Creation of EPPO codes in relation to import data

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Webinar for EPPO codes users
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Background

- List of over 2500 Latin names representing some imports of one EPPO Member, mostly ornamental plants
- Used as a pilot project in 2017 to...
  - ...evaluate the capacity of the EPPO Secretariat to answer large numbers of requests
  - ...to identify challenges if EPPO Codes were to be used in a global phytosanitary context (e.g. issuance of phytosanitary certificates).
Content of the list

- Mostly plants, a few mushrooms
- > 570 Cactaceae
  - incl. > 130 *Mammillaria* spp.
- *Aloe* spp.: >120
- *Euphorbia* spp.: 140
- Many orchids, ferns
## Actions taken in GD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 code created</td>
<td>1564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several codes (e.g. request linked to a species whose genus was not in GD)</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synonyms added (e.g. the request was a synonym of an existing code)</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New preferred name</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correcting mistakes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2008 /2500+**
## No change made to GD

### 357 /2500+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name misspelt in the request, code already existed</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code existed (already created for another request)</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code existed under another name</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invalid genus (old genus, no longer in use)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticultural var. of species in GD</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requested name not found in the literature</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient data: requested name exists, but it could not be reliably</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attributed to a single species/subspecies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in line with GD practice: entity not coded in GD (e.g. section or</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub-genus, grouping of species)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Positive side

• **Sources are available to check most cases, including databases on the Internet:**
  The Plant List, Tropicos, Kew database, orchids and ferns databases.

• **Most requests are easy to solve, …but not all.**
Specific challenges

• Name that does not exist (e.g. correct genus name with an incorrect epithet)
• Wrong name given in trade. e.g.
  • 1- name that looks Latin but is not;
  • 2- valid Latin name of a plant unlikely to be traded, but same name sometimes used (wrongly) for another species, which is traded.
• Insufficient data: name exists, but relates to several species - don’t know which is traded
• Taxonomy of some groups very debated (morphological vs. molecular, etc.) and under constant revision: e.g. Cactaceae, Orchidaceae.
Followed basic principles

• Codes are created for accepted taxon (e.g. species, genus, family).
• Normally stop at species level, unless valid reasons for infraspecific levels.
  ► taxonomic (e.g. clearly identified entity whose name is valid) and agronomic justifications (e.g. widely used, traded)
• Requests at infraspecific levels are considered on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, final decision is not to create a code.
• Infraspecific levels in GD, e.g. for plants:
  • subsp. and var. (valid entities only)
  • forms (f.) normally not included
  • specific hybrids provided they have a valid scientific name and their parentage is clear.
  • groups of hybrids can be coded, where relevant.
  • outside the scope of GD: commercial cultivars, sections within a genus, subgroups within a genus based on non-taxonomic elements (e.g. flower forms)
Conclusion

• Positive experience, with some challenges

• EPPO Secretariat believes it is important to continue populating GD with more plant and pest names to better answer the needs of all EPPO Codes users
Next steps

• Adjusting EPPO IT system to manage long lists of requests in the GD interface (for administrators), and ensure traceability
• Analyze in 2018 a list of >3000 trees received from the EU (Traceability of EU trade)
• Look into lists of quarantine pests
• Other lists?
Thank you !