

Preamble

When we found out that Tony Whitten had suddenly passed away on 29 November 2017, it took a while for the shock to sink in. We had worked with or for Tony for decades, we had co-authored papers and books, we shared projects, causes and interest. We shared successes and discoveries, and sometimes also frustrations. But most importantly, Tony was a good friend, who could be trusted, who would help and who we wanted to help; in fact, we were pleased to help because we knew this was not wasted time.

It is a duty to honour him in putting together this volume, to keep his name in the frontlines of conservation for many more decades to come, we hope. The papers presented here focus on one aspects of Tony's work, the documentation of biodiversity. They are authored by scientists who took part in projects put together by Tony, or they are based on material obtained during these projects. We believe it would have been his wish to inspire future explorers, taxonomists and conservation biologists. To the question "What pushes you to do all this ?", Tony once answered "We will save the world". We hope that the present tribute will help realise his vision.

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