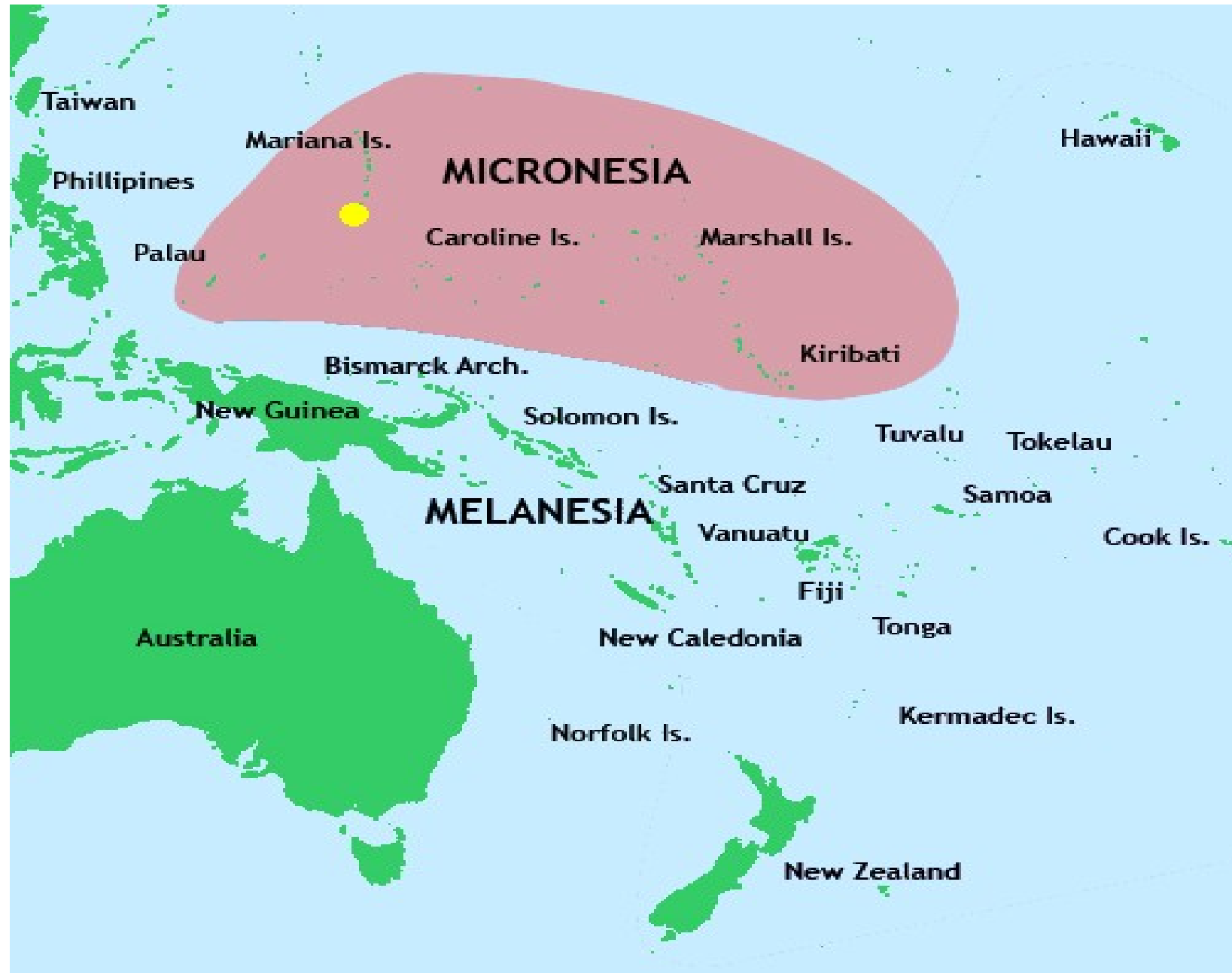


Evaluation of a Scratchpad Template as an Online Database for the University of Guam Insect Collection



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Where is Guam?



Challenges

- Limited taxonomic expertise
- High endemism (~45%); many undescribed species
- Very high introduction rate for alien insects

Resources

- Limited Literature
 - Hawaii Sugar Planters' Association survey of 1936 published by Bishop Museum in *Insects of Guam* (2 volumes)
 - Bishop Museum surveys of 1950s and 60s published in [Insects of Micronesia](#)
- Entomological Collections
 - University of Guam
 - Northern Marianas College, Saipan
 - Palau National Museum

University of Guam Insect Collection



University of Guam Insect Collection



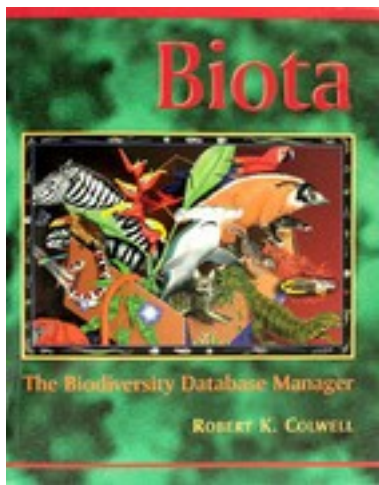
University of Guam Insect Collection

Curators

- Ross Miller, University of Guam
- Aubrey Moore, University of Guam

Board of Directors

- Richard Zack, Washington State University
- Robert Foottit, Agriculture Canada
- Robert Sites, University of Missouri



Digitization

- Initial attempts at specimen level databasing failed.
- All data lost due to hardware failures / defective back-up procedures



Digitization

- Biodiversity Information Management System provided free by CSIRO, Australia
- Development and support discontinued in 2005, however, BioLink has recently been reborn as an open source project
- Written in Visual Basic 6/C++ and sits on top a MicroSoft SQL Server database
- Typically run in client / server mode on a LAN or Internet



Digitization

Current Status

- 30,000 pinned specimens have been given a unique identifier and are recorded in our BioLink database

Desirable Features for an Online Collection Database

- Free and open source
- Reliable data security / backup
- Flexible data security (user permissions)
- Web browser used for data entry and information delivery
- Specimen records compliant with Darwin Core
- Storage for images, bibliographic data, informal notes, etc.
- Data shared via GBIF

LifeDesks and Scratchpads



- LifeDesks is part of the Encyclopedia of Life Project.
- ScratchPads is a project managed by the Natural History Museum, London.
- Both are Drupal templates hosted for free.
- My evaluation sites are at:
<http://micronesianinsects.lifedesks.org/>
<http://guaminsects.myspecies.info/>