



iDigBio is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation's Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections Program (Cooperative Agreement EF-1115210). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. All images used with permission or are free from copyright.

Introduction to iDigBio

1 February 2016

South Central California Collections and Data Network
University of California Santa Barbara
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration

Gil Nelson, PhD
Assistant Professor/Research
iDigBio/Institute for Digital Information and Scientific Communication
Florida State University



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Estimates suggest that there are between 500 million and one billion biological and paleobiological specimens in the United States, perhaps 3+ billion worldwide. No one really knows for sure!





In an effort to make these collections universally accessible to taxonomists, ecologists, researchers, and the general public, in 2011 the U.S. National Science Foundation launched a \$100 million, 10-year Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections program and named the University of Florida and Florida State University jointly as the coordinating center and national resource for digitization.

The scope of our work is limited to public, non-federal, U.S. collections, though NSF has encouraged us to develop international collaborations.

The goal is to digitize and make available via the Web records for **all biological and paleontological collection objects in N. America** over the 10-year life of the project.



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Mandate and Responsibility

- Provide/facilitate portal access to collections data
 - Make information available and discoverable
 - Label Data and images
- Enable digitization and research
 - Facilitate digitization workflows
 - Oversee implementation of standards and best practices for digitization
 - Allow for data discovery across organismal groups
- Be a client of digitization projects/networks
 - Actively seek partners and data sources
 - Respond to cyberinfrastructure needs
- Engage communities
 - Collections
 - Research
 - Citizen science and education
- Support ADBC goals
 - Access to information
 - Support for collections
 - Sustainability



Search Records [Help](#) [Reset](#)

search all fields

Must have media Must have map point

Filters Mapping Sorting Download

Add a field Clear

Scientific Name [Add Sci. Synonym](#)

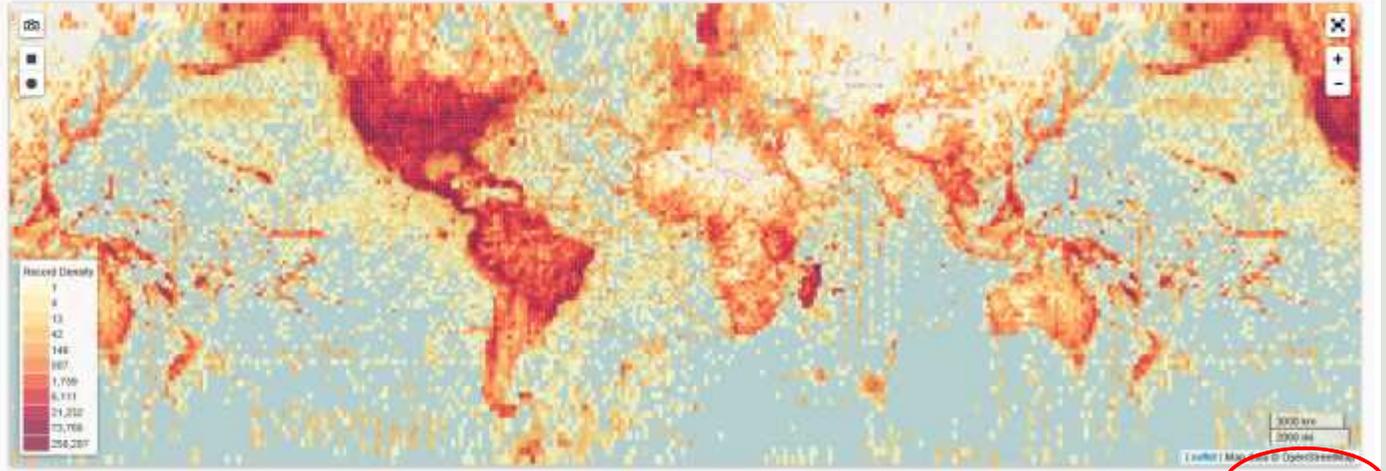
Present Missing

Date Collected Start: End:

Present Missing

Country

Present Missing



Total: 53,144,822

Family	Scientific Name	Date Collected	Country	Institution Code	Basis of Record	Actions
Hamamelidaceae	"Acer" (Liquidambar) lesqueunesii	no date	United States	UCMP	FossilSpecimen	View
Hamamelidaceae	"Acer" (Liquidambar) lesqueunesii	no date	United States	GCMF	FossilSpecimen	View
no date	"Ambocoezia" sp.	no date	United States	MCZ	PreservedSpecimen	View
no date	"Ambocoezia" sp.	no date	United States	MCZ	PreservedSpecimen	View
Vitaceae	"Ampelopsis" acerifolia	1958	USA	YPM	FossilSpecimen	View
Vitaceae	"Ampelopsis" acerifolia	1958	USA	YPM	FossilSpecimen	View
Vitaceae	"Ampelopsis" acerifolia	1958	USA	YPM	FossilSpecimen	View

53,332,732

Currently pursuing our 5th year of operation.

Recently renewed for a second 5 years.



The Alphabet – A Few Acronyms

ADBC (Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections)

TCN (Thematic Collections Network)

PEN (Partner to Existing Network)

CSBR (Collections in Support of Biological Research)

NIBA (Network Integrated Biocollections Alliance)

BCoN (Biodiversity Collections Network)

RCN (Research Coordination Network)

Digitization

Converting analog specimen data to digital format, to include transcription of text data (labels, catalogs, field notes, etc.) and recording specimen images.

Fifteen Thematic Collections Networks (TCNs), 15 PENs

- InvertNet: An Integrative Platform for Research on Environmental Change, Species Discovery and Identification (*Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois*) <http://invertnet.org>
- Plants, Herbivores, and Parasitoids: A Model System for the Study of Tri-Trophic Associations (*American Museum of Natural History*) <http://tcn.amnh.org>
- North American Lichens and Bryophytes: Sensitive Indicators of Environmental Quality and Change (*University of Wisconsin – Madison*) <http://symbiota.org/nalichens/index.php> <http://symbiota.org/bryophytes/index.php> (plus 2 PENs)
- 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*) <http://hasbrouck.asu.edu/symbiota/portal/index.php>
- iDigPaleo: Fossil Insect Collaborative: A Deep-Time Approach to Studying Diversification and Response to Environmental Change
- Developing a Centralized Digital Archive of Vouchered Animal Communication Signals (*Cornell University, Laboratory of Orthithology*)
- The Macroalgal Herbarium Consortium: Accessing 150 Years of Specimen Data to Understand Changes in the Marine/Aquatic Environment
- Collaborative: Documenting the Occurrence through Space & Time of Aquatic Non-indigenous Fish, Mollusks, Algae, & Plants Threatening North America's Great Lakes
- Collaborative Research: The Key to the Cabinets: Building and Sustaining a Research Database for a Global Biodiversity Hotspot
- InvertEBase: reaching back to see the future: species-rich invertebrate faunas document causes and consequences of biodiversity shifts
- The Microfungi Collections Consortium: A Networked Approach to Digitizing Small Fungi with Large Impacts on the Function and Health of Ecosystems (MiCC)
- Documenting Fossil Marine Invertebrate Communities of the Eastern Pacific - Faunal Responses to Environmental Change over the last 66 million years (PCMIF)

Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC)



To date: 15 TCNs, ~300 unique institutions, 50 states

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Key Features of iDigBio

- Ingest **all contributed data** with emphasis on use of **GUIDs**, no restrictions
- Maintain **persistent datasets** and **versioning**, allowing new and edited records to be uploaded as needed while preserving existing records
- Ingest **textual** specimen records, plus associated still **images, video, audio, and other media** (or links to these resources as determined by the provider)
- Ingest linked documents and **associated literature**, including field notes, ledgers, monographs, related specimen collections, etc.
- Provide **virtual annotation** capabilities and track annotations back to the originating collection (collaborating with FilteredPush)
- Facilitate sharing and integration of data relevant to biodiversity research
- Provide computational services for biodiversity research

Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC)



To date: 15 TCNs, ~300 unique institutions, 50 states

Information Dissemination

In March 2012, the iDigBio Steering Committee established a series of preparation-specific digitization training workshops focused on helping collections managers get started with and/or enhance local digitization programs, all to be held at host institutions.



- DROID (Developing Robust Object->Image->Data, May 2012)
- Herbarium digitization (Valdosta State, September 2012)
- Fluid-preserved collections digitization (U. Kansas, March 2013)
- Dried insect collections digitization (Field Museum, April 2013)
- Collections Digitization (West Virginia, ASB, April 2013)
- Imaging fluid-preserved invertebrates (U. Michigan, September 2013)
- Georeferencing Train-the-Trainers (iDigBio, Gainesville, August 2013)
- Paleontology digitization (Yale Peabody Museum, September 2013)
- Small Herbarium Digitization (Florida State University, December 2013)
- Digitization in the South Pacific (Honolulu, March 2014)
- Paleoimaging (Austin, TX, April 2014)
- Small Herbarium Digitization (Boise, Botany 2014, July 2014)
- Leveraging Digitization Knowledge Across Multiple Domains (Santa Barbara, October 2014)
- CT Scanning and Visualization Short Course (University of Texas, February 2015)
- Vertebrate Digitization (Cornell, May 2015)
- The Contribution of Small Natural History Collections in the 21st Century (SPNHC, May 2015)
- Managing Natural History Collections Data for Global Discoverability (Arizona State, September 2015)
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Have accommodated 2,600+ participants from 500 unique institutions in 75+ workshops, or about 20/year.

Prefer to partner/collaborate.

Product-oriented Workshops



- Augmenting OCR Hackathon (Ft. Worth, February 2103)
- Original Source Materials Digitization (Yale Peabody Museum, March 2014)
- Recruiting and Retaining Small Collections in Digitization (Mt. Pleasant, MI, April 2014)
- CitScribe Hackathon (iDigBio, Gainesville, December 2013)
- Education and Outreach (iDigBio, Gainesville, January 2014)
- Workflows for Herbarium Digitization (Valdosta State, January 2015)
- Scoring Phenological Data from Herbarium Sheets (March 2016)
- Overcoming Obstacles for Imaging Fluid-preserved Vertebrates

The screenshot shows the iDigBio Wiki interface. At the top is the iDigBio logo and a navigation bar with links: iDigBio Home, WIKI, Working Groups, Workshops, and Wiki Formatting Help. The main content area is titled "Digitization Resources" and includes a description: "This page provides resources and information for the series of digitization training workshops being conducted by iDigBio as we webinars, videos, presentations, and other important information related to biological collection digitization." Below this are sections for "iDigBio Intro[edit]", "Interest/Working Groups[edit]", and "Digitization Workshop Wikis[edit]", each containing a list of relevant links and resources.

Wikis
 Working groups
 Webinars
 Listservs

The screenshot shows the "iDigBio Working Groups" page. It features a list of working groups, including:

- 1. GenBank
- 2. iDigBio Working Groups:
 - 2.1. iDigBio Data Governance (iDigBio)
 - 2.2. iDigBio Data Management (iDigBio)
 - 2.3. iDigBio Data Quality (iDigBio)
 - 2.4. iDigBio Data Security (iDigBio)
 - 2.5. iDigBio Data Storage (iDigBio)
 - 2.6. iDigBio Data Archiving (iDigBio)
 - 2.7. iDigBio Data Access (iDigBio)
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 - 3.16. iDigBio Data Visualization (iDigBio)
 - 3.17. iDigBio Data Analysis (iDigBio)
 - 3.18. iDigBio Data Reporting (iDigBio)
 - 3.19. iDigBio Data Publishing (iDigBio)

 An "Overview[edit]" section is also visible at the bottom of the page.

Mobilizing Dark Data

In an early press release announcing the first round of Advancing the Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC) awards (July 8, 2011), the National Science Foundation (NSF) several times referenced the importance of what it called “**dark data**”—data that are essentially inaccessible to most biologists, ecologists, policy-makers, the general public, and other scientists.

The longest tail of these “dark data” may well be locked up in small collections that lack sufficient resources to mobilize them for broad use.

**Tall Timbers Research Station
Lucien Harris
Butterflies of Georgia
Lepidoptera Collection**





Small Collections Network

Serving, Supporting, Connecting Small Natural History Collections

Quick Links

- [Blogs and News](#)
- [Listserv](#)
- [Webinar Series](#)
- [NANSH Webinars and Meetings](#)
- [Webinar Recordings](#)
- [Workshops and Symposia](#)
- [Working Groups](#)
- [Related Wikis and Links](#)
- [Relevant Papers & Publications](#)

Introduction to SCNet's Webinar Series

SCNet and iDigBio are pleased to announce a series of webinars centered on supporting small collections and establishing SCNet as a collaborative resource for small collections and the professionals who manage them. Each webinar in this series will be held 3:00-4:00 p.m. EST on the dates shown below. Meetings are virtual and accessible online at <https://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/scnet>. No special software outside of an internet browser is required to access the virtual meeting room.

[Read more](#)

Webinar Recording - Transcribing Specimens into Symbiota: a practical approach

You can access the webinar recording here:
<http://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/p5ktxeuc9k5/>
Access the chatbox entries here.

[Read more](#)

Webinar Recording - Achieving the Maximum Potential of Small University Collections: a Model in Digitization, Education, & Outreach

You can access the webinar recording here:
<http://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/p7xejclok57/>

[Read more](#)

Follow SCNet on Twitter

Tweets [Follow](#)

-  **Sagehen Creek** @SagehenCreekFS 19 Sep
Meeting season! #GNOMAD, #iDigBio, and #CBFS at Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Gothic, CO. Erica Kimmel...
<fb.me/1P7d8ekG>
Retweeted by Gil Nelson
[Expand](#)
-  **STEPPE** @deeptimerocks 21 Sep
Don't miss this webinar by STEPPE partners! iDigPaleo, a great new community resource.
<fb.me/3Yc8ybdg8>
Retweeted by Gil Nelson
[Expand](#)
-  **Gil Nelson** @iDigGilNelson 10 Sep
Bringing dark data into the light: Best practices for herbarium digitization.
eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2...
[@iDigBio](#)
[Show Summary](#)
-  **Rebecca Baldwin** @rebbaldwin 27 Aug

North American Network of Small Herbaria



Home >> Collections

Specimens & Observations Specimens Observations Federal Units

Select/Deselect All

North American Network of Small Herbaria



-  Archibald Herbarium (ARCH) [more info](#)
-  Austin Peay State University Herbarium (APSC) [more info](#)
-  Cochise County Herbarium (CCI) [more info](#)
-  Jemez Mountain Herbarium (JEMEZ) [more info](#)
-  Jewell and Arline Moss Settle Herbarium at SUNY Oneonta (SUCC) [more info](#)
-  Mass Vernal National Park (MHVP) [more info](#)
-  Nellis Carolina Zoological Park (NCZP) [more info](#)
-  Pringle Herbarium, University of Vermont (VT) [more info](#)
-  Segehen Herbarium (SEGEN) [more info](#)
-  Santa Cruz Island Reserve Herbarium (SCIR) [more info](#)
-  Southwestern Research Station (SWRS) [more info](#)
-  Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS) [more info](#)
-  Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC) [more info](#)
-  US Forest Service Southwestern Region (TEU) [more info](#)

Consortium of Midwest Herbaria

Intermountain Regional Herbaria Network

New Mexico Biodiversity Collections Consortium

Northern Great Plains Herbaria

Other Networked Herbaria

Details

Comments

Linked Resources

Edit History

Share 0

Tweet



SCIR

Santa Cruz Island Reserve Herbarium

Catalog #: UCSB_SCIRH00223

Occurrence ID (GUID): 7fe50801-6e7e-4593-ab04-efa374c09908

Taxon: *Lupinus truncatus*

Family:

Collector:

Locality: USA, CA, Santa Barbara,

Specimen Images



Large Version

Record Id: 7fe50801-6e7e-4593-ab04-efa374c09908

Usage Rights: CC0 1.0 (Public-domain)

Rights Holder: Santa Cruz Island Reserve

For additional information on this specimen, please contact: Lynn McIaren (scirweb@gmail.com)

Do you see an error? If so, errors can be fixed using the Occurrence Editor.



Symbiota

*Promoting
Bio-Collaboration*



iDigBio and ASU are now establishing the Symbiota-based
Consortium of Small Vertebrate Collections

Connecting Students to Citizen Science and Curated Collections

STUDENTS CONTRIBUTING TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

Course Documents - Instructor Login

What?	Why?	How?
Learn about plant systematics and collecting in the context of our information-rich digital age. Connect physical plant specimens to citizen science observations and online herbarium databases. Explore how making these connections helps contribute to our understanding of global biodiversity.	This project will help prepare you to be an information-literate scientist, with an understanding of what biological collections data represent, where they come from, and how they can be used.	You will complete this project through a combination of traditional plant taxonomy instruction, participation in citizen science, and exposure to online databases.
		

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The content on this website is the product of a collaborative effort initiated by the [North American Network of Small Herbaria](#) Interest Group. Contributing authors

<http://collectionseducation.org/>

Biological Research/Field Stations OBFS/iDigBio Interest Group

Biological field stations:

- outdoor/indoor laboratories for students, researchers, and the general public
- vary greatly in form and purpose
- standalone or associated with an academic institution
- marine and terrestrial
- usually limited in geographic scope
- often located in and have access to biodiversity hotspots or endemic habitats



**Organization of Biological
Field Stations**

*Supporting environmental research, education, and
public understanding*

~500 worldwide

~265 in the U.S.

OBFS/iDigBio Interest Group Biological Research/Field Stations

Small, potentially with multiple collections

Focused

Research centered

Rich data

Potentially the best representation of a limited geographic area

High value specimens

Not widely disseminated, duplicated, or available

Collections in Field/Research Stations

Results from a recent and on-going survey through the OBFS listserv suggest that as many as 78% of field stations in the U.S. support biological collections:

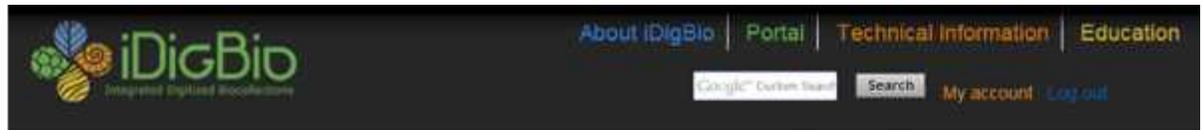
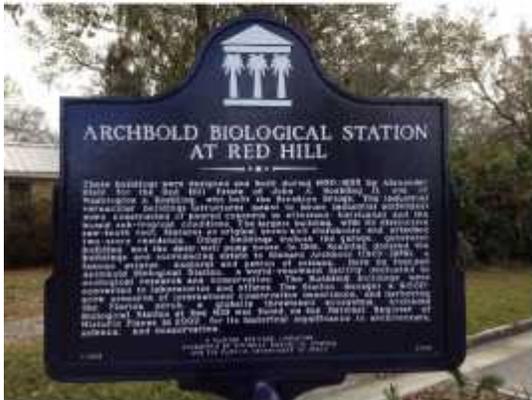
- Research
- Identification
- Documentation

Collection Types Represented

Arthropods	Mammals
Birds	Marine invertebrates
Butterflies and moths	Mollusks
Fish	Plants
Insects	Reptiles/amphibians

Usually small numbers

*Welcome to
Archbold
Biological Station*

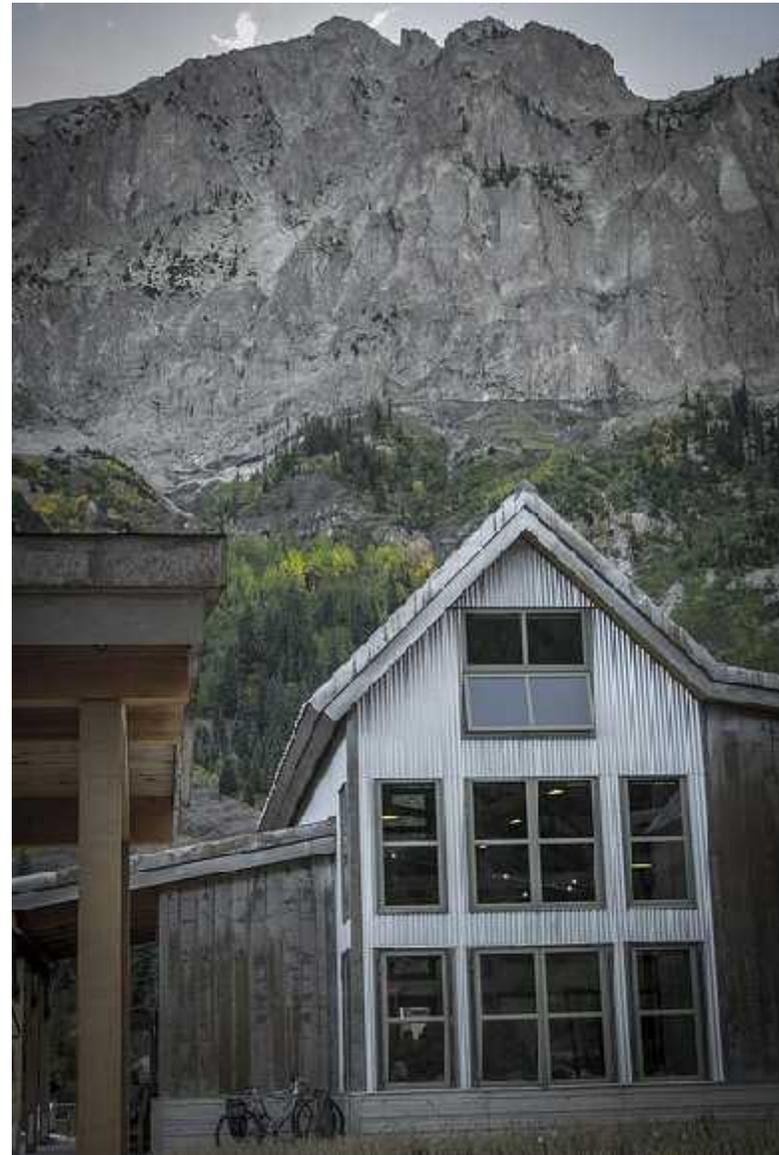


Weekend Digitization Blitz Yields 4,276 Specimen Images for Archbold Biological Station

- Researchers**
Browse our specimen portal 
- Collections Staff**
Learn how your collection can benefit from our work 
- Teachers & Students**
Learning resources & opportunities to engage 



iDigBio, Archbold Biological Station, Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS), and the Godfrey Herbarium at Florida State University (FSU) teamed up the weekend of January 18th and part of the following week to image Archbold's entire herbarium collection. Joanna McCaffrey and Gil









iDigBio

Integrated Digitized Biocollections

