

Illinois

Ed Baker (Editor)

On the way to Costa Rica I spent a week with the Species File team (<http://software.speciesfile.org>) in Champaign, Illinois. During this week, and since I've been back we have made some progress to more closely linking Species Files with the Scratchpad system (<http://scratchpads.eu>) used by the PSG Website. While the benefits of linking the two systems are far broader than just phasmids they will still be of great use to many PSG members.

The first main agreement was for the Species File team to output their taxonomy in a machine-readable format (Taxon Concept Schema) that can be read by the PSG Website. This allows the PSG to periodically synchronise its internally taxonomy with the regularly updated Phasmida Species File taxonomy. Using this taxonomy the PSG Website can generate dynamic web pages for every taxon by pulling content from the site, and from external sources (photos from Flickr, maps from GBIF, gene sequences, Wikipedia entries).

A second agreement will see the Species File team provide a machine-readable version of their taxon pages which can easily be integrated into the Scratchpad taxon pages. This will allow comprehensive taxonomic data to be displayed alongside everything else.