# Five Years of Corallosphere: A progress report

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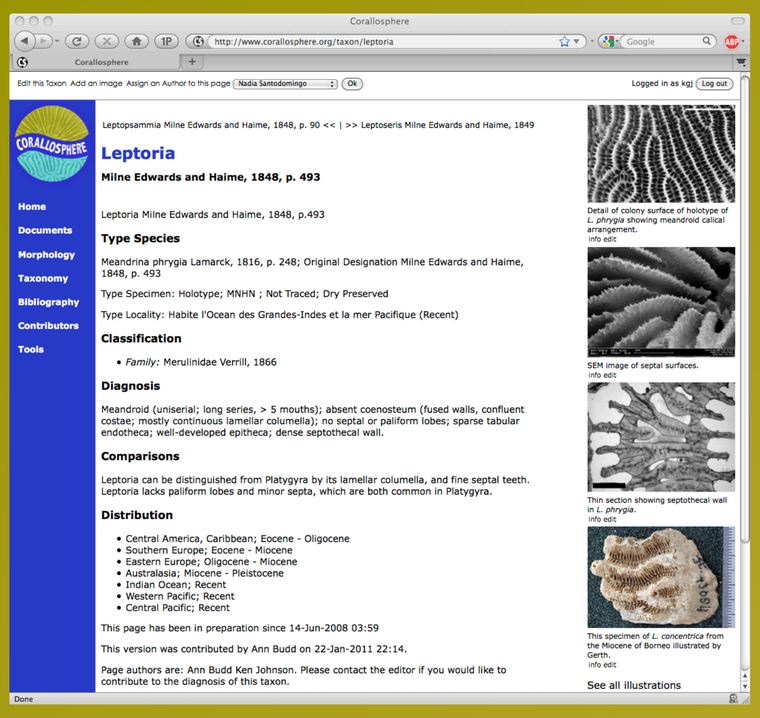
## What are we doing?




*Corallosphere* (http://corallosphere.org) is a web-based tool that we are using to compile a genus-level taxonomic revision of the Scleractinia. Our challenge is to extract large volumes of information from published and unpublished taxonomic works, museum collections, web-based data sets, and particularly the cumulative expertise of the community of experienced taxonomists. Team members are responsible for sets of taxa, working drafts of taxonomic summaries are published on *Corallosphere.org* so they are immediately available. The main areas covered in *Corallosphere* include text descriptions for diagnoses of valid genera, as well as tools for managing taxonomic synonymies, images, a bibliography, and an atlas of morphological terms. Users are able to compile, edit, review, and annotate generic diagnoses directly from the internet. The ultimate aim is to produce a system that will facilitate the rapid publication of the next version of the *Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology* based on community-wide consensus.

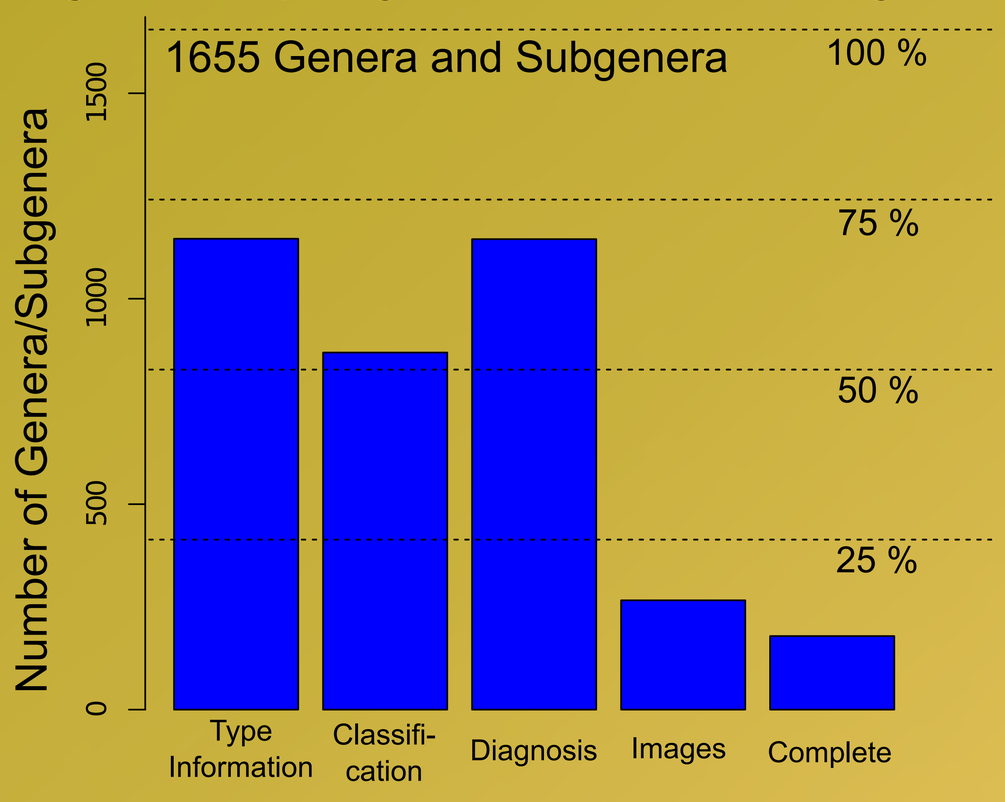
## How is it going ?

**Number of names in Corallosphere.org**

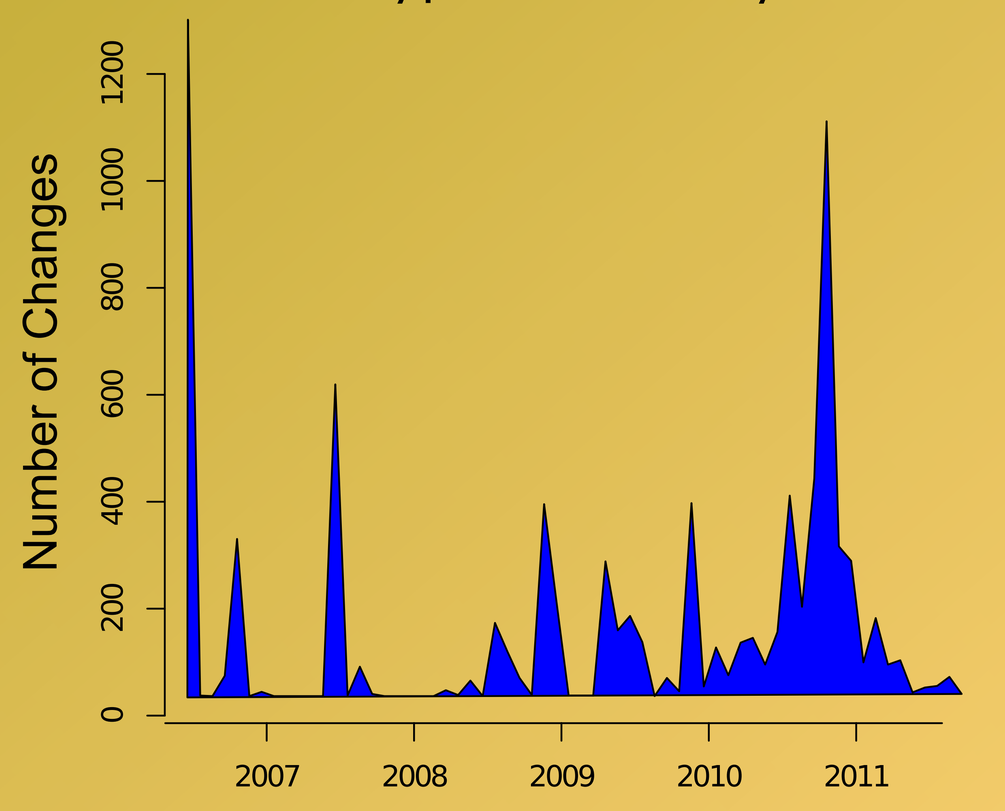
| Rank | Valid | Not Valid |
|---|---|---|
| family | 143 | 2 |
| subfamily | 35 | 0 |
| genus | 1532 | 89 |
| subgenus | 33 | 1 |
| total | 1743 | 92 |

As of August 2011, 1835 taxa are listed in *Corallosphere.org*, including 1655 genera and subgenera. Most genera are considered available for use (93%), and two-thirds of genera are available and valid. Completeness of information within genera varies according to the information type, with good progress including type information, classifications, and diagnoses. Relatively few taxa are associated with images of type specimens, possibly due to difficulties acquiring high quality illustrations. In many cases the specimens have been lost or are reposited i n institutions without strong support for providing images of type material. The morphological atlas contains definitions for 671 terms, but much work remains to bring develop a consistent scheme and publish suitable images illustrating morphological features. The bibliography remains incomplete and unpublished..

**Progress in Completing Revision of General and Subgenera**




**Rate of data entry per month since May 2006.**




## Who is contributing?

Corallosphere is produced by 24 contributors from Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. The managing Editor is **Steve Cairns**, and **Ken Johnson** is the technical coordinator. The seven members of the editorial team divides taxa among time intervals and taxonomic groups and are responsible for recruiting authors for each taxon. The identity of the contributing author and date of each contribution is tracked, so that each page can be considered as a single publication that can be cited in the literature and linked directly from other web-based initiatives.

In June 2009, The Corallosphere team participated in a Workshop on Scleractinian Systematics sponsored by the Encyclopedia of Life Consortium.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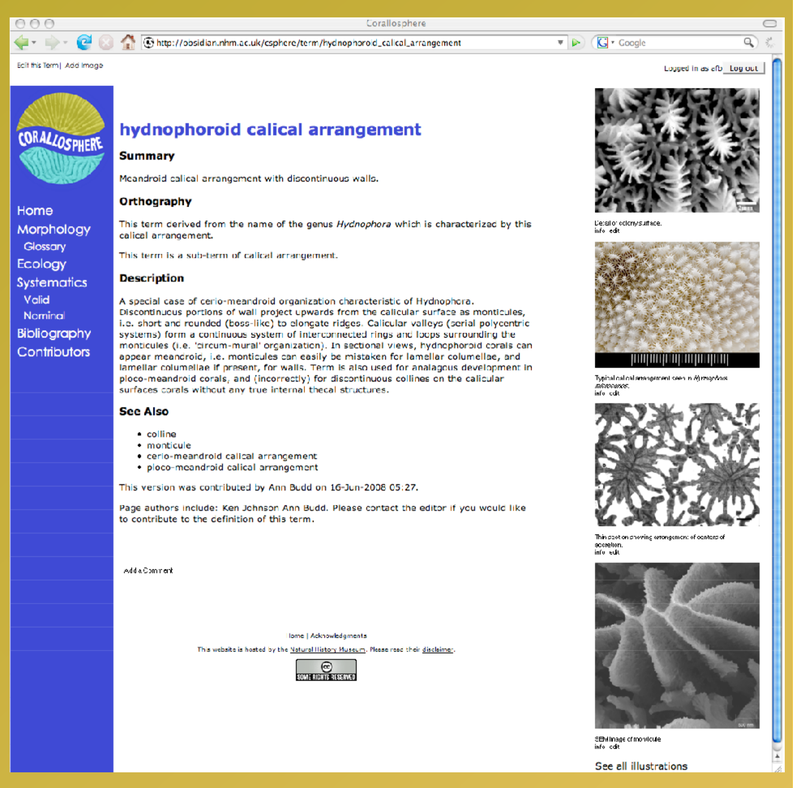
## What's next?

During this symposium we will meet to discuss plans for future development including

1. **Contributors**: strategies for recruiting new and encouraging existing contributors
2. **Content**: increasing the rate of addition of new content, especially images of type material, the atlas of morphological terms; strategies for reviewing and increasing the quality of existing content.
3. **Infrastructure**: discussion of priorities for future development of the *Corallosphere* infrastructure, include improvments to the user interface, establishing links to other biodiversity informatics project (for example EoL, WoRMs, GINA, PBDB,), extension of the system to species-level name, and potential for migration to alternative platforms (for example, the scratchpads systems developed under project Vibrant).




## *http://corallosphere.org*

**Acknowledgments**: Corallosphere has been supported by funds from the US National Science Foundation (Grant EAR-044578 to AF Budd), The Encyclopedia of Life Consortium, and the Natural History Museum London.