in nature and nature photography. It has forums, rating and commenting system.