

#GlobalCollembola

is a distributed-effort initiative aiming at understanding the global distribution of diversity and abundance of Collembola. Global synthesis in the field of soil biodiversity is requested currently by both scientific community and authorities. Moving in this direction is necessary to bring more attention to soil biodiversity which will foster recognition of the field and provide support for contemporary and future generations of soil zoologists.

Initiative is targeting to compile published and unpublished data on abundance and species diversity (community data) of Collembola available from private archives of researchers around the globe. This is a huge effort, which is not possible to achieve alone, but it is possible if **many people will contribute a piece**. If achieved, the initiative would allow us to standardize available data, make it accessible for re-use and save the data in long term. This will also allow us to recognise problems in compatibility of existing data and identify gaps of knowledge. We would be able to demonstrate latitudinal gradients and effects of temperature, precipitation and vegetation types on the abundance and diversity of Collembola on the global scale. Finally, we could show a rigor evidence to broad scientific community that Collembola are the most abundant “insects” on Earth.

Based on the compiled data, **a synthesis publication** will be prepared and all the final data providers will be included as co-authors. The initial campaign of data collection and cleaning is run until the end of January, 2020. Analysis and publication are planned for 2020.

More than that, collected data will be structured as **the global database on collembolan communities**, which will be open for further synthesis studies, covering different aspects of Collembola ecological preferences, species distributions, community assembly processes and many other questions. The database will be continuously developed after initial synthesis and curated by the board of recognized experts in the field.

Spread the word among colleagues who may be interested on the initiative. *Note, that initiative is focused on the raw sample-based data (counts of species or high-rank taxa in soil cores)*. With all questions you can write directly to Anton Potapov (potapov.msu@gmail.com), who is coordinating the data collection.