NaviKey – a Java-based tool for the multi-access identification of taxa and its deployment in the information system for lichens LIAS

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NaviKey (http://www.navikey.net) is an open source tool for querying descriptive data and establishing easily usable interactive matrix-based multi-access identification keys. The software is programmed in Java, therefore platform-independent and to be used either as an applet, as stand-alone application, or as a module or plug-in in the database rich client *Diversity Navigator* (http://www.diversitynavigator.net). *NaviKey* gives access to content data stored in DELTA format (http://delta-intkey.com/www/standard.htm) or in any SQL database which follow the *DiversityDescriptions* (http://www.diversityworkbench.net/Portal/DiversityDescriptions) information model.

More than 20 internet sites in Europe, Asia and North America run *NaviKey* applets for presenting zoological, mycological and botanical descriptive data for identification purposes.

LIAS (with *LIAS light*: http://liaslight.lias.net/) is a multi-authored information system for lichen diversity. Being a 'Global Species Database', this system provides descriptive data of lichens via the *NaviKey* applet. Based on this data set, the capabilities of the application are illustrated exemplarily. *LIAS light* is part of an online environment with integrated data flow and currently includes data of more than one third of the 20,000 known lichen taxa with an increasingly growing number.