

**Three Colombian universities working on a project for the dissemination of biological data on the network using RENATA infrastructure. The initiative seeks to be a support to environmental education, scientific research and biodiversity conservation.**

The scientific community and the actors responsible for decisions relating to the environment need to know about biodiversity, especially in diverse countries like Colombia. But the general community can and should be interested in knowing the natural resources.

As a window into the world of diversity, biological collections are repositories of biological wealth of a nation, because in them are stored specimens for study and in many cases the only witnesses of extinct species.

In countries like Colombia, where these collections acquire extreme importance in research and education processes, a project related to these is of fundamental importance.

Therefore, the Institute of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Sciences Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá, ICN), running a project for the dissemination of biological data on the network, along with two other participating institutions: the Universidad Industrial de Santander (UIS) and the Idrolectivo (IDRO).

The project is supported by the National Academic Network of Advanced Technology (RENATA), specifically involving its member networks: Bogotá Metropolitan Academic Network (RUMBO) and the Corporation for Education Institutions Network, Research and Development of the Colombian East (UNIRED).

His goal is to deliver 13.800 new registrations biological and zoological collections of the UIS and the ICN. These records entered to strengthen biological almost 400,000 records, that ICN has available on its website [www.biovirtual.unal.edu.co](http://www.biovirtual.unal.edu.co) virtual collections.

ICN biological collections contain over 800,000 specimens, which makes them the most representative collections of fauna and flora nationally and internationally in Colombia. The herpetological collection of UIS stores about 6,000 specimens of reptiles and amphibians which makes this collection the most representative of northeast Colombia on such groups.

The project began in August 2010 and the end of 10 months in office, also aims to deliver a web application for Environmental Education which will have a general understanding of the characteristics that differentiate the major groups of reptiles found in Colombia, and information very importance of this biota in a fun and interactive.