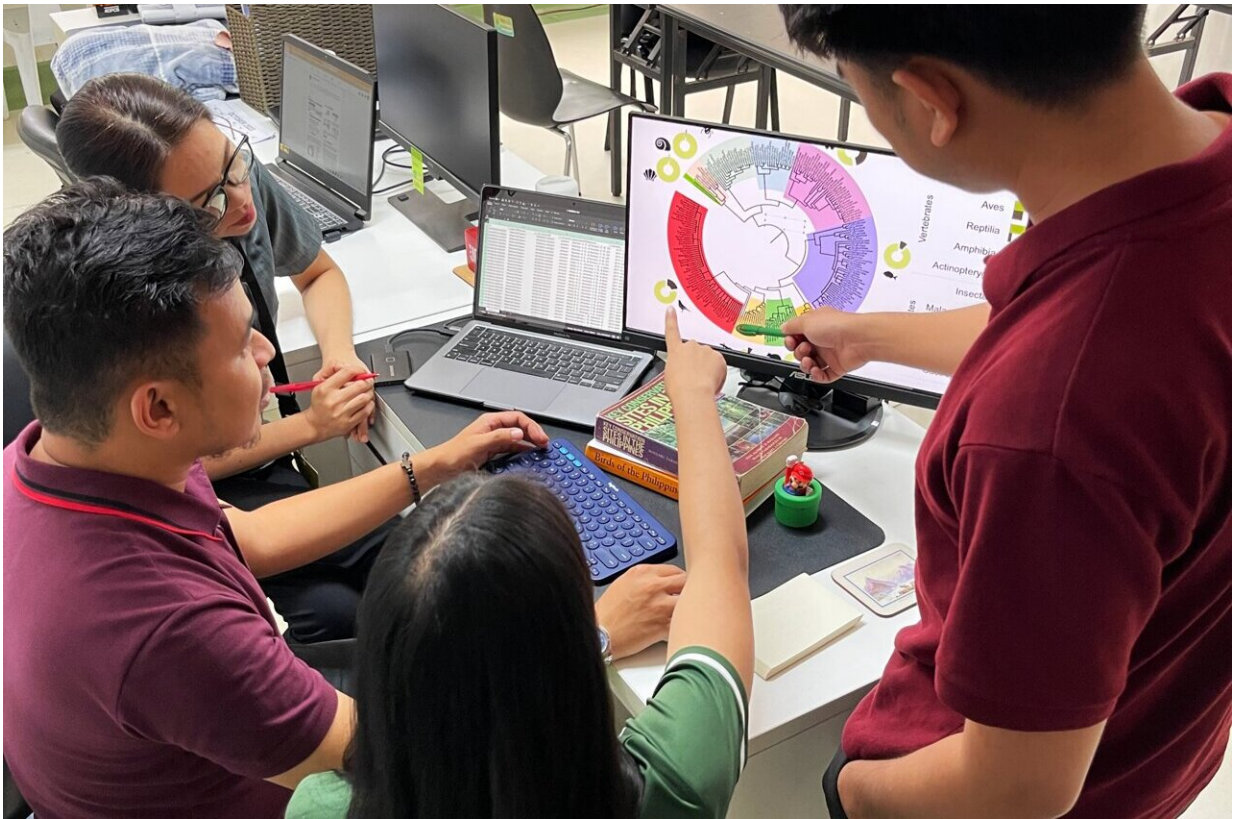


An extensive database for advancing Mindanao Island's biodiversity

October 12 2023



Team members of the MOBIOS+ consortium curating the dataset. Credit: Tanalgo et al.

The Philippine Archipelago, with more than 7,100 islands, has one of the highest levels of endemism globally and is a hotspot for biodiversity

conservation. Mindanao, the second largest group of islands in the country, is a treasure trove of terrestrial species, boasting one of the highest densities of unique flora and fauna on the planet. However, despite its ecological significance, comprehensive biodiversity records and data for the region have remained inaccessible until now.

The Mindanao Open Biodiversity Information (MOBIOS⁺) [database](#) aims to bridge these critical data gaps by compiling biodiversity information from the 21st century. This monumental undertaking seeks to enhance our understanding of Mindanao's biodiversity trends, while establishing a database that is openly accessible to researchers and conservationists worldwide.

MOBIOS⁺ is the first of its kind and, currently, the most comprehensive attempt to create a consolidated database for the biodiversity of Mindanao based on publicly available literature. With a vast collection of biodiversity data, this database will be an invaluable resource to advance regional biodiversity research and analysis.

"It will further facilitate the identification of species and areas that require immediate conservation prioritization and action, addressing the urgent challenges posed by our rapidly changing planet," the researchers behind the project write in their [data paper](#), published in the open-access, peer-reviewed *Biodiversity Data Journal*.

The MOBIOS⁺ database, [available](#) through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) platform, currently comprises an impressive 12,813 georeferenced specimen occurrences representing 1,907 unique taxa.

These span across ten animal classes inhabiting terrestrial and freshwater environments within the Mindanao faunal region. The project aims to continuously update the species database, complementing on-ground

biodiversity efforts in Mindanao.

Associate Professor Krizler Tanalgo of the Ecology and Conservation Research Laboratory at the University of Southern Mindanao, the project leader behind MOBIOSt, shared his thoughts on this initiative, saying, "We aim to democratize [biodiversity](#) information, making it readily available to researchers, policymakers, and conservation biologists. By doing so, we hope to facilitate well-informed decisions to address pressing [environmental challenges](#), with a particular focus on the often underrepresented Mindanao region, which tends to receive limited attention in terms of research and funding."

"The MOBIOSt database is not only a testament to the dedication of the scientific community, but also a beacon of hope for the future of [biodiversity conservation](#) in Mindanao and beyond. It will support researchers and conservationists in identifying species and areas that require immediate prioritization and action, safeguarding the unique and fragile ecosystems of this extraordinary region."

More information: Krizler Tanalgo et al, The MOBIOSt: A FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) database for Mindanao's terrestrial biodiversity, *Biodiversity Data Journal* (2023). [DOI: 10.3897/BDJ.11.e110016](https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.11.e110016)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: An extensive database for advancing Mindanao Island's biodiversity (2023, October 12) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-10-extensive-database-advancing-mindanao-island.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.