



Encyclopedia of Life

Cyndy
Jackdaw of all trades
ADMINS • CURATORS • PROFILE • SIGN OUT

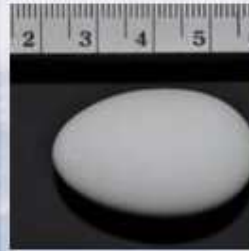


Leveraging an international infrastructure

Case studies from the Encyclopedia of Life

Search EOL ...

GO



Cynthia Parr, Katja Schulz, and Jennifer Hammock
TDWG 2012
Beijing, China 25 October 2012

@cydparr
@eol

Outline

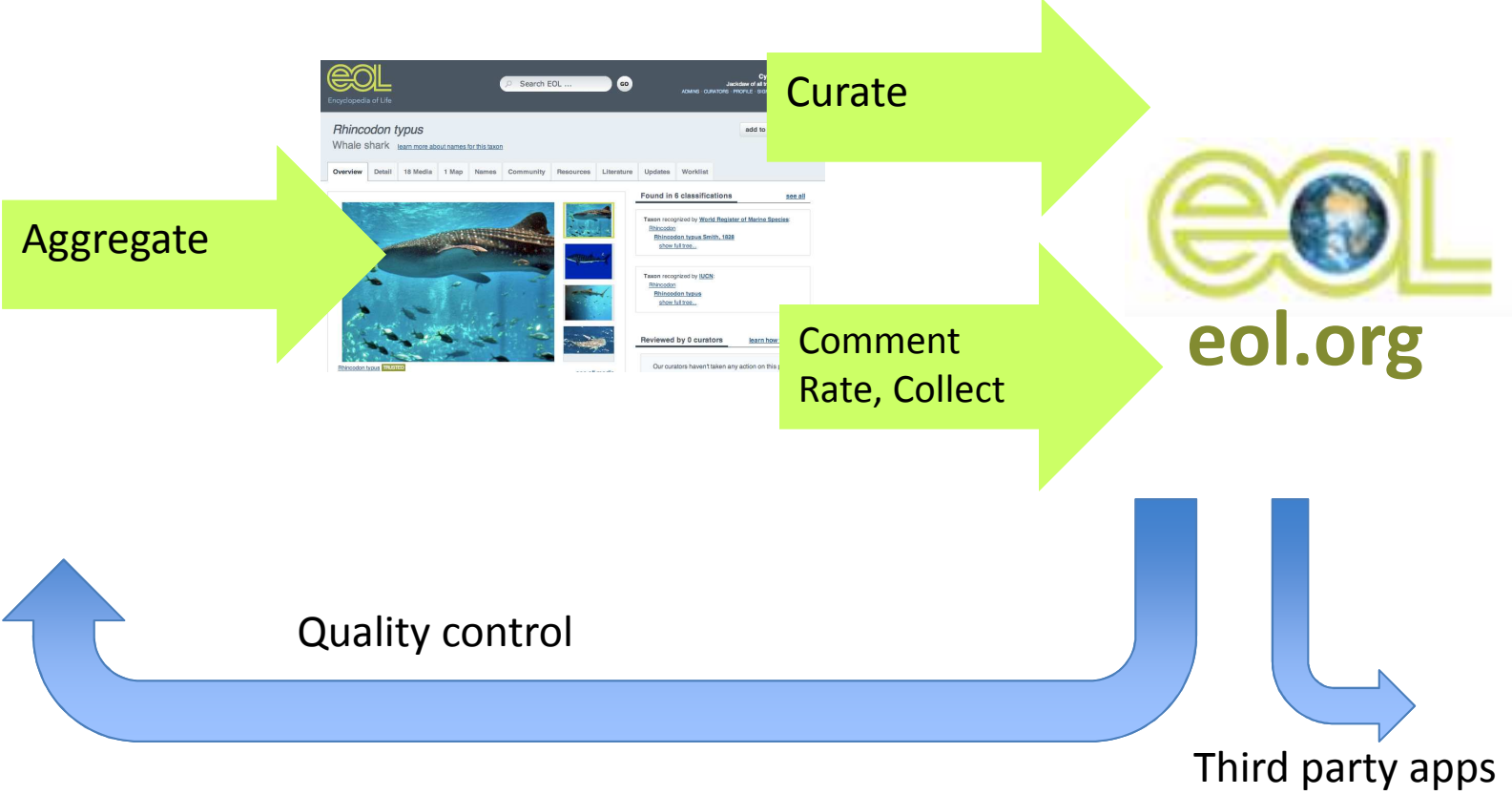
- Briefly, who are we and why are we here?
- The information landscape of species descriptions
- Thoughts for the future

Note:

Rubenstein Fellows Proposals are due 15 November

See http://eol.org/info/Rubenstein_2013_competition

EOL aggregates and curates



Why survey the landscape?

- Improve standards and set goals
- Prepare for text mining
- Learn how best to support quality control
- Baseline for improving multilingual, open content

- Because we can

>1.1 million taxon pages with content

from more than 200 providers, 1000s individuals

5 million content objects









Panthera tigris

Tiger [learn more about names for this taxon](#)


[Tweet](#)

[add to a collection](#)

[Overview](#) [Detail](#) [257 Media](#) [3 Maps](#) [Names](#) [Community](#) [Resources](#) [Literature](#) [Updates](#)



[Panthera tigris](#) **TRUSTED**

 © Bjørn Christian Tørrissen

Source: [EOL Rapid Response Team](#)

[see all media](#)
[see all maps](#)

Classification

Classification from [Integrated Taxonomic Information System \(ITIS\)](#) selected by [Cyndy Parr](#) - [see more](#).

- [Animalia](#) +
- [Chordata](#) +
- [Vertebrata](#) +
- [Mammalia](#) [Linnaeus, 1758](#) +
- [Theria](#) [Parker and Haswell, 1897](#) +
- [Eutheria](#) [Gill, 1872](#) +
- [Carnivora](#) [Bowdich, 1821](#) +
- [Feliformia](#) [Kretzoi, 1945](#) +
- [Felidae](#) [Fischer de Waldheim, 1817](#) +
- [Pantherinae](#) [Pocock, 1917](#) +
- [Panthera](#) [Oken, 1816](#) +
- Panthera tigris*** ([Linnaeus, 1758](#))
- [Panthera tigris altaica](#) [Temminck, 1844](#)
- [Panthera tigris amoyensis](#) ([Hilzheimer, 1912](#))
- [Panthera tigris balica](#) [Schwarz, 1912](#)
- [Panthera tigris corbetti](#) [Mazak, 1968](#)
- [Panthera tigris sondaica](#) [Temminck, 1844](#)
- [Panthera tigris sumatrae](#) [Pocock, 1929](#)
- [Panthera tigris tigris](#) ([Linnaeus, 1758](#))
- [Panthera tigris virgata](#) ([Illiger, 1815](#))
- [Panthera leo](#) ([Linnaeus, 1758](#)) +
- [Panthera onca](#) ([Linnaeus, 1758](#)) +

IUCN threat status: [Endangered \(EN\)](#)

Total of 1,822,079 images 9,586 videos 28,569 sounds



Media

SORT BY

Status ▾

FILTER BY TYPE

- All types (12455)
- Images (12370)
- Videos (84)
- Sounds (1)

FILTER BY STATUS













- All statuses
- Trusted
- Unreviewed

filter media

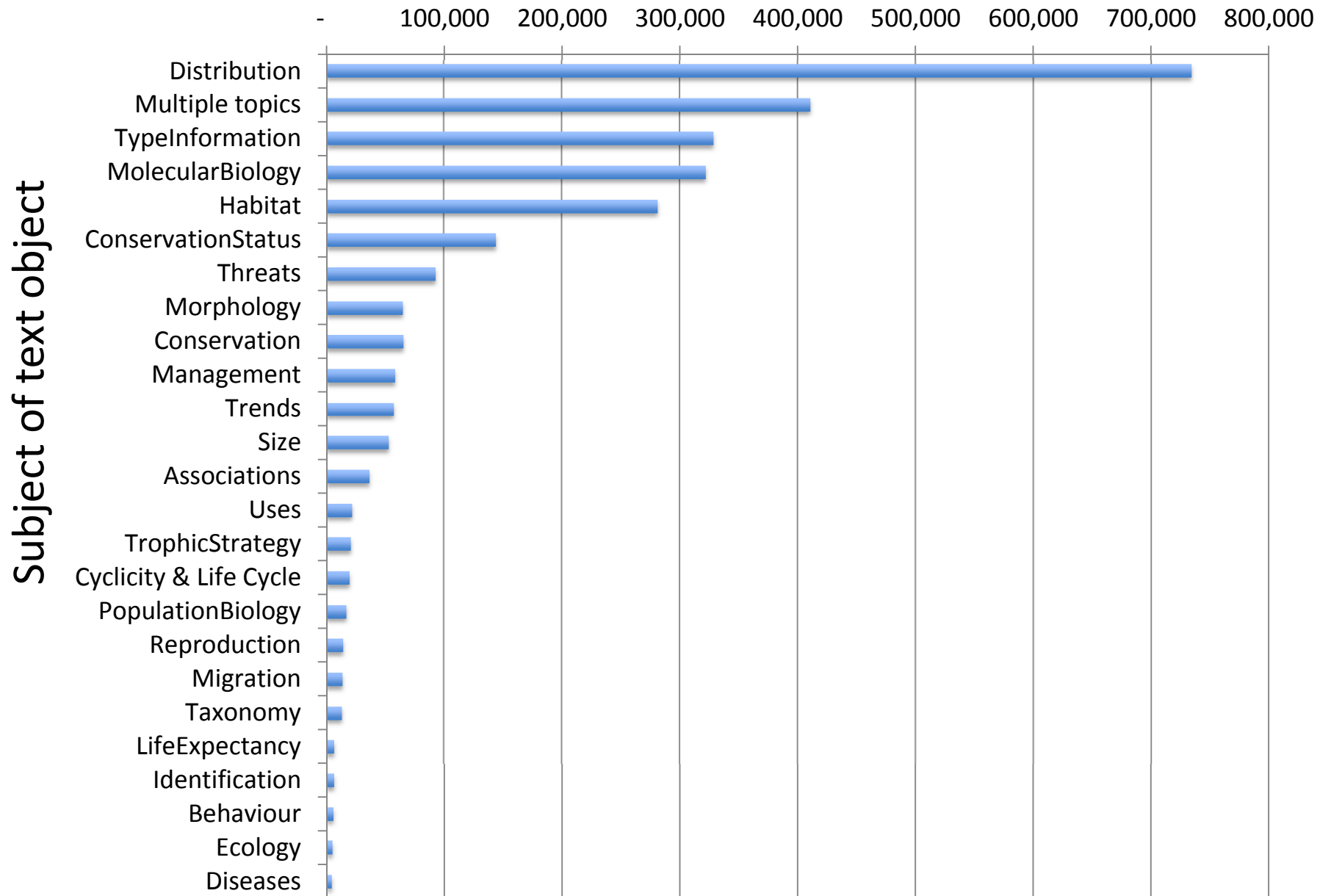
Displaying 1 – 40 of 12455

Previous

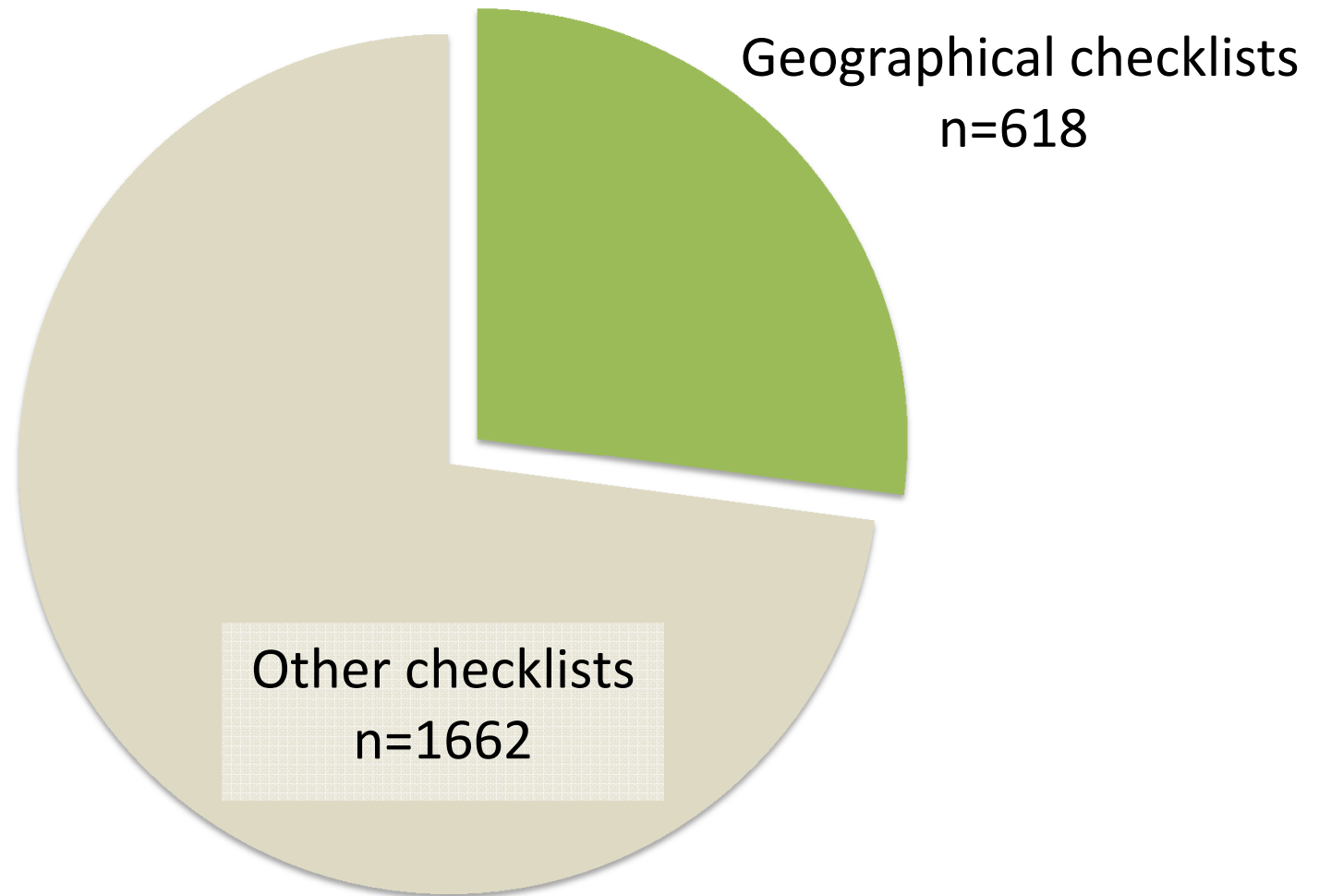
1 2 3 4 5 ... 310 311 312 Next

 <p>★★★★★ TRUSTED add to a collection</p>	 <p>★★★★★ TRUSTED add to a collection</p>	 <p>★★★★★ TRUSTED add to a collection</p>	 <p>★★★★★ TRUSTED add to a collection</p>
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Number of text objects

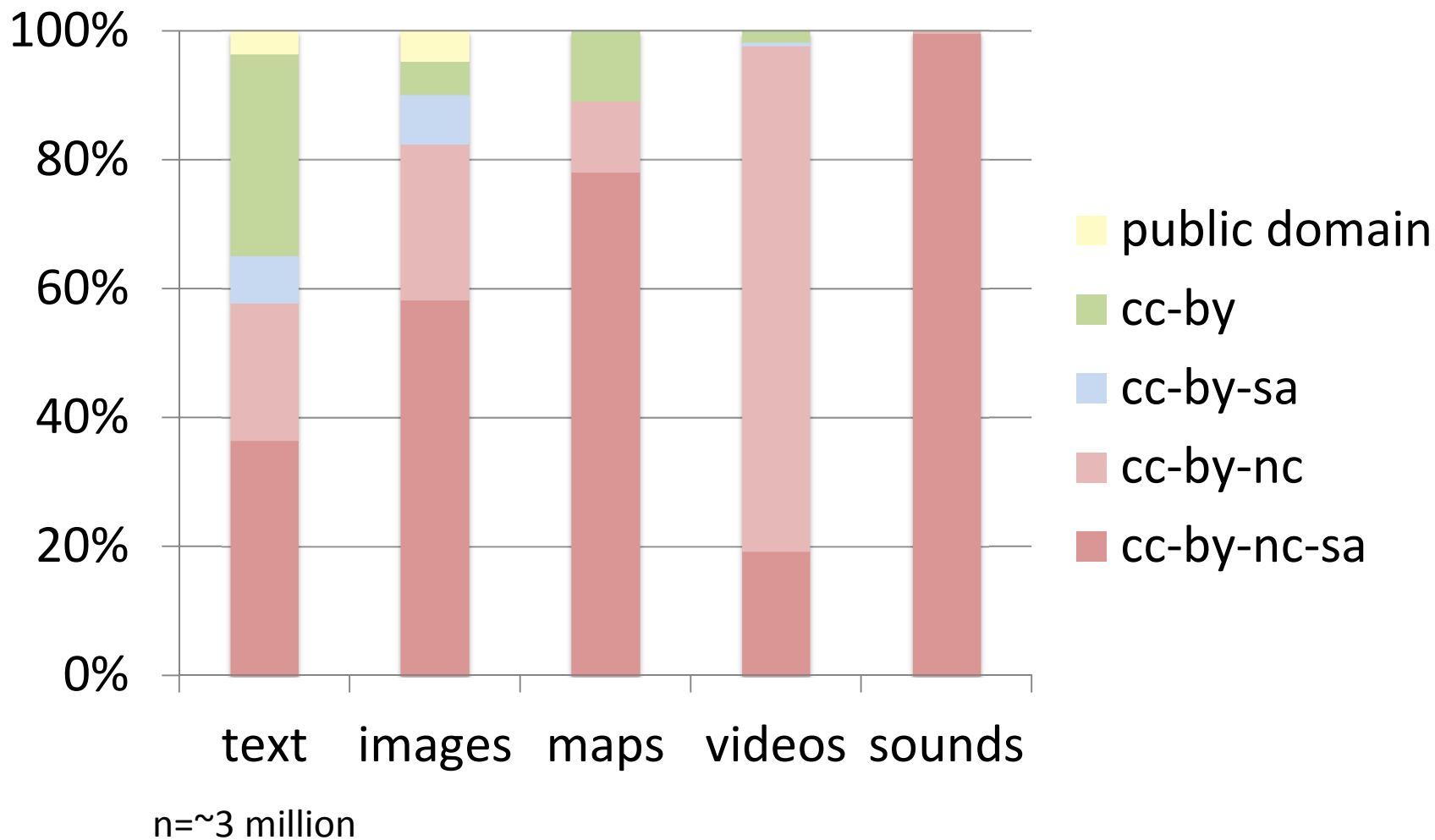


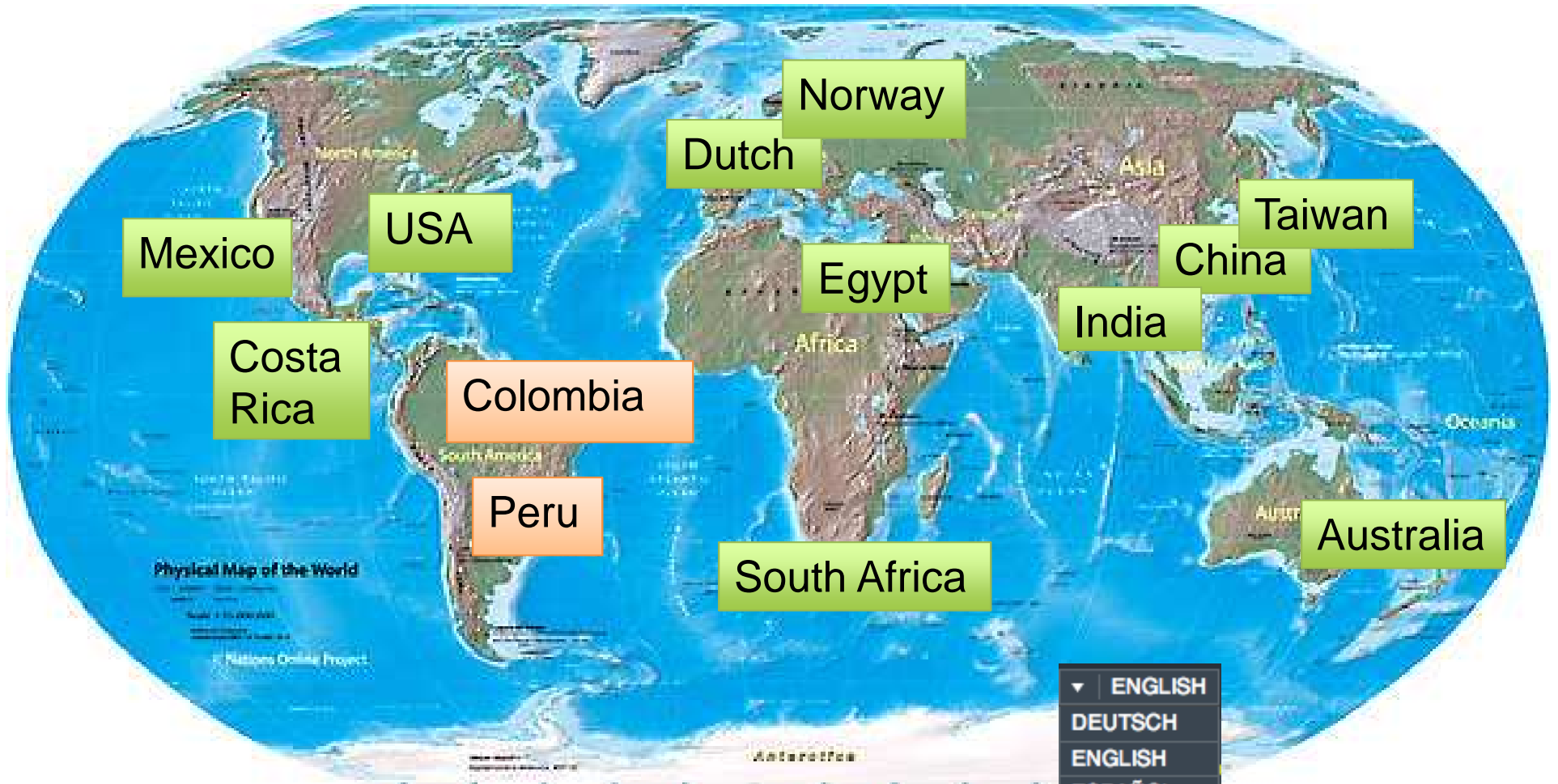
Many user-created EOL collections are local checklists



License restrictions vary by object type

n=~5 million

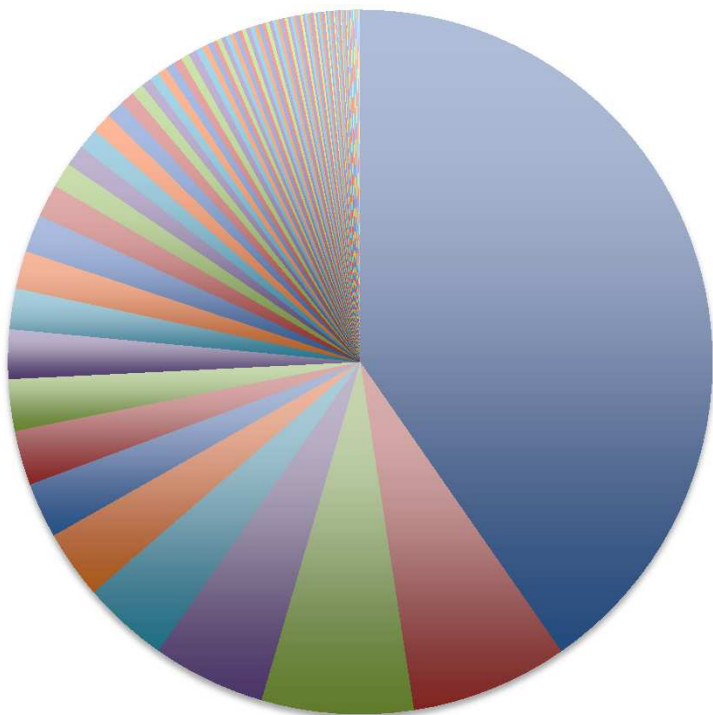




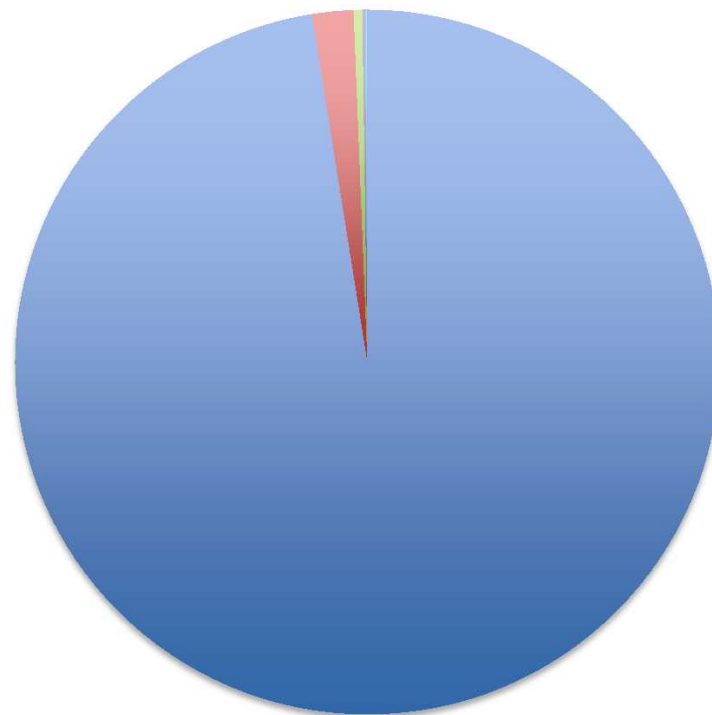
- ▼ ENGLISH
- DEUTSCH
- ENGLISH
- ESPAÑOL
- FRANÇAIS
- GALEGO
- NEDERLANDS
- TAGALOG
- МАКЕДОНСКИ
- СРПСКИ
- ЈЕЗИК
- العربية
- 简体中文
- 한국어

EOL interface now in 12 languages
Via translatewiki.org

However...

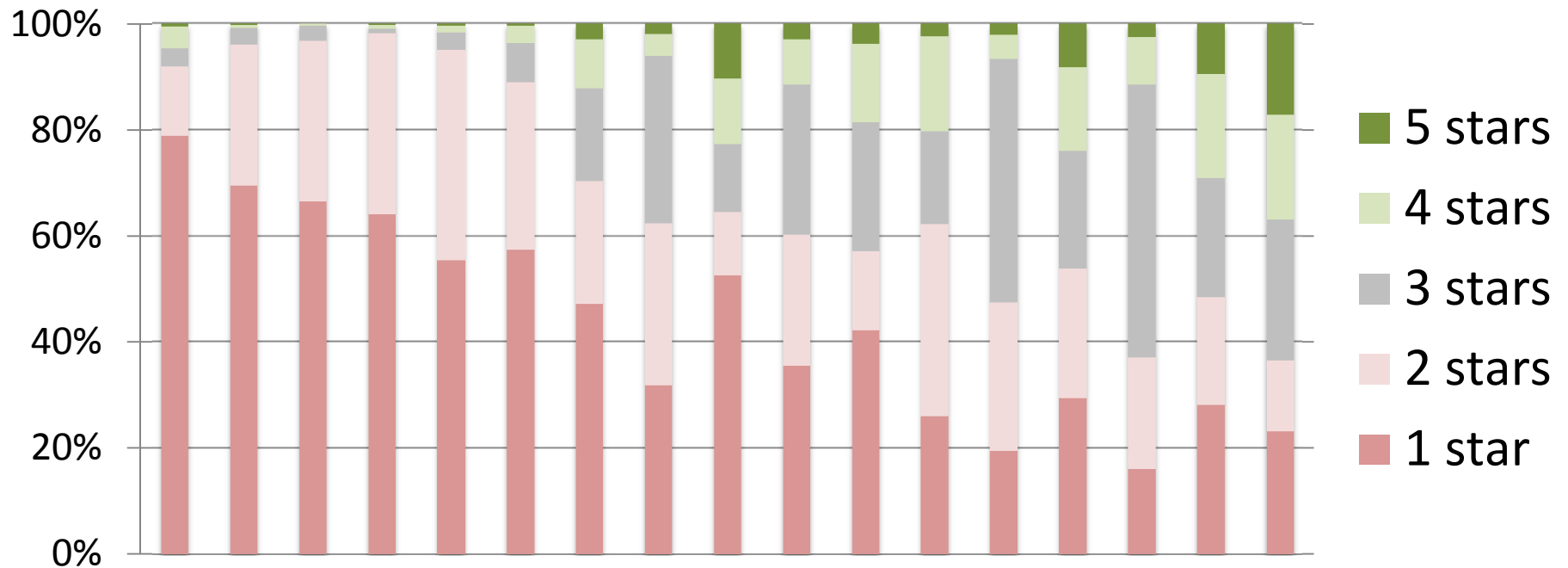


Vernacular names
in 163 languages



Text description objects
in 17 languages

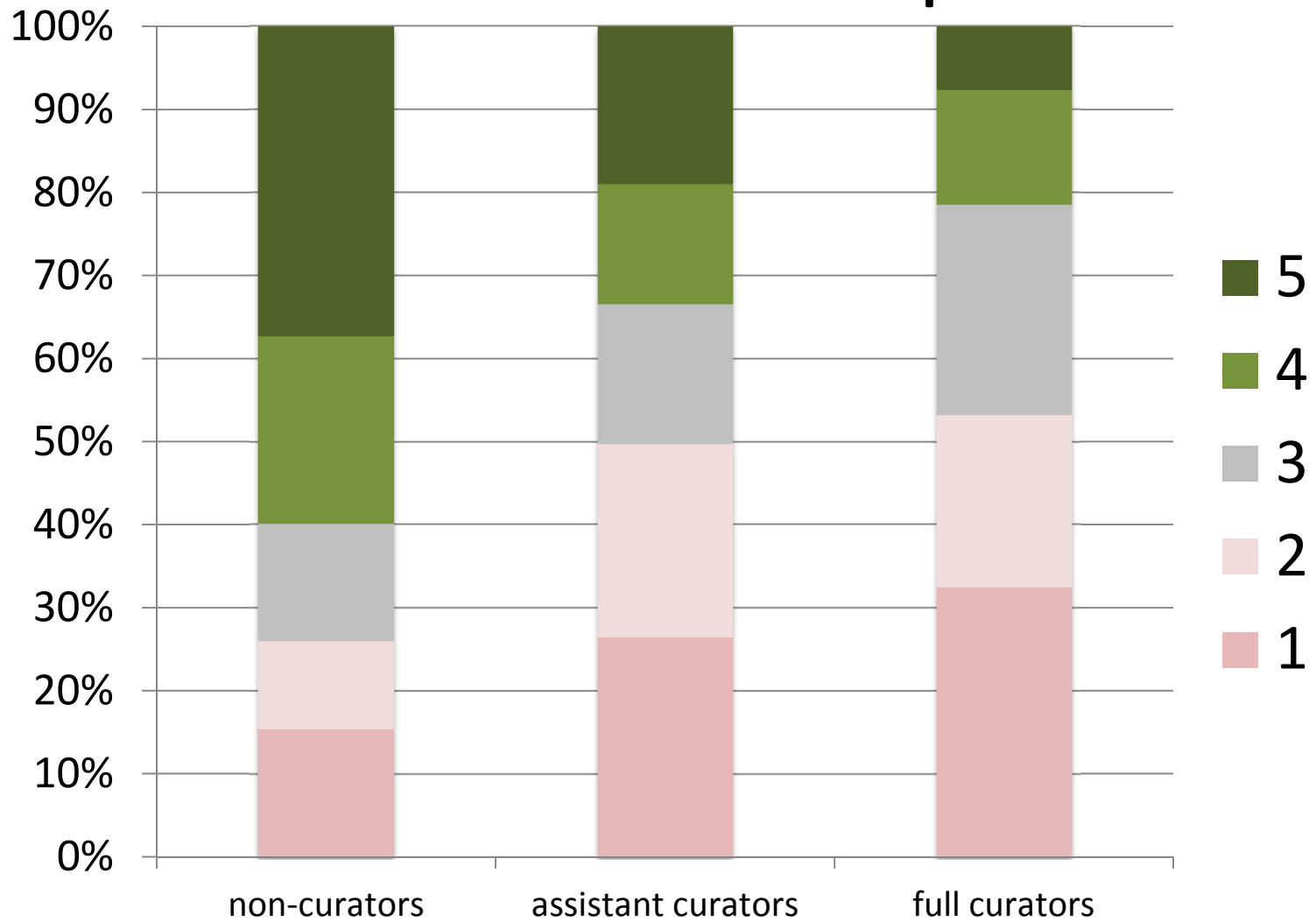
Some providers get higher ratings than others



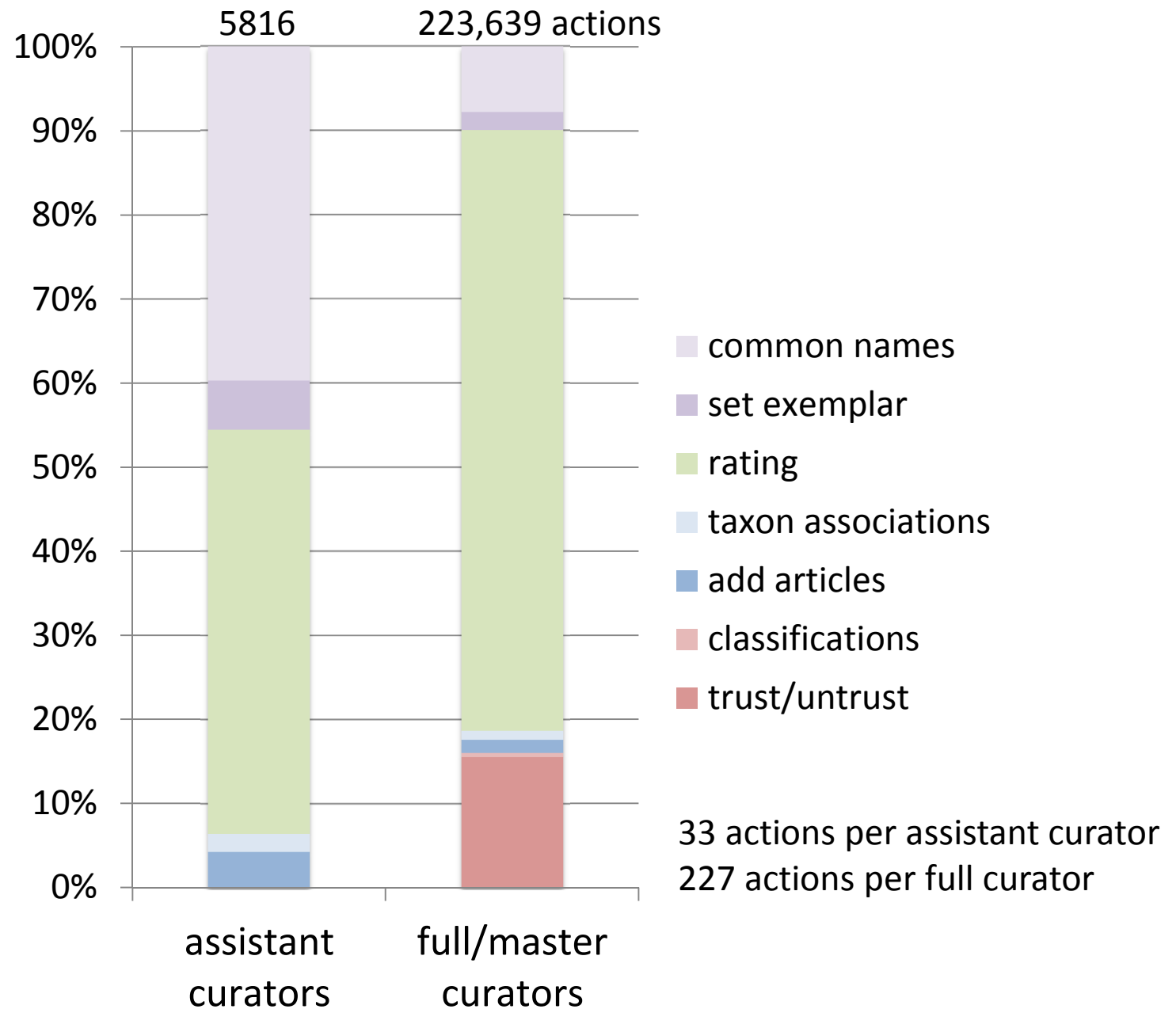
Total n = 154,308 rating actions

Showing only those 17 providers who got at least 1000 ratings

Full curators down-rate and non-curators up-rate



Assistant (n=177) & full curators (n=984) are different



Quality control case studies

The case of “Panisopis”



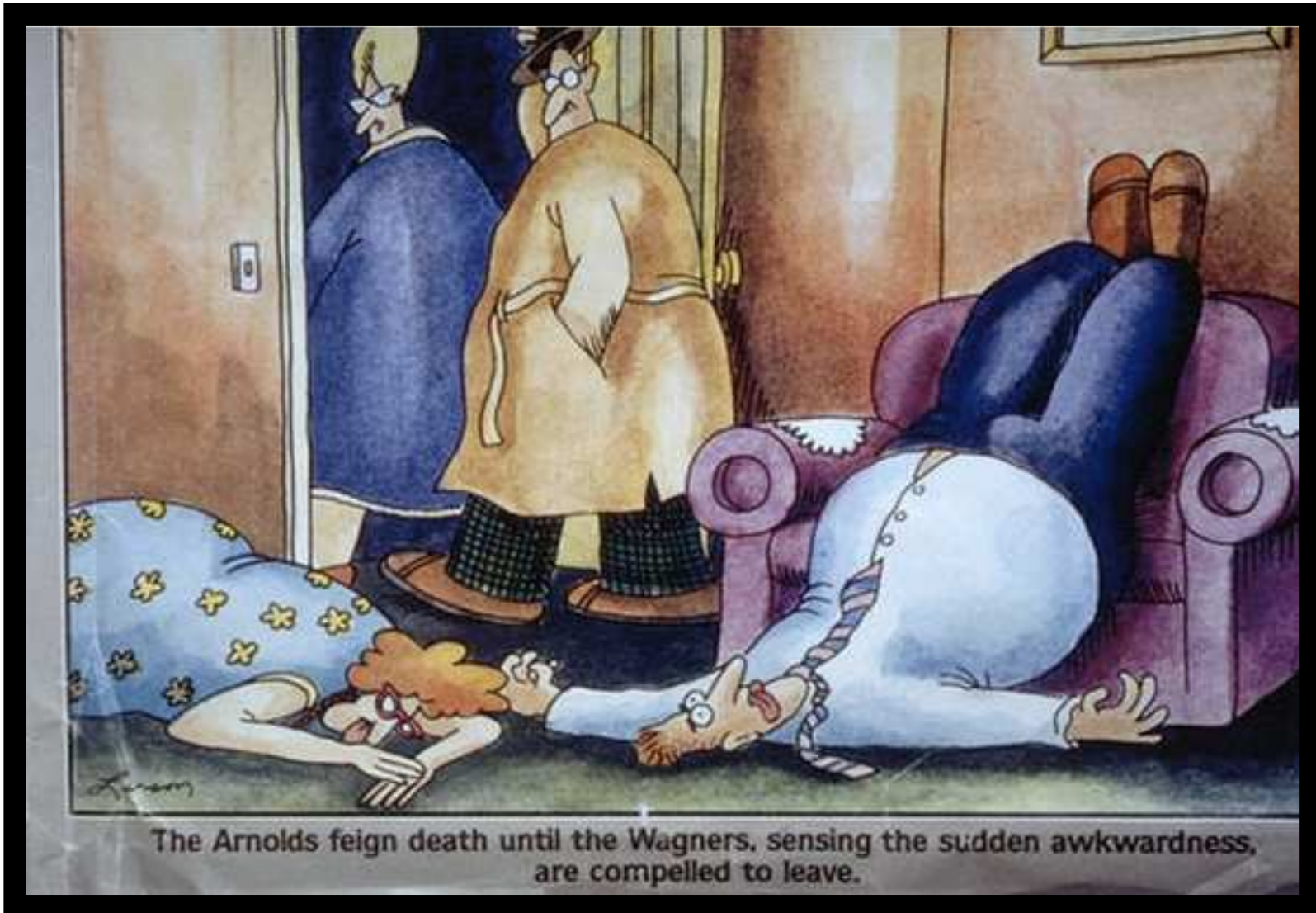
Cyndy Parr commented on "[Panisopus pedunculata Keonike, 1895](#)":

Per Rod Page, this entire genus may be erroneous based on typographical errors in ITIS: "Panisopus" is probably a misspelling of "Panisopsis" (<http://iphylo.blogspot.com/2012/06/fictional-taxa.html>) Also note that Keonike, the author of *P. pedunculata*, is almost certainly a typo for Koenike.

4 MONTHS AGO

1. Rod spots the error on EOL and posts about it on his blog
2. Cyndy reads the blog and posts it as a comment on EOL
3. The EOL comment gets sent to ITIS automatically
4. ITIS fixes its database
5. EOL hasn't yet updated from ITIS

The case of the Far Side cartoon



The Arnolds feign death until the Wagners, sensing the sudden awkwardness, are compelled to leave.

Conclusions

- We've made a lot of progress
 - Large repository, many subjects
 - Great start on collections/checklists
 - Lots of CC-licenses
 - Lot of international partnerships and interface languages
 - Active curators
- We've got plenty of room for more
 - Please share your ideas for the future

Thanks to



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especially the Chinese Academy of Sciences
EOL staff



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