



CRITTER



Canadian Repository of Invertebrate Traits and Trait-like Ecological Records – Traits des invertébrés du Canada

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CRITTER was established to stimulate, facilitate and promote the use of functional traits among ecologists studying invertebrate biodiversity across Canada.

Inspired from the TOPIC network (Traits of Plants in Canada), CRITTER is a **database** hosted by the Canadian Forest Service that is based on two main data sources: **scientific literature** and **empirical field data**.

Objectives

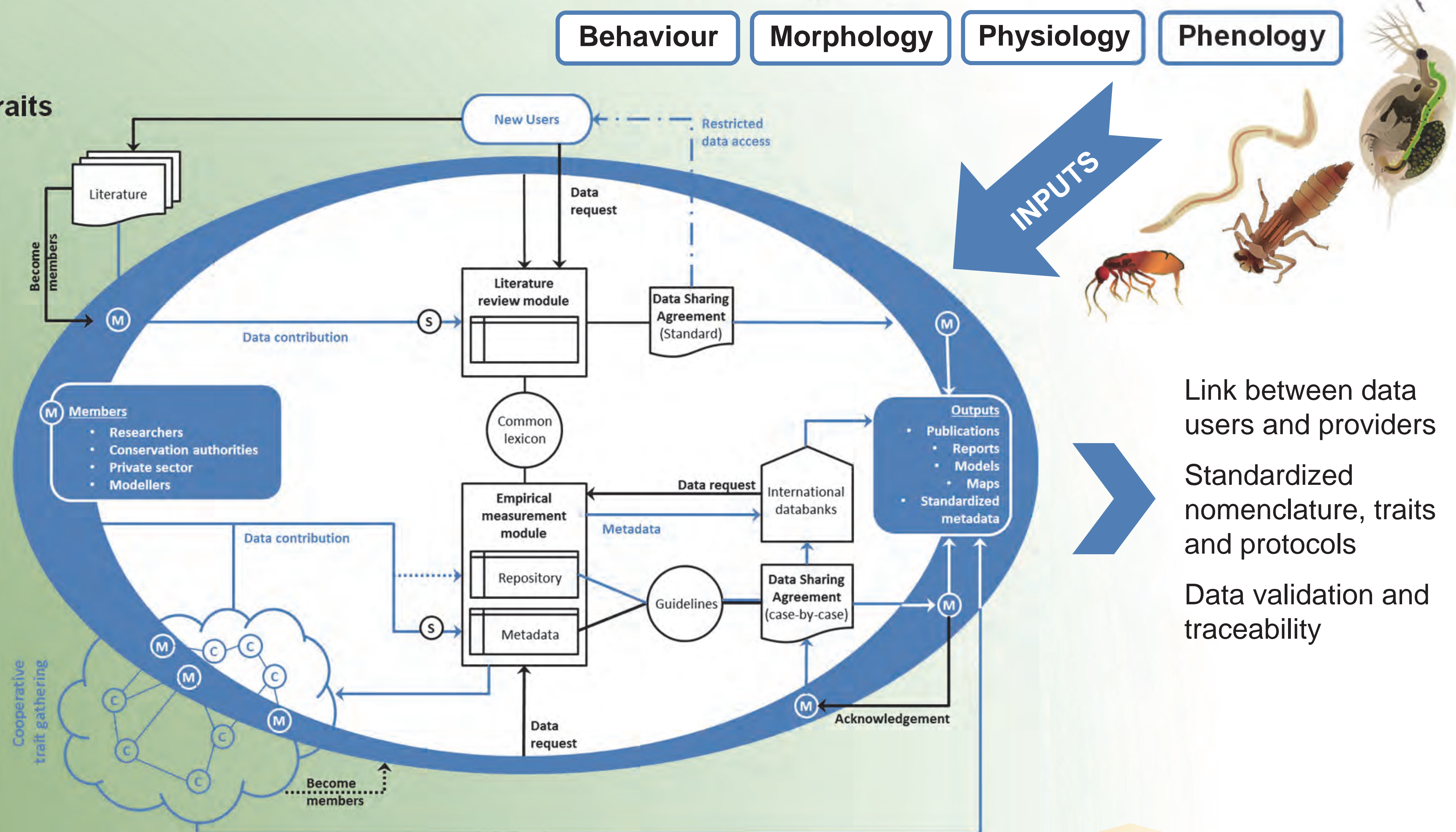
- **Integrate** trait data into a regional database
- **Facilitate** the exchange and sharing of trait data on Canadian species
- **Increase** collaboration between researchers and across organizations and disciplines

Why study functional traits?

Understanding the characteristics of individuals that influence fitness (e.g., survival, reproduction) makes it possible to test hypotheses about **community assembly** and **ecosystem functioning**.



CRITTER currently contains information on **~50 functional traits** of over **400 species**



Want to know more? Contact us!

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Visit our website!

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/research-centres/glfc/topic/20303>

Improving trait availability

One **challenge** for Canadian researchers is the vast number of poorly documented species and the sparse geographical coverage of these data. To address this issue, we work to:

