

National Botanic Garden of Belgium (NBGB)



www.br.fgov.be

WHO WE ARE

The National Botanic Garden of Belgium is a large botanical garden situated at the centre of Belgium. Its mission is scientific and educative. It is also responsible for a valuable legacy of scientific reference material and historic buildings. It promotes conservation of plants through many channels including seed-banking, research, monitoring and extensive living collections.

Its research strengths are in its connections with, and collections from tropical Africa. The garden is the publisher of the *Flore d'Afrique Centrale*, covering the Flora of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. Within Belgium, research focuses on the conservation of rare native species, on the analysis of change and on the biology of alien species. Unlike many botanical gardens it has a strong research team working on fungi and lichens in Europe and tropical Africa.

WHAT OUR EXPERIENCE IS

Particularly our herbarium contains approximately 3,000,000 specimens. It has important collections from tropical Africa, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi; from South America, notably the herbarium of Carl von Martius (1794–1868); and of course from Belgium and surrounding countries. Details of about 400,000 specimens are available on our website.

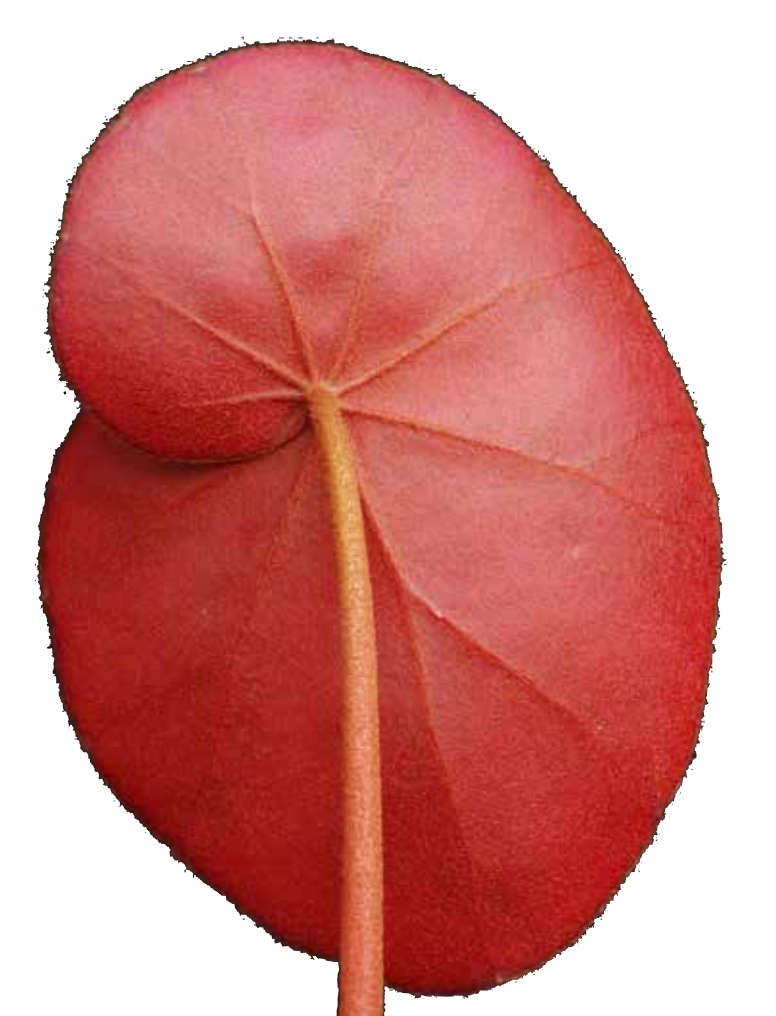
WHAT WE DO IN EU BON

The NBGB will support MRAC by providing expert knowledge of the network of botanical gardens, herbaria and seed banks, for example:

- » providing expert knowledge on the vegetation of Belgium and if required on the Congo Basin
- » test the efficacy of different survey scales, patterns and methods
- » analyzing plant biodiversity records to test the tools created during EU BON. Scaling and issues of spatial independence can only be tested on actual landscapes with large numbers of fine-scale records for which Belgium has abundance in a digital format
- » test the efficacy of models to predict species distributions and to estimate change. Use our understanding of these data to quantify the biases in the data collection and those caused by the methods themselves

WE ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN

- » CETAF
- » OpenUp!
- » pro-iBiosphere
- » Inquire



IN EU BON WE MAINLY CONTRIBUTE TO

- WP 4** Link environment to biodiversity: analyses of patterns, processes and trends
- WP 5** EU BON testing and validation of concepts, tools, and services
- WP 6** Stakeholder engagement and science-policy dialogue

Dr. Quentin Groom



Research Assistant interested in:

- » The phytogeography of Northern Europe
- » The dispersal of introduced plants
- » Digital tools for taxonomy