The Alice bio-diversity database system

Alice is a robust, mature database management system designed for biologists and others who store, or need access to, information about biological organisms.

The Alice system can be used to capture, report and publish information about taxa: species, genera, varieties and cultivars. The information can be about the scientific or latin and common names, descriptive information (morphology, physiological, medical properties, etc) geographical distribution, habitats, uses, vernacular names, structured notes and text. Any piece of information in an Alice database can be referenced to any number of literature sources. The Alice system is aware of taxonomic and nomenclatural rules. The system includes tools for importing information into Alice databases from other sources. Data can also be exported for use with other widely available programs.

The Alice system also includes easy-to-use tools for web publication.

A program, **dbimport**, is available for merging Alice databases.

Who uses Alice?

Individuals, institutions and large collaborative projects all use the Alice System.

Alice users come from many disciplines including economic botany, horticulture, conservation, ethno-biology, plant breeding, ecology, reserve management, forestry, phyto-chemistry and taxonomy.

The Alice system is widely used for the construction of either personal or institutional checklists or for the management or publication of electronic floras.

Data sharing

The Alice system is designed to work with other widely available software for managing data of interest to biologists. Other programs meet these requirements. ***Delta*** generates keys, ***PAUP*** is used for classificatory analyses, ***Brahms*** manages herbarium collections. Alice complements, and works with, many such programs. Alice databases can be a central repository for the descriptions of taxa. Alice can pass subsets of your data to these programs through standard data exchange formats. To write keys, for example, you would use the Alice System to export the morphological descriptions from your Alice database into the **Delta** data for use with key generation programs. The descriptions, meanwhile, remain with your nomenclatural, distribution and bibliographic records.

Alice Tool Sets

The Alice tools are is supplied as **configurations**, **systems** and **editions**.

Single or multi-user

The Alice tools can be figured as a stand-alone system running on a single personal computer or in a networked configuration, allowing many users to share databases across a network.

Pricing

We are happy to advise on the most suitable system and edition for your purpose. Pricing varies with edition. The cost depends upon the tools and the number of licences you wish to purchase. We offer discounts for multiple user-licences and for customers who take out support agreements with us.

System requirements

	Optimum
Processor	Any
Operating system	Windows NT, 2000, XP, Vista, Windows 7
Memory	32 MB
Hard disk space	1 GB

Networking requirements

We can provide technical advice if you intend to run the Alice System across a network.

Databases

The Alice System supports any number of separate databases.

Individual database size limits

The design of the ALICE system ensures efficient use of data storage and performance that is largely independent of database size. The design imposes very few limitations on the size of your database, which, in practice, is determined by the size of the hard disk in your computer and your effort gathering and capturing data

Limits on the size of a single ALICE database

TAXA	Permitted records
Taxa (species, subspecies, varieties etc)	100,000
Latin binomials	100,000
Authority combinations	10,000
Family or supra-generic names	100,000
Generic names	100,000
Specific names	100,000
Infra-specific names	100,000
CITATION LIST	
Different bibliographic Citations	10,000
Pointers to Maps/Illustrations/Descriptions	1 billion
Citations / name	no limit
Citations / data observation (any data type)	no limit
Nomenclatural citations	1 billion
Citations for any other single data type	1 billion
GEOGRAPHY	
Levels in gazetteer hierarchy:	3
Place names at any one level in gazetteer	100,000
Distribution records /species	1 billion
USER DEFINED DESCRIPTORS	
Descriptors :	100,000
States for any one descriptor	100,000
Observations / taxon	1 billion
Observations / taxon / descriptor (for descriptors defined by user as 'variable')	no limit
Observations / taxon / descriptor (for descriptors defined by user as 'non-variable')	one
Citations / observation	no limit
Observations / database	1 billion
USES, HABITATS AND VERNACULAR NAMES	
(The following limits apply individually to each of the above data types)	
Data categories (e.g. classes of use)	100,000
Records	1 billion
Records for any one taxon	no limit
STRUCTURED NOTES	

Length of each note	80 characters
Notes / taxon	no limit
Notes / database	1 billion
Text	
Text entries / taxon	one
Size of text / taxon	Limited by available RAM
Choice of word processor program	limited by available RAM