

BeanRef -- An electronic collection of references about research on *Phaseolus* and *Vigna* in the World Wide Web

Nenno, M., Nagl, W.

Division of Cell Biology, The University of Kaiserslautern, P.O. Box 30 49, D-67653 Kaiserslautern, Germany
email: nenno@rhrk.uni-kl.de, nagl@rhrk.uni-kl.de

During the last years a number of genome databases, like BeanGenes (McClellan, 1995) for *Phaseolus* and *Vigna*, has been setup. The information in these databases focuses merely on molecular and genetic data. Although these are highly important now, soon there will be a growing demand for other relevant information.

Therefore we want establish a database that is not restricted to one or two specific fields, but should cover many different aspects of research on beans. Important subjects are germplasm collections, cytogenetics, genetics, molecular biology, physiology, phytopathology, and systematics. Additionally background information of organizations, upcoming meetings, lists of researchers with special interests and electronic communications (Michaels, 1994) should be incorporated. This planned database is called 'PHARIS', Phaseolus Research Information system, (Nagl and Nenno, 1995).

In autumn 1995 we started a small information system called 'BeanRef' as a pilot project for PHARIS. Unlike PHARIS, BeanRef is not a database, but contains just references like addresses, citations, short descriptions, lists, and links. Like most biological information systems today, BeanRef is placed in the World Wide Web (Frey, 1995; Harper, 1995) and can be accessed with any WWW browser by the URL:

<http://www.ba.cnr.it/Beanref/>

[http://www.uni-kl.de/FB-Biologie/Beanref/\(old\)](http://www.uni-kl.de/FB-Biologie/Beanref/(old))

(Please take note of upper- and lower-case letters)

The biggest problem is to keep data up-to-date with all the different information. Our solution is to draw researcher's attention to BeanRef and ask them to send in a short note about their activities by email to: nenno@rhrk.uni-kl.de. In the beginning this mechanism was rather new to most of us, but more and more people accept this way and BeanRef starts to grow now.

References

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