

VIMS Invertebrate Collection

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VIMS Invertebrate Collection

Collection Overview

Staff:

- Jenny Dreyer; 0.3 FTE
- Volunteers

Funding:

- Biological Sciences Dept. funds basic curatorial supplies (ethanol, jars, vials, etc.)
- No other support

All specimens are catalogued (card catalog) but not digitized; setting up Notes to Nature for entering card catalog records

Using Specify database but very few specimens are entered

- Primary strengths- extensive holdings of estuarine and marine specimens from Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
- Additional holdings- mostly marine and some tidal freshwater invertebrates from the full range of the U.S. East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, and Antarctica
- Strong historical sampling dating back to the 1960s
- ~4,500 catalogued taxa and over 13,000 specimens, with continuing growth
- Best represented groups:
 - Annelida: ~1325 lots
 - Mollusca: ~750 lots
 - Arthropoda: ~1100 lots



Challenges

- Limited past curation and digitization effort
- No funding
- Challenges for digitization: limited personnel and time (more time is spent on adding new specimens)
- Need to get thermal labels printed
- Hope to have entire collection (including Molluscs) digitized in the next 2 years and accessible online

