

DFG funding for antbase.de

Dear visitors and friends of **antbase.de**,

Three years after its establishment, **antbase.de**, the Asian Ant Picturebase, received financial support from the German Research Foundation (DFG) in order to establish a scientific database on myrmecology. Starting in July 2006 **antbase.de** is funded by *DFG - Scientific Library Services and Information Systems (LIS)* within the framework of the *Thematic information networks program*. This program is specifically designed to promote the development of efficient information services and innovative information infrastructures for meeting the growing demand of the research community for easily accessible information.

Over the next two years, we will develop a myrmecology information network, especially for ant researchers working in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. We aim at providing digital resources on various aspects of ant taxonomy and ecology in virtual libraries by implementation of innovative procedures for international digital information transfer. We want to become the leading Asian-European website for ant taxonomy. This includes digital imaging of ants for the extension of our openly accessible and constantly growing virtual ant museum and the assemblage of databases on scientific literature, ant distribution patterns and taxonomic information with the intention to enhance international scientific communication on ants.

Over the next time we will transform **antbase.de** into a myrmecological networking platform, in close cooperation with *ANeT*, the international network of ant research in Asia and in close contact with our friends and colleagues from all over the world.

At this stage, we want to warmly thank all researchers that have already been actively participating in **antbase.de** and invite the scientific community to take even more advantage of our extended opportunities for web publishing ant information.

We are looking forward to future exchange resulting from both already established and new cooperations. Please feel free to contribute to a growing web of information on our fascinating study organisms!

Martin Pfeiffer

Editor Antbase.de