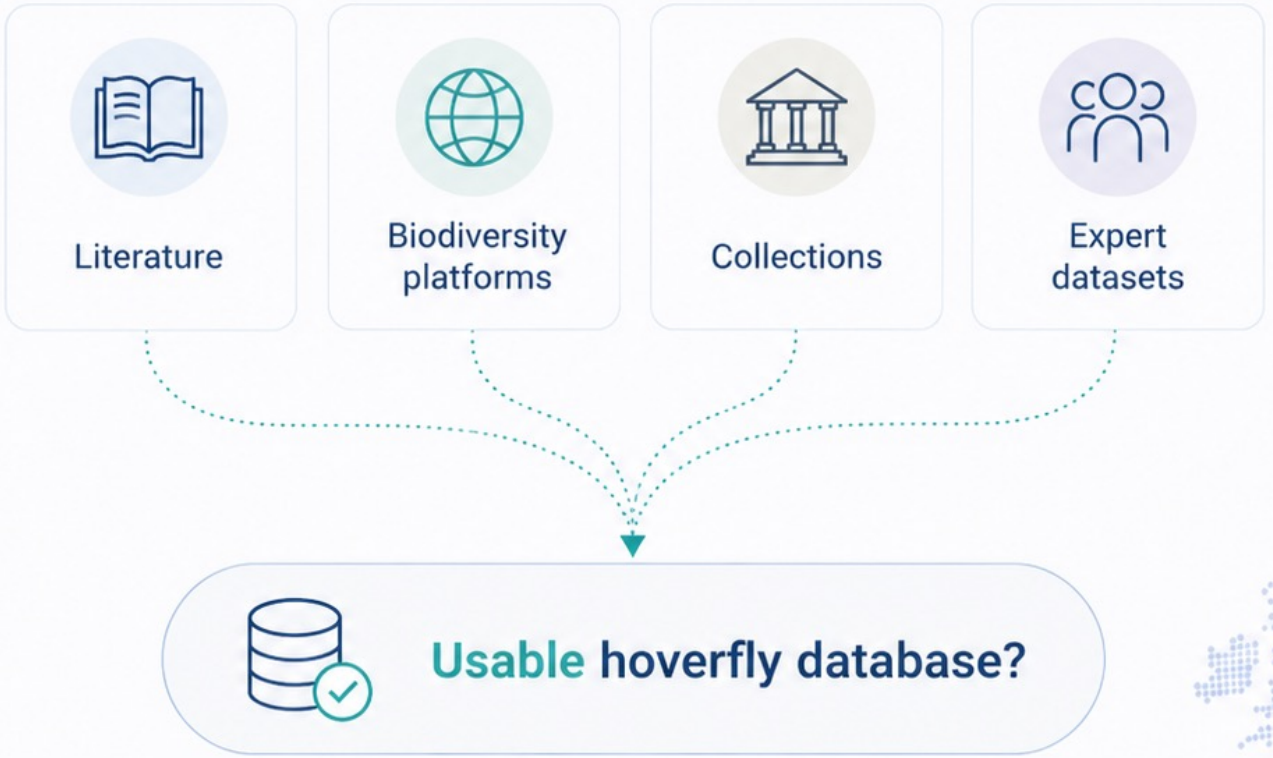
From data availability to usability: European hoverfly trait and distribution data

Marija Miličić

BioSense Institute

EU special session, 13th International Symposium on Syrphidae

Are we data rich or information rich?

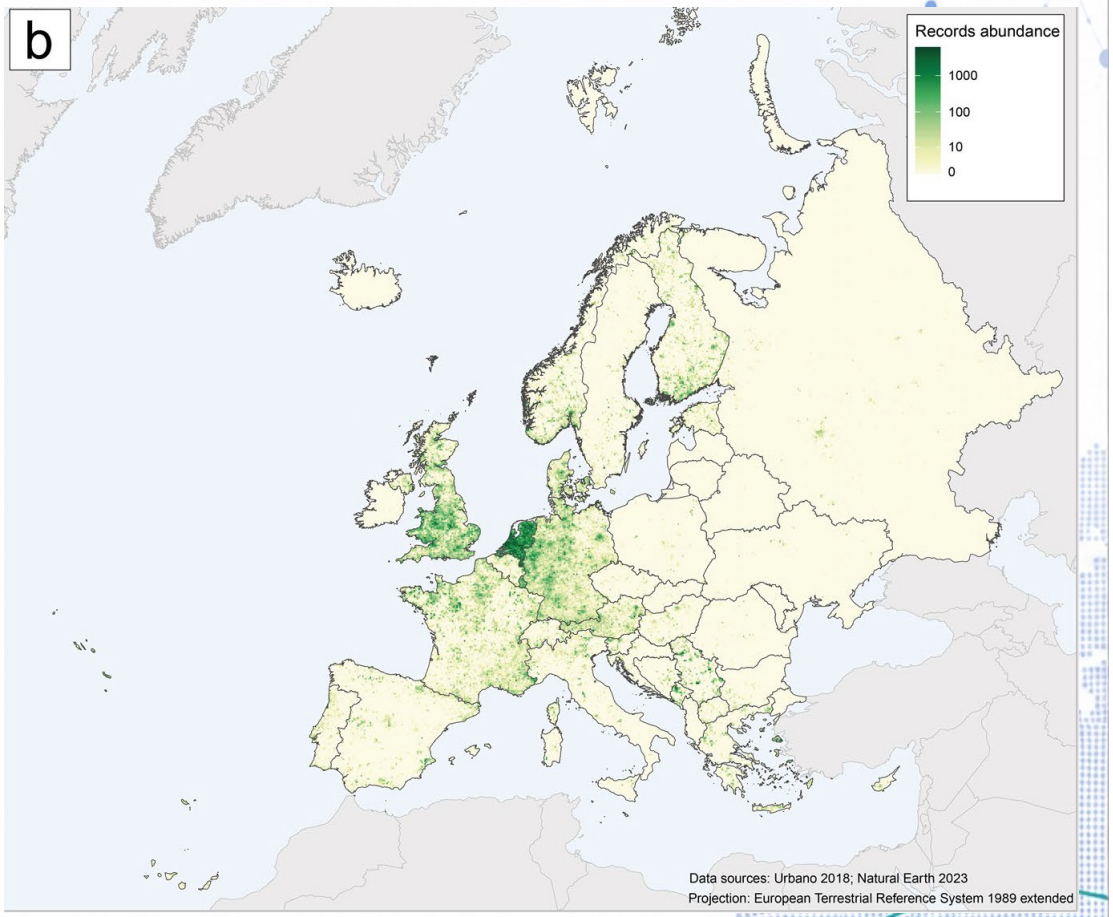


More data does not automatically mean better data!

Distribution data challenges

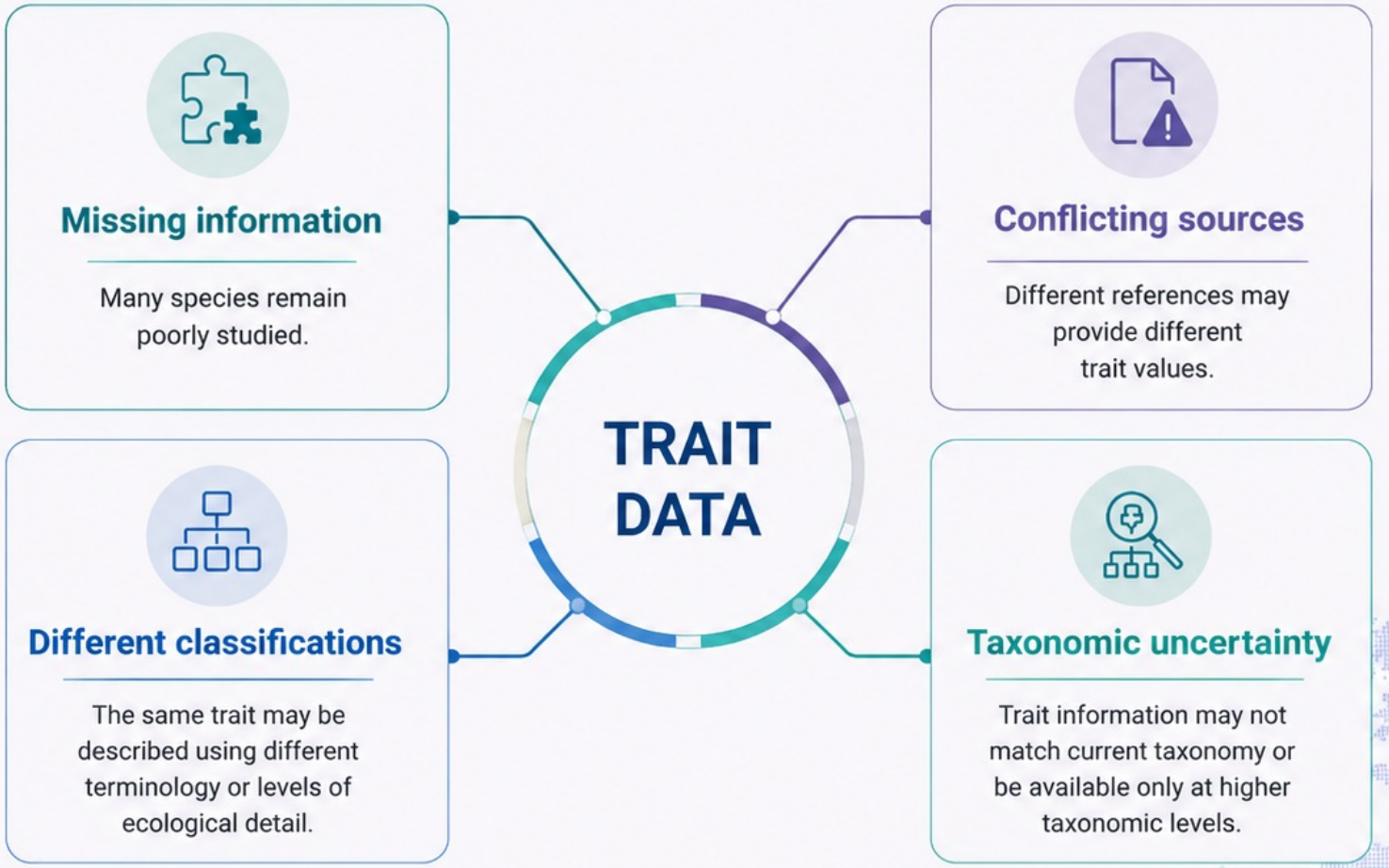
- Spatial bias
- Uneven coverage
- Missing coordinates
- Duplicate records



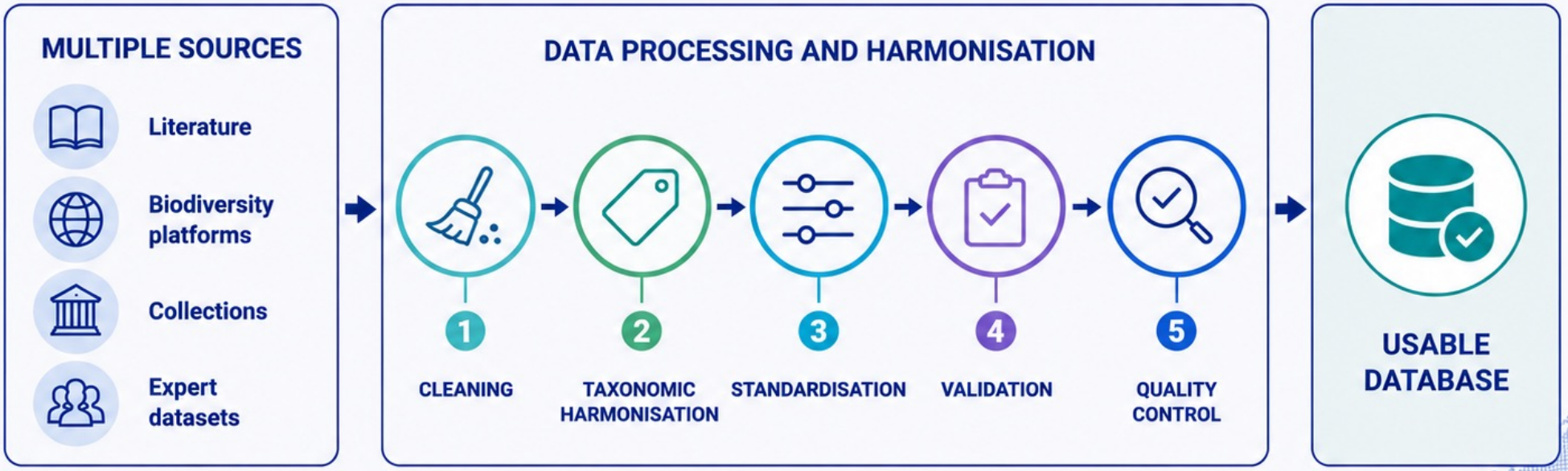


Map of Europe showing the spatial distribution of data for hoverflies at a 10 km grid cell

Trait data challenges



Data integration: where most of the work happens



Data integration is often more time-consuming than data collection!

Lessons learned



Data gaps
are not random



Expert knowledge
remains essential



Standardisation
is critical



Data integration
is time-consuming

What is needed next?



Data sharing



National initiatives



Expert validation



Common standards

The goal is not simply more data, but better connected and more usable data!

Take home message

The main challenge is no longer finding biodiversity data, but transforming heterogeneous information into reliable and interoperable resources

Thank you for your attention

