

## Ethical Code for Contributors to the Fungarium

### CO-OWNERSHIP AND USE OF GENETIC DATA PRODUCED BY THE NETWORK FOR THE STUDY OF FUNGAL DIVERSITY

This Ethical Code (hereinafter "the Code") outlines the guiding principles of conduct for contributors participating in the Network for the Study of Fungal Diversity (hereinafter "the Network") who voluntarily send their own fungal samples to ISPRA's fungarium requesting genetic analysis.

The contributor acknowledges that, through the implementation of the Network, ISPRA pursues the following institutional objectives:

- advancement and dissemination of mycological knowledge;
- implementation of the national census of macrofungi;
- development of the Fungi Information System (SIF);
- creation of the national fungarium of macrofungi;
- establishment of the national genetic database of macrofungi.

Accordingly, the contributor does not use ISPRA to pursue private interests or benefits.

Contributors wishing to send fungal samples to the ISPRA fungarium for conservation and/or genetic analysis are required to follow the standards provided in the instructions received from the Network following the submission of the request.

By voluntarily delivering the sample to the fungarium, the contributor is aware that it will be registered as part of ISPRA's collection and therefore cannot be returned in its entirety.

Samples sent to ISPRA are stored in the fungarium facility, which is registered in the Index Herbariorum. Regardless of the request for genetic analysis, samples are also stored in ISPRA's biobank.

In the case of a genetic analysis request, feasibility and timing will be assessed and determined by designated ISPRA staff, based on institutional objectives, internal organization, and the volume of requests.

The contributor acknowledges that ISPRA's genetic analysis facility is not a public service provider.

Relations between ISPRA staff and contributors are based on mutual trust and fair collaboration.

The contributor shall refrain from exerting undue pressure or interfering with institutional activities related to the conservation of samples and the development of genetic analyses, and shall avoid creating or benefiting from privileged situations.

Contributors will receive the results of genetic analyses from ISPRA only after all reliability verification procedures have been completed, in compliance with ISPRA's internal quality procedures.

Once the results of the genetic analyses have been received, the contributor has 30 days to provide any comments. In the absence of feedback, a reminder will be sent, and an additional 10 days will be allowed. After this period, the result will be considered final.

The contributor may use the genetic sequence transmitted by ISPRA via email for personal elaborations, provided that the results are shared and discussed in advance with ISPRA. Any form of dissemination or publication is subject to scientific verification by ISPRA, which will contribute as co-author.

The contributor is therefore aware that the request for genetic analysis implies co-authorship with ISPRA staff on any scientific products resulting from this collaboration.

In separate publications concerning the examined fungal entity, both the contributor and ISPRA are required to correctly acknowledge the collaboration with the Network, following modalities agreed upon with the other authors.

The genetic data obtained from the analyses will be published by ISPRA in relevant genetic databases following the process of scientific collaboration between the contributor and ISPRA or in case of no response from the contributor within the specified deadlines. During the submission process, the Network ensures co-authorship of the genetic data for the contributors.

The Network guarantees the contributor intellectual property and authorship rights for the discovery of any new species.

The contributor is therefore obliged to maintain confidentiality regarding the genetic data received from the Network until they are published in the aforementioned databases and in the SIF.

Communication between the contributor and ISPRA staff takes place via the following email address: [ndm-fungarium@isprambiente.it](mailto:ndm-fungarium@isprambiente.it)

The contributor declares that there are no conflicts of interest that could influence the results obtained or the interpretations provided.

Date:

Signature of acceptance