



## WELCOME



Courtesy of Brosen

We are proud to present EOletter: *International Issue*. We all know that biodiversity is a global topic, and we want to let our readers see how EOL works with partners on almost every continent on projects big and small. In this issue you'll find out more about Mexican redknee tarantulas, a meeting at a Swedish dynamite factory, and how a scientist in Kenya uses EOL. Enjoy.

As always, please [contact us](#) with your thoughts and questions. We love to hear from you.

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### QUARTERLY QUOTE

See what scientists, experts, and the public are saying about EOL

#### A Dynamic Gathering

Sweden -- On a crisp autumn day in October, 200 Swedish scientists, students, artists, engineers, and entrepreneurs gathered for an inaugural affair, [Unfolding Value: Communicating Biodiversity](#), to talk about how art, design, architecture and science are intertwined. The EOL Executive Director, Jim Edwards, was the keynote speaker and explained how EOL is a wide-ranging resource for more than just scientists.

The event, held at The Nobel Dynamite Factory just outside of Stockholm, was put on by Mats Brodén, a multitasking Swede who works as a consultant, organizer, and businessman, among other things. Participants of *Unfolding Value* spent the day exploring connections between nature, humans, and technology. Said Brodén, **“EOL was a perfect starting point for our event. It opened up a discussion of**

**how to approach nature, how to communicate the value of species and most importantly, it invites global collaboration.”**

Next year, Sweden will hold the EU Presidency and Brodén hopes this interdisciplinary meeting will underscore the importance of biodiversity when it comes to global policy-making. He is already knee-deep in planning for *Unfolding Value 2009*.



Enjoying an afternoon session at The Nobel Dynamite Factory

Courtesy of Unfolding Value



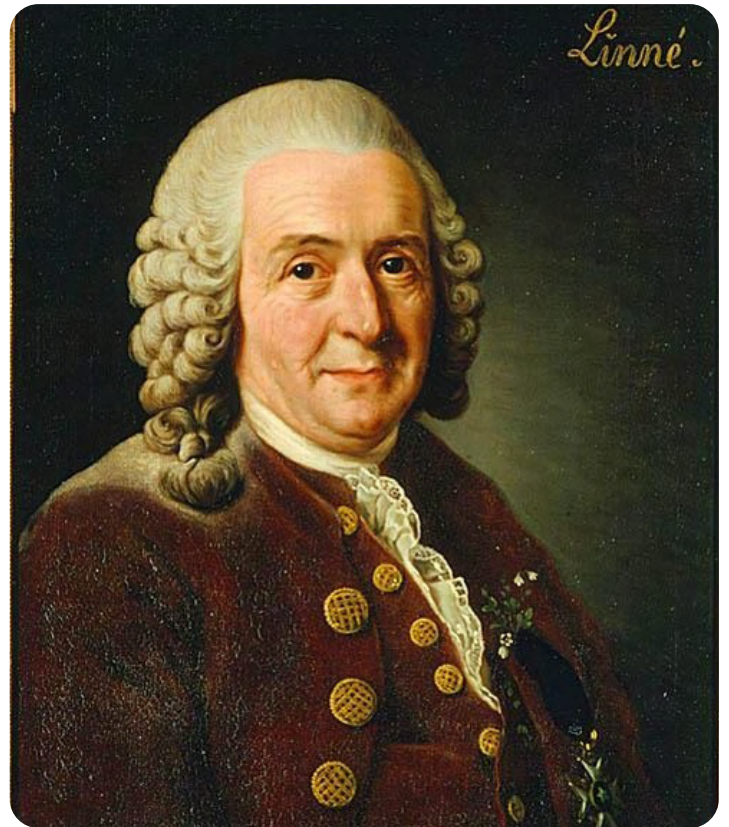
## MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

### What's In A Name?

Two hundred and seventy-three years ago, Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus invented an organizational system that named and ranked all living organisms. Linnaeus published the first edition of his classification of living things, the *Systema Naturae*, in 1735 and quickly earned the moniker “Father of Taxonomy.” But as David Pogue discovers on this video segment, which aired on CBS Sunday Morning 19 October, this naming system is not entirely infallible; variations and overlaps in species names still present a challenge for many of the scientists and taxonomists working with EOL today.

[See the video here](#)

If you would like to learn more about Linnaeus, the [Linné Herbarium](#), at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, houses some of the scientist's original plant specimens. And next time you find yourself in Sweden, be sure to visit [Linnaeus's botanical garden](#) and Linnaeus's summer home and garden at Hammarby, both preserved by Uppsala University, Linnaeus's alma mater. Uppsala University also maintains the website [Linné On Line](#), a rich source of information on Linnaeus and his times.



Carl von Linné painted by Alexander Roslin in 1775. The original painting can be viewed at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

### Spreading the Word Around the World

In the last year, members of EOL have made presentations at meetings and conferences in 19 countries. To name just a few—Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, South Africa, South Korea, and Spain. Whew!

### Major Milestone

This fall the EOL Scanning and Digitization Group (SDG) ramped up its scanning efforts, and in late November they crossed the **10 million** page mark. These legacy works of biodiversity literature are now freely available to people everywhere.



## FRESH TECH New website features and content

### EOL, Meet Flickr

We've opened up another way for everyone to help build the Encyclopedia of Life.

You may have noticed we still need lots of pictures. You can now share your best photos of organisms with us by adding them to an [EOL Flickr group](#). Even if you don't have your own images to share, you can help us match unidentified pictures with the correct species names. This matching or "tagging" of images will allow us to display the pictures on corresponding EOL species pages.

This won't be the only way to contribute, but many of us already love Flickr, and we hope others will want to give it a try. The images should start showing up on EOL species pages in 2009. There already are currently more than ten thousand images from hundreds of enthusiastic group members. We have contributors from Australia, Brazil, Portugal, Russia, and practically everywhere in between.



One of our talented contributors, Valter Jacinto, shared these images on Flickr

## CONTENT PARTNERS Get a closer look at the collaborations that help share biodiversity information with the world

The Netherlands -- A picture is worth a million words to Kees Hendriks. He loves learning about rare species. In fact, he says the best part of his job is introducing the public to mostly unknown plants, animals and microorganisms.



Taking a closer look at local flora and fauna

Courtesy of Naturalis

"There is no better way to introduce a rare species to a general audience than through showing its image." Fittingly, Naturalis, the National Museum of Natural History in the Netherlands, where Hendriks is the Acting Director of Public Engagement, has recently partnered with EOL to create the first Regional EOL. It will include species pages of all Dutch flora and fauna, in the Dutch language. Hundreds of scientists at Naturalis and partner organizations are compiling species information, images, and trend graphs into the Dutch

Species Catalogue. If you would like to brush up on your Dutch biodiversity, visit the website [www.nederlandsesoorten.nl](http://www.nederlandsesoorten.nl) to see the 35,116 native species listed. Soon, this information will be shared through the central EOL portal, too, in English.

### WHAT IS A REGIONAL EOL?

"Regional EOLs" are a key feature of EOL's global outreach. They will typically serve species pages for the flora and fauna from a specific geographic area, in the language(s) used in the region. In addition to our collaboration with Naturalis to serve information about plant and animal species found in the Netherlands, we are in discussion with representatives from other countries about establishing their own Regional EOLs.



## SCIENTIST SERIES Meet the scientists and experts who are working with EOL

### Dr. Helida Oyieke

Kenya -- How does this scientist, professor, fundraiser, and project manager do it all? She doesn't sleep in.

A typical day for Dr. Helida Oyieke begins at 7:30 a.m., when she arrives at her office at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi. She quickly gets to work meeting with staff members, research collaborators and partners, and developing fundraising concepts and projects.

Dr. Oyieke first heard about EOL in September 2007, and in February of the following year she received an invitation to sit on the EOL Education and Outreach advisory board. Today, she uses EOL regularly as a reference source when reviewing reports and proposals on biological sciences, especially when they include species she doesn't know well. Though many people in her area have limited access to the



Dr. Oyieke (center) with a few of her PhD students

Courtesy of Dr. Helida Oyieke

Internet, Dr. Oyieke's involvement with EOL is already serving her communities by creating awareness about the project. When her colleagues and students do have internet access, they visit EOL as a one-stop site for biodiversity information.

As a lifelong nature enthusiast (she used to collect grasshoppers and wildflowers as a kid) Dr.

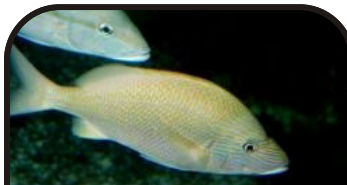
Oyieke knows the importance of understanding the world around us. She notes, "Science is about everyday life; when I sit, cook, walk or bend, science is at play. We are rarely conscious of the role it plays, but science is what governs our lives every minute."

Dr. Oyieke is the Director for Research and Collections at the National Museums of Kenya. She completed her undergraduate, graduate and PhD studies at the University of Nairobi. She specializes in Marine Botanical Sciences.

## DID YOU KNOW?



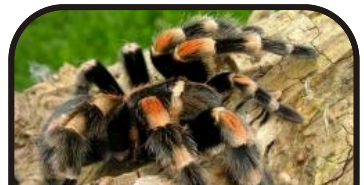
Butterbur is so called as the huge rhubarb-like leaves with their downy undersides were used to wrap around butter in the days before refrigerators. The leaves are still used today as impromptu sunshades or umbrellas. [more...](#)



The grunt is a fish that feeds on crustaceans, mollusks, and other small fishes. Grunts frequently exhibit a territorial 'kissing' display in which two contenders push each other on the lips with their mouths wide open. [more...](#)



Long-tailed field mice have a highly developed sense of smell and can detect the exact location of buried seeds without having to dig at random in a general area. They are also extremely good swimmers. [more...](#)



Mexican redknee tarantulas are the most common spider used in movies due to their large size and beautiful coloration. Females can live between 25 and 30 years; males, however, only live about one year after maturity. [more...](#)

Courtesy of Biopix

# Help us build the Encyclopedia of Life!

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