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Micro*scope and the Star*sand database

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The Micro*scope project, hosted by the Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole, MA, USA), is a communal database of information about microbial life. Micro*scope uses name-based tools within a layered architecture to organize local and distributed organismal data. This data is structured using “taxonomic intelligence” principles. Content is assembled into hierarchical arrays by annotating incoming data with names to integrate the content taxonomically. Additional databases contain other descriptive information, such as geographical data. The databases are designed to be synchronizable through SOAP calls, enabling communities of contributors to assemble large content environments. The Micro*scope tools can be used to gather, structure and dynamically annotate information from other Web resources, such as published literature.

The Star*sand project is a micro*scope database focused on the Foraminifera and other Granuloreticulosea. It contains a substantial amount of original data, provided by the Star*sand team of contributors, and also offers a number of powerful search tools of use to foraminiferal researchers. Hands-on demonstrations of the content environment will be available.

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