Botanical and mycological terms for the Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences

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Introduction

The Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences (BFT) contains 2683 botanical and 588 mycological terms (26.10.2015) in the terminological database. Botany has been the pilot project in the BFT since 2012? Most terms (or concepts) (Fig. 1.) have been prepared in the BFT based on several important literary sources (e.g. the Finnish dictionary of biology), and checked out by experts. Experts are voluntary botanists and mycologists and some of them form a special expert group. An important collaborator is the Finnish Biological Society Vanamo.

New terms

There is a growing need to use Finnish scientific terms which could be more readily understandable to teachers, students and pupils in comprehensive and upper academic schools. Also the media is more and more writing about scientific research and its results. Even in spare time activities (e.g. Facebook groups, plant and fungal excursions, learned and other societies, museum exhibitions) proper and incisive native terms are greatly needed. During the past few years several new Finnish text- and other nonfiction books have been published (and more to come) with very relevant biological glossaries for both the scientists and general public. Many terms (Table 1.) from these glossaries are already incorporated into the BFT.

One interesting approach for the creation of new Finnish terms is public engagement e.g. by voting. Mikrobiologikilta arranged an idea competition and a vote with the aid of Helsingin Sanomat, a major newspaper, to find the incisive term for *archaeon*, an organism representing one of the three domains of life (Archaea, Bacteria and Eukaryota). Some 30 different names for archaeon were proposed and 1860 votes were given. Arkki received 20 %, arkeoni 18 %, arkko 17 %, muino 10 % and arkeeri 10 % of the votes.

Problems

An expert in botany and/or mycology is confronted with various kinds of difficulties. Categorizing of terms and the related concepts requires new thinking or evaluation of competing biological classification based on e.g. morphological, physiological, chemical, developmental, ecological or economical characters or properties. It is obvious that only one alternative of possible categorizations can be presented.

Some terms are so rare that it is difficult to find enough information for the writing of a good definition and explanation. Terms can be also confusing, ambiguous or simply misapplied. It is neither always obvious when the terms is explained enough in details.

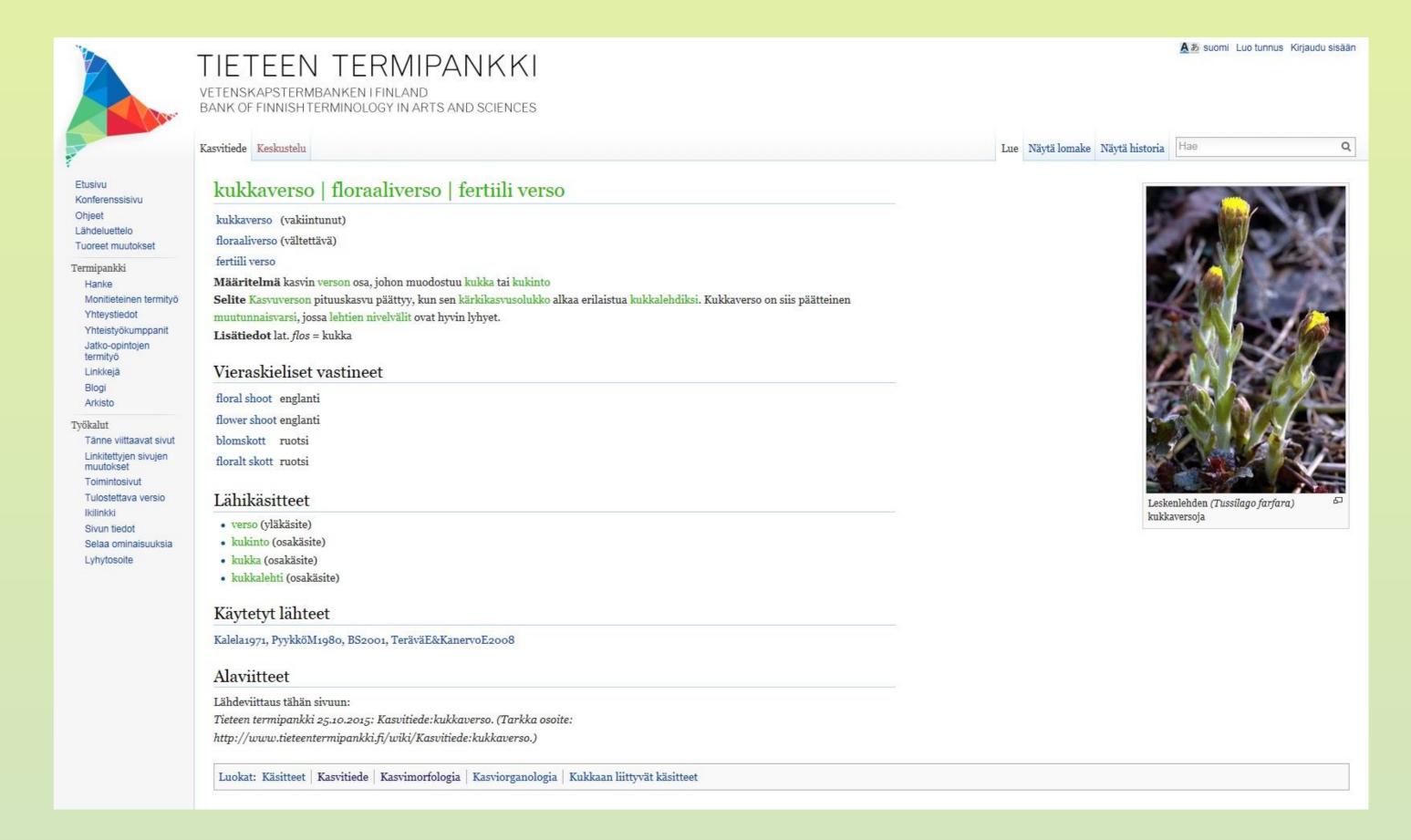
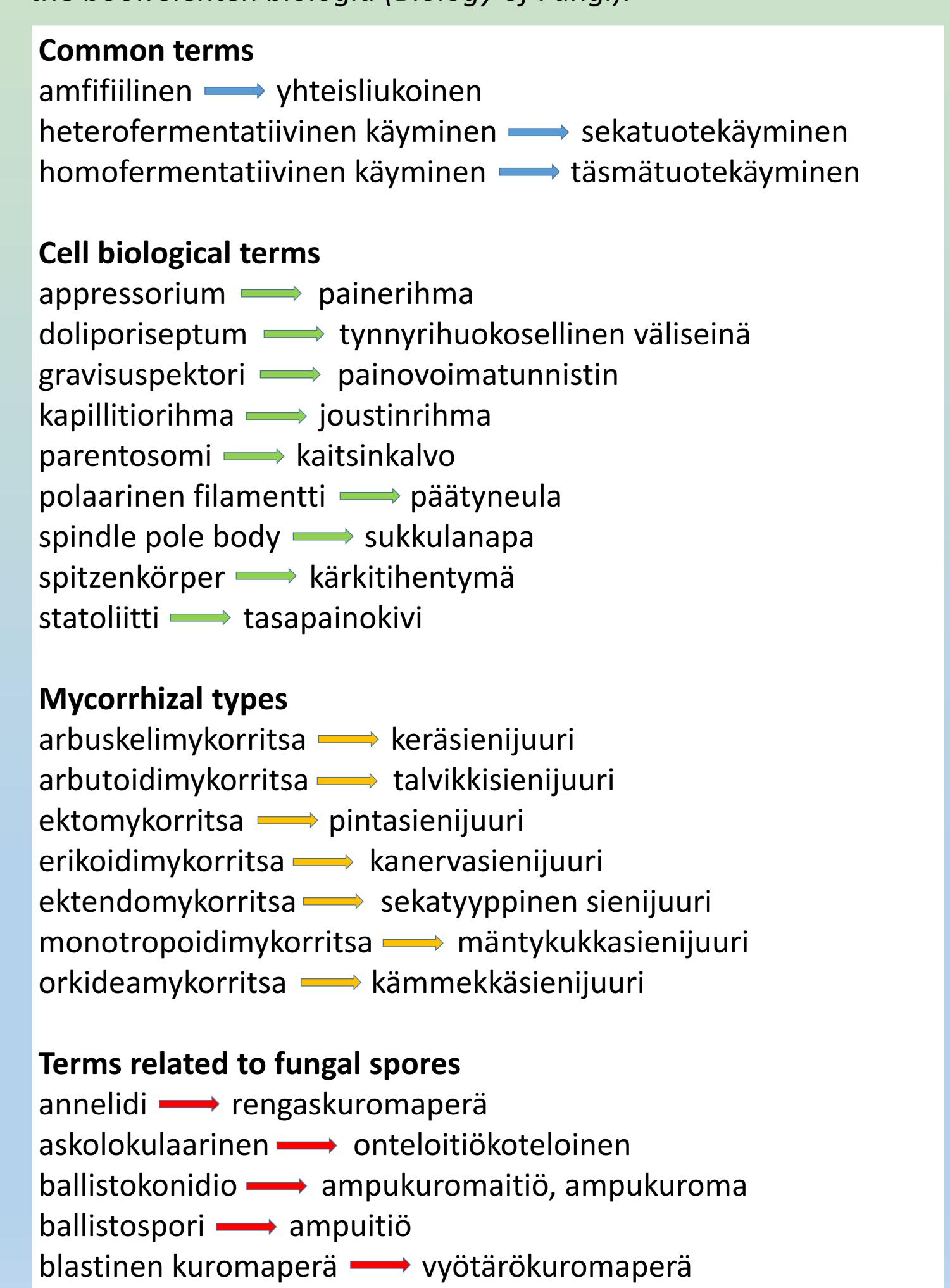


Fig. 1. One typical concept page in the BFT illustrating *kukkaverso* (*floral shoot*), with a definition, explanation, etymology, equivalents in other languages, related concepts, literature references, term classes, and a relevant image.

Table 1. New Finnish terms created during the writing process of the book *Sienten biologia* (*Biology of Fungi*).



fialidi (blastinen fialidi) —— aukilekuromaperä

thallinen kuromaperä —— pilkekuromaperä