



# Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC)



## SUMMIT V

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## Coordinating Center for ADBC



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# Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections

“To advance scientific knowledge by improving access to digitized information in vouchered scientific collections across the US.”

- **Enable use of biodiversity data to address environmental and economic challenges by:**
  - Researchers
  - Educators
  - General public, citizen scientists
  - Policy-makers



**TCNs: Thematic Collections Networks**

**PENs: Partners to Existing Networks**

# 15 Thematic Collections Networks (TCNs)

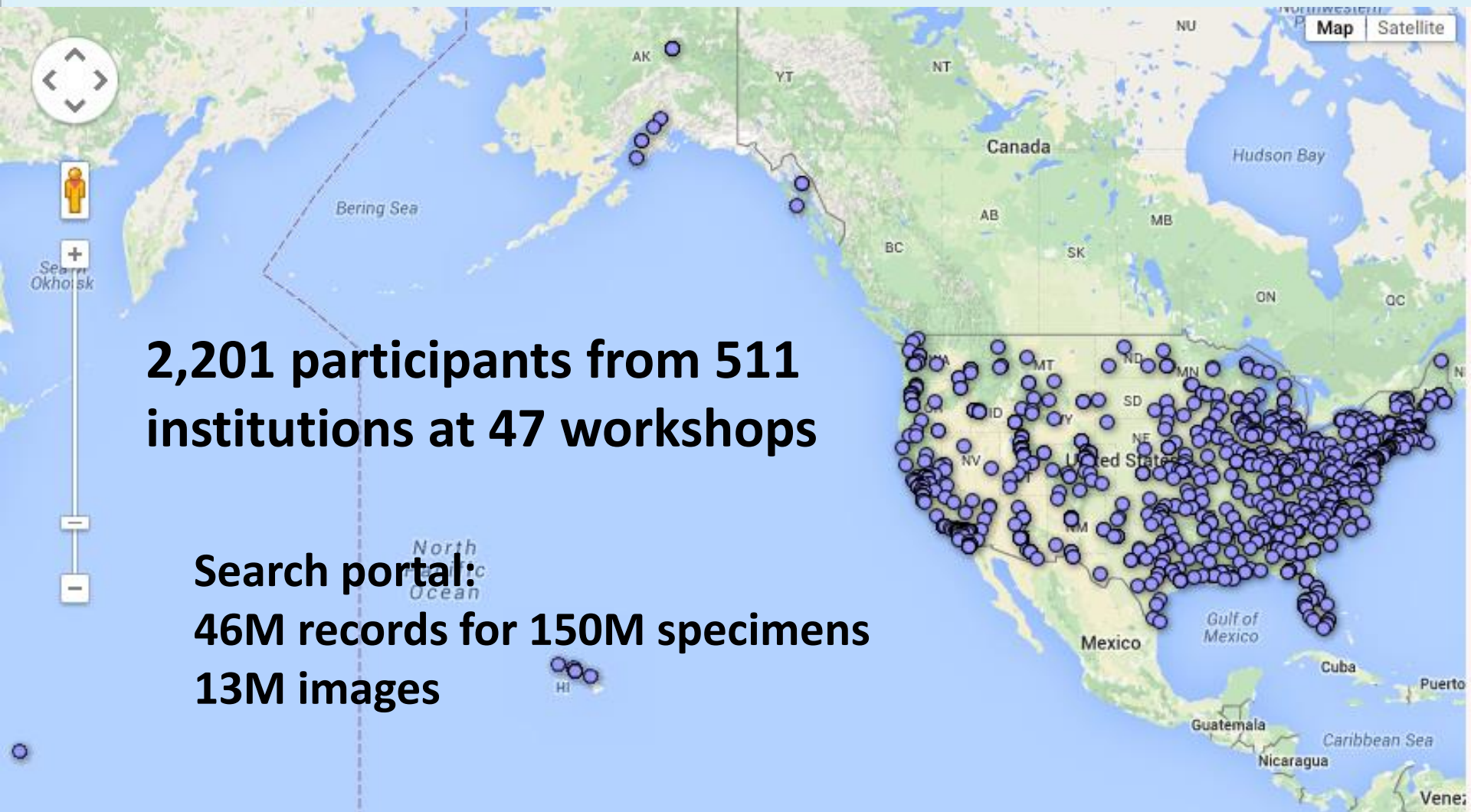
- **InvertNet:** An Integrative Platform for Research on Environmental Change, Species Discovery and Identification  
(*Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois*)
- **Plants, Herbivores, and Parasitoids:** A Model System for the Study of Tri-Trophic Associations (*American Museum of Natural History*)
- **North American Lichens and Bryophytes:** Sensitive Indicators of Environmental Quality and Change (*University of Wisconsin Madison*)
- **Digitizing Fossils** to Enable New Syntheses in Biogeography-Creating a PALEONICHES-TCN (*University of Kansas*)
- **The Macrofungi Collection Consortium:** Unlocking a Biodiversity Resource for Understanding Biotic Interactions, Nutrient Cycling and Human Affairs  
(*New York Botanical Garden*)
- **Mobilizing New England Vascular Plant Specimen Data** to Track Environmental Change (*Yale University*)
- **Southwest Collections of Arthropods Network (SCAN):** A Model for Collections Digitization to Promote Taxonomic and Ecological Research  
(*Northern Arizona University*)
- **The Macroalgal Herbarium Consortium:** Accessing 150 Years of Specimen Data to Understand Changes in the Marine/Aquatic Environment  
(*University of New Hampshire*)
- Developing a Centralized Digital Archive of **Vouchered Animal Communication Signals** (*Cornell University*)
- **Fossil Insect Collaborative:** A Deep-Time Approach to Studying Diversification and Response to Environmental Change  
(*University of Colorado at Boulder*)
- **Great Lakes Invasives:** Documenting the Occurrence through Space and Time of Aquatic Non-indigenous Fish, Mollusks, Algae, and Plants Threatening North America's Great Lakes (*University of Wisconsin Madison*)
- **InvertEBase:** Reaching Back to See the Future: Species-rich Invertebrate Faunas Document Causes and Consequences of Biodiversity Shifts  
(*Field Museum of Natural History*)
- **The Key to the Cabinets:** Building and Sustaining a Research Database for a Global Biodiversity Hotspot (*Appalachian State University*)
- **The Microfungi Collections Consortium:** A Networked Approach to Digitizing Small Fungi with Large Impacts on the Function and Health of Ecosystems  
(*Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois*)
- **Documenting Fossil Marine Invertebrate Communities of the Eastern Pacific** - Faunal Responses to Environmental Change over the last 66 million years  
(*University of California-Berkeley*)



## TCNs & others

5<sup>th</sup> year

- ✓ Digitization priorities for institutional collections have been defined
- ✓ Best practices have been integrated into workflows
- ✓ Cyberinfrastructure resources including a search portal have been provided
- ✓ Collaborations with data providers and data users have been established



**2,201 participants from 511  
institutions at 47 workshops**

**Search portal:  
46M records for 150M specimens  
13M images**

**439 collections in 268 institutions in 50 states (15 TCNS & others)**



*As we move forward ...*

**Continue success by**

- **Engaging the collections community**
- **Facilitating digitization and mobilization of data**
- **Developing/enhancing the search portal**



## ***Priorities***

### **1. Work with additional collections**

- **where digitization is not taking place,**
- **where digitization is occurring but from which records have not yet been harvested**



**~1500 collections in U.S. / we have data from 439**



## ***Priorities***

### **2. Increase use of data in research & outreach**

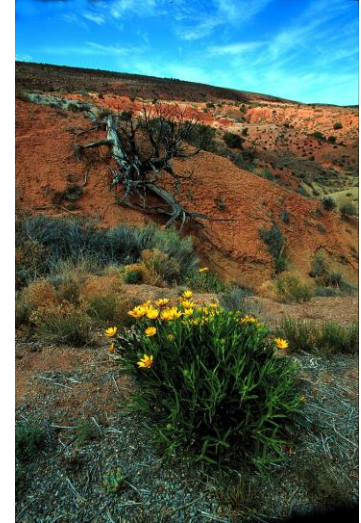
- **Workshops and webinars on what data are available and how data can be used**
- **(GSA) Using Digitized Data in Geological and Paleontological Research**
- **(ECN) Using Digitized Insect Data in Research**
- **(MoBot) Using Specimen-based Data to Study Global Change**
- **(UC-Berkeley) Coding Phenological Data from Herbarium Specimens**
- **(ICE) Biodiversity informatics Skills for Collections and Research**
- ***Etc.***



## *Priorities*

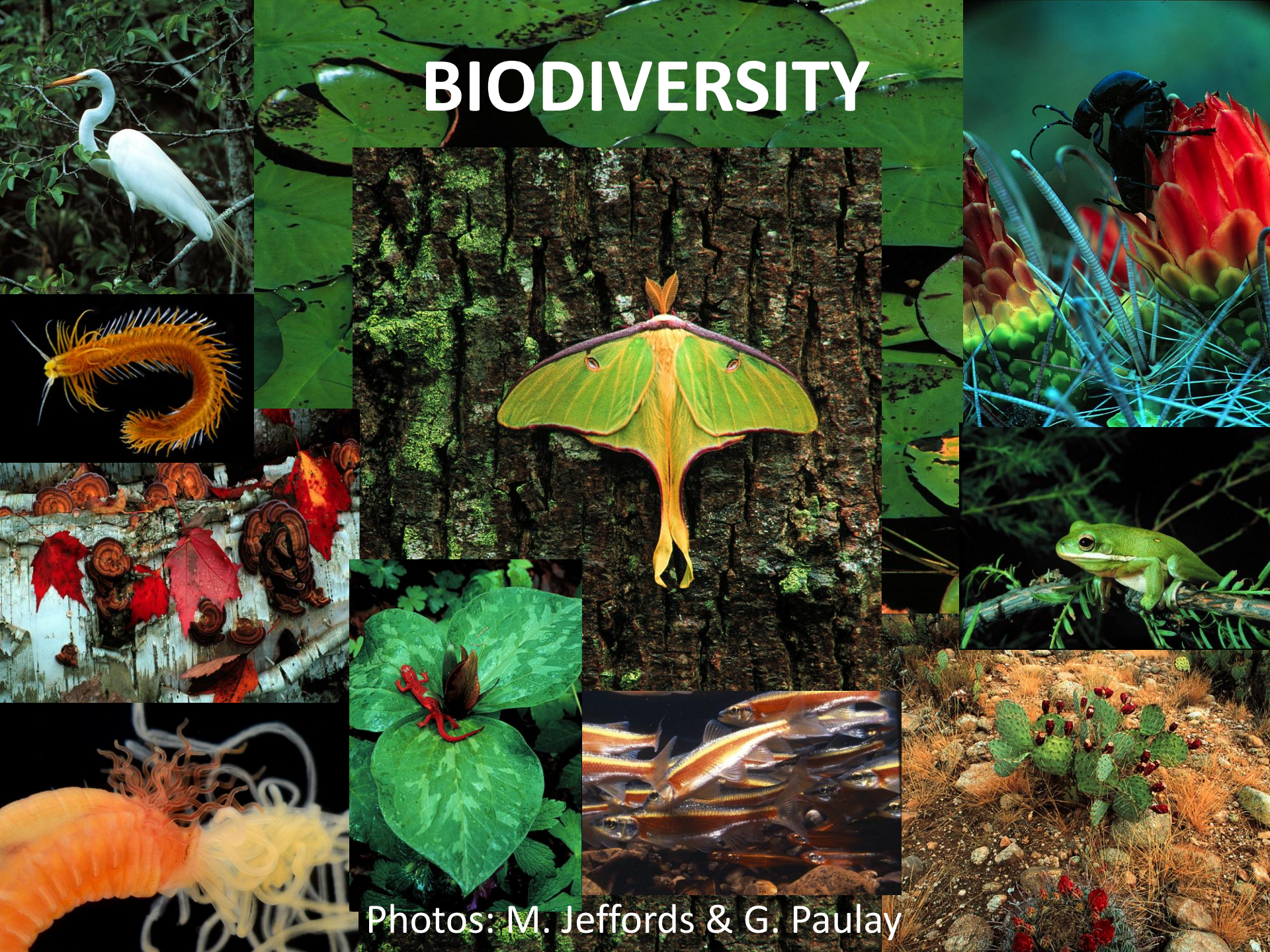
### 3. Sustainability (BCoN RCN)

- **Documentation of life on Earth**
- **The single largest source of information on biological diversity**
- **Information in collections is vital to understanding the large changes in the global environment, from landscape modifications to climate change to introductions of thousands of exotic species**





# BIODIVERSITY



Photos: M. Jeffords & G. Paulay