**Topic: Working together for a greener future**

**Title: Taxon Project**

 Everything started on January, the 29th of 2022 during the National Day for garden birds’ counting organized by the Bird Protection League, a French organism dedicated to wildlife preservation. That rainy morning at 7:00 am, around thirty students, researchers and university staff gathered on the Rennais campus of l’Institut Agro Rennes-Angers eager to start what will become the beginning of a beautiful project. After that day, concerned that we did not want to lose the data assessed, us, a group of students, researchers and staff decided to set up biweekly biodiversity inventories on the campus using scientific protocols. We started to focus on birds, butterflies, and reptiles. More, thanks to motivated researchers, technicians, and teachers we also started to make plants, mushrooms, and moss inventories and training sessions. Those inventories which are open to everybody from university regardless of the level of knowledge have since been eagerly awaited by numerous people. Since the beginning, we collected more than 5000 data entries and observed hundreds of species. All of this is now used by some teachers for teaching projects.

 Even more, this project matches perfectly with a final MSc year student project aiming to develop a sustainable and more biodiversity-friendly way of managing the green areas of our 17 hectares campus including a 2.5 ha arboretum and a 1 ha “human-free” area dedicated to wildlife development.

 Then we had the great opportunity to be part of the thesis work of Valentin Cabon, ECOBIO laboratory, University of Rennes, France who is working on the impact of urban heat islands on arthropods communities and used the campus as one of his data collecting areas.

 After just one year of work, another opportunity was brought to us by another final MSc year student project, the setting up of a BioBlitz event of 48 hours and open to every citizen which promote biodiversity discovery through a scientific and beginner-friendly activities. That weekend more than 40 national taxonomic specialists and motivated students were present on 4 campus, tens of day-and-night-inventories, conferences, workshops, and a lot of wonderful people met. The data are going to be recorded on the GBIF database. It gathered around 300 people and motivated us to reinstate such event to raise even more awareness about biodiversity preservation.

Keywords : biodiversity, green area management, urban heat island, BioBlitz, taxonomic, inventory

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