Supplementary material: The type specimen for *Holorchis Castex*; a case example

This supplementary material details a case example illustrating how the community ability to effectively link digital representations of voucher specimens with other data types, such as literature, people, genetic sequence information, traits, or even to assert and sustain semantic links between vouchers continues to be seriously hindered by the lack of PIDs and related services.

The type specimen (holotype) for Holorchis Castex, a type of worm parasitic on a tropical fish, the painted sweetlips (Diagramma pictum) that is widespread throughout the Indo-West Pacific region was first recorded and described in 2007 by Rodney Bray and Jean-Lou Justine in a Zootaxa journal article (<https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.1426.1.3>) circumscribing the species. The voucher specimen is held in the Museum of Natural History in Paris with catalogue number MNHN JNC 1848-D1. There is also a paratype specimen in the same collection: MNHN JNC 1848-D2. No digital record for either specimen is available in the museum’s data portal (<https://science.mnhn.fr/all/search>). A further paratype specimen, BMNH 2006.12.6.40-41 is held by the Natural History Museum London (NHM). For this specimen there is a digital record available through the NHM data portal. It has the URI: <https://data.nhm.ac.uk/object/e90b81bc-1642-47ca-b587-6aa8885cd6a0/1595894400000>. The relation between the three specimens is made in the Zootaxa article. The article contains a structured taxonomic treatment recording the three specimens and their relation, which has been extracted and archived by Plazi Treatment Bank (<http://plazi.org/resources/treatmentbank/>). Today, this specific treatment is associated with the identifier <http://treatment.plazi.org/id/03BA8782-5543-FFBF-D895-FD27FAE1DDAD>. However, when first examined in July 2019 this Treatment Bank entry had a different identifier (<http://treatment.plazi.org/id/83FE44F3-150E-49F2-901C-69BCD36D9047>) that no longer functions. The specimen in the NHM collection, BMNH 2006.12.6.40-41 had some DNA sequencing applied to it and a sequence record, FJ788436.1 has been deposited in the INSDC databases (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/data/view/FJ788436>). However, the specimen voucher identifier given there as the source of the sequence is BMNH:2006.12.6.4041. There is a one-character difference in this identifier compared to the identifier used by NHM. A hyphen is missing between ‘40’ and ‘41’. This is typical of common string variations/mutations that make it hard to automatically establish a relation between two pieces of data; in this case, a sequence and its source specimen. In many more cases, such linking information is just absent.

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