



# Using Specimens and Linked Data In Ecological and Evolutionary Research

Pamela S. Soltis  
University of Florida



# Collections: The Library of Life

~1400 natural history  
collections  
in the US  
1-2 billion specimens  
in the US  
3-4 billion specimens  
worldwide



# Systematics and Taxonomy



*Linnaea* (twinflower)

Carl Linné, aka Carolus Linnaeus





# Collections: The Library of Life

Genetics  
Genomics  
Chemistry  
Species interactions  
Phenology  
Biogeography  
More!





# Collections: The Library of Life

Most specimens locked away in cabinets, unavailable for general use.

**DIGITIZATION!!!**







Making data and images of millions of biological specimens available on the web

105,073,836  
Specimen Records  
22,312,117  
Media Records  
1,636  
Recordsets


[Search the Portal](#)




**Why digitization matters**  
More about what we do and why



**Digitization**  
Learn, share and develop best practices



**Sharing Collections**  
Documentation on data ingestion



**Working Groups**  
Join in, contribute, be part of the community



**Proposals**  
New tool and workshop ideas



**Citizen Scientists**  
How can you help biological collections?

# iDigBio: Enabling Biodiversity Research

## Search Records

[Help](#) [Reset](#)

search all fields

Must have media  Must have map point

[Filters](#) [Mapping](#) [Sorting](#) [Download](#)

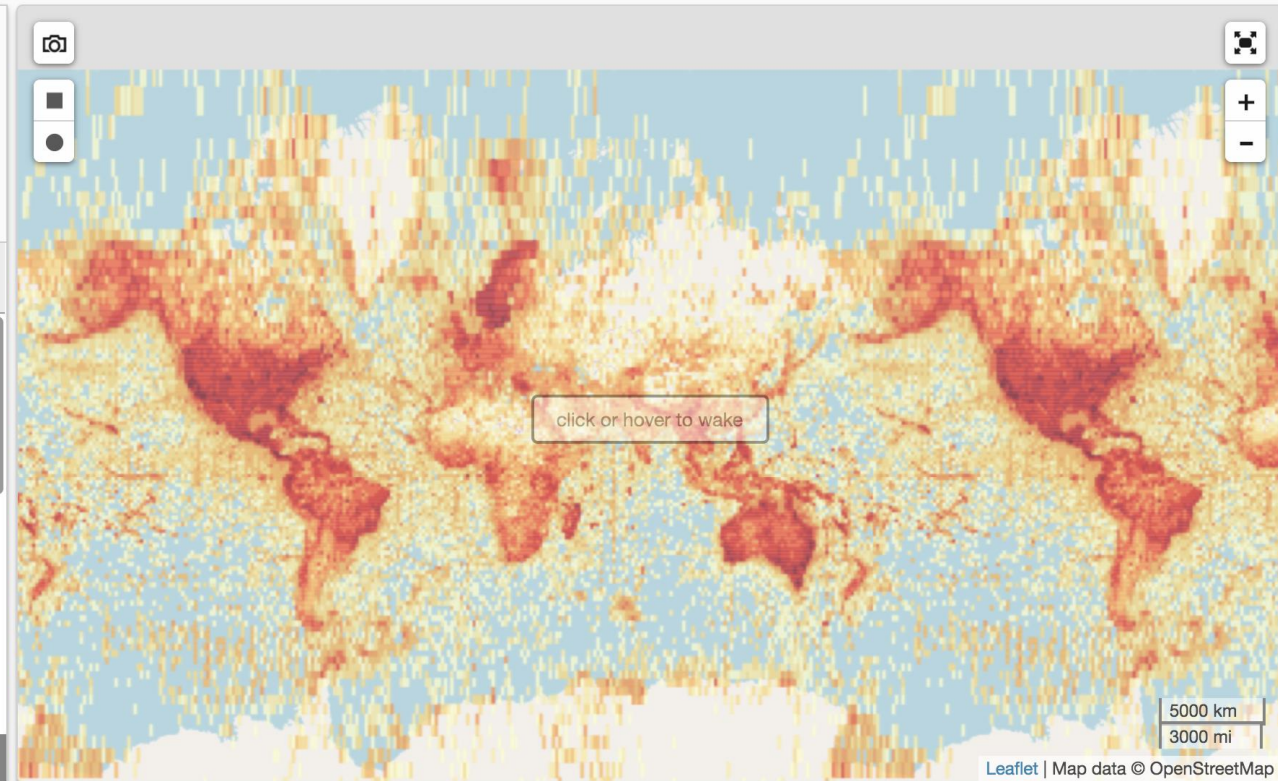
Add a field ▼ [Clear](#)

**Class**  ✕  
 Present  Missing

**Phylum**  ✕  
 Present  Missing

**Specific Epithet**  ✕  
 Present  Missing

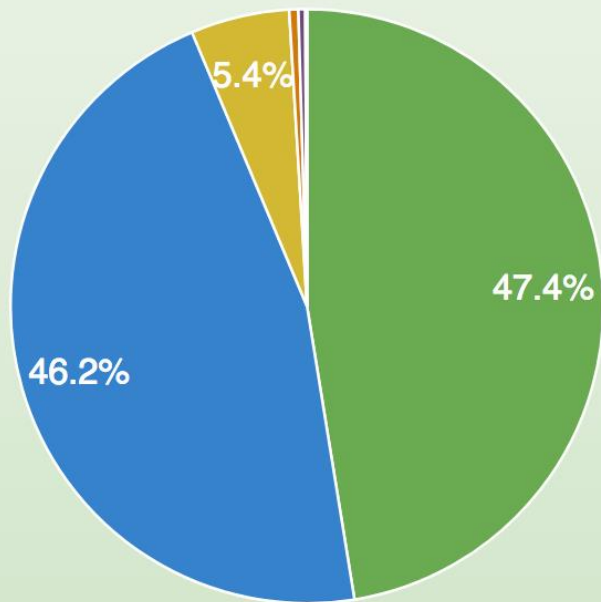
↓ [Scroll To Bottom](#) ↓



# Specimen Records in iDigBio

## Specimen Records

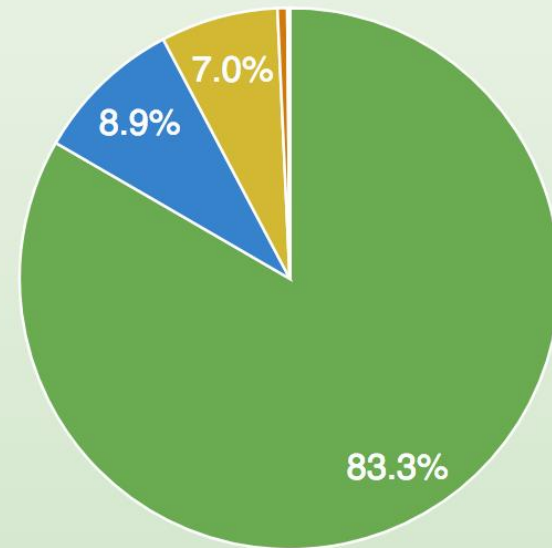
105,429,263



■ Plantae
 ■ Animalia
 ■ Fungi
 ■ Chromista
 ■ other
 ■ Protozoa
 ■ Bacteria
 ■ Eubacteria

## Media Records

21,926,865



■ Plantae
 ■ Animalia
 ■ Fungi
 ■ Chromista
 ■ other
 ■ Bacteria
 ■ Protozoa
 ■ Eubacteria
 ■ Plantae,plantae



# *Papilio cresphontes* - giant swallowtail



# Specimen Records in iDigBio



*Papilio cresphontes*

**Take our 30-second survey**

The U.S. National Science Foundation and iDigBio are required to collect information on use of digitized collections-based specimen data. Please help us meet this requirement every time you use this search portal. Sustainability of the national digitization effort depends on evidence of data use! **Maybe later.**

### Search Records

[Help](#) [Reset](#)

search all fields

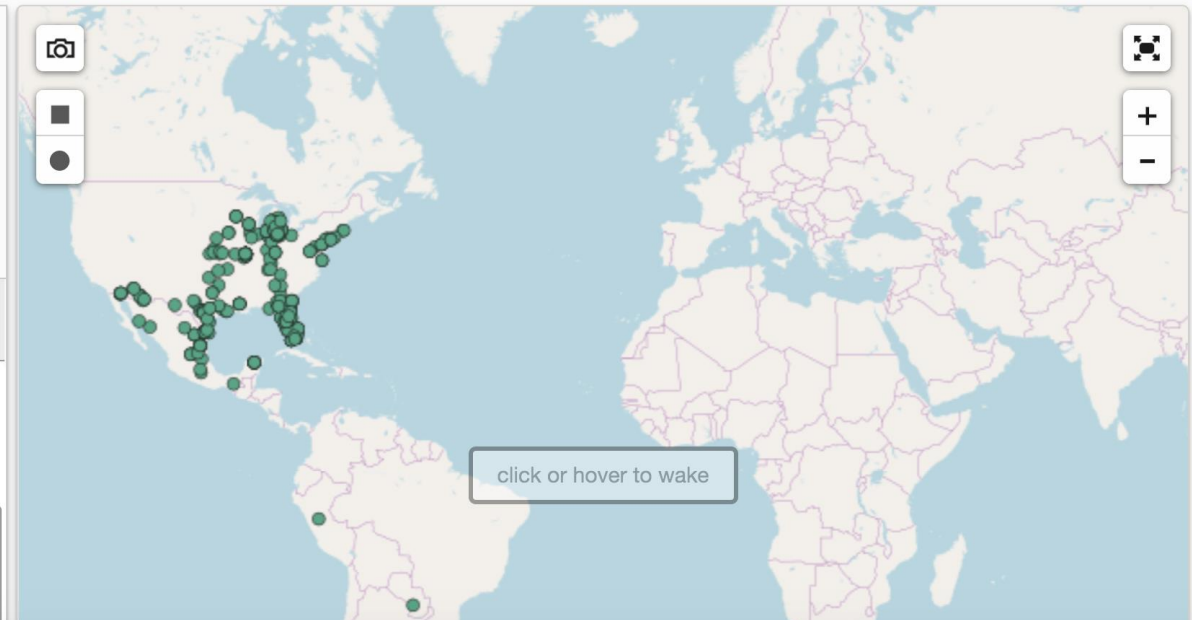
Must have media     Must have map point

[Filters](#)
[Mapping](#)
[Sorting](#)
[Download](#)

Add a field [Clear](#)

**Specific Epithet** ✕  
 dwc:specificEpithet  
 Present     Missing

**Genus** ✕  
 dwc:genus    [Add EOL Synonyms](#)





# Specimen Records in iDigBio



*Papilio aristodemus*

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[Help](#) [Reset](#)

search all fields

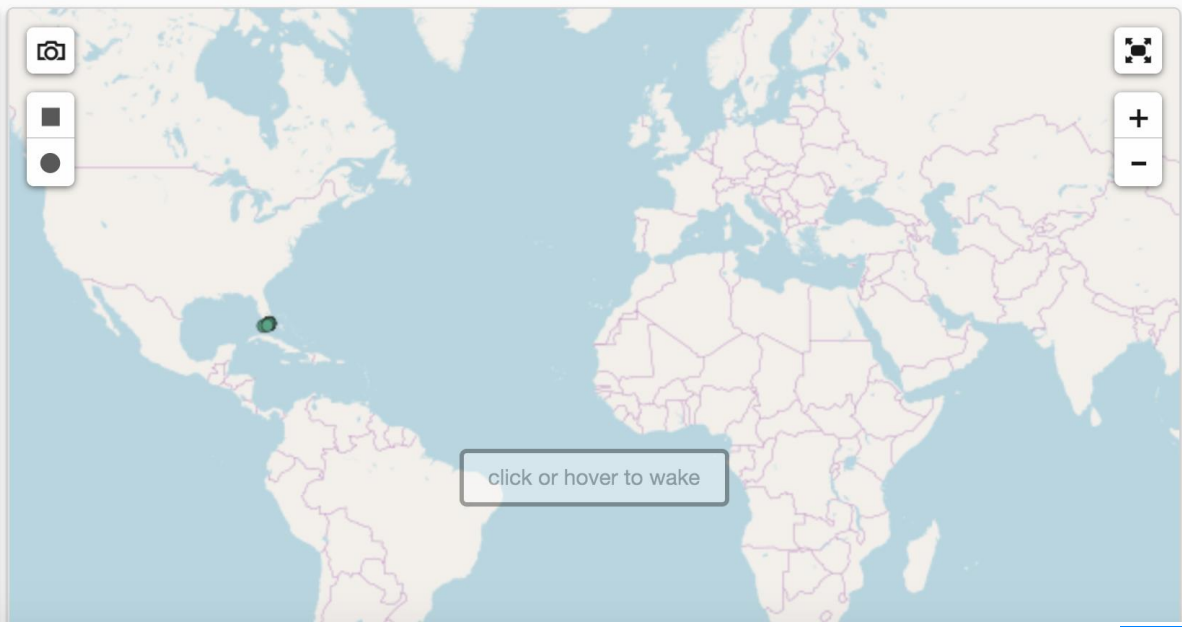
Must have media   
  Must have map point

[Filters](#) | 
 [Mapping](#) | 
 [Sorting](#) | 
 [Download](#)

Add a field ▼ [Clear](#)

**Scientific Name**  [Add EOL Synonyms](#) ✕  
 Present     Missing

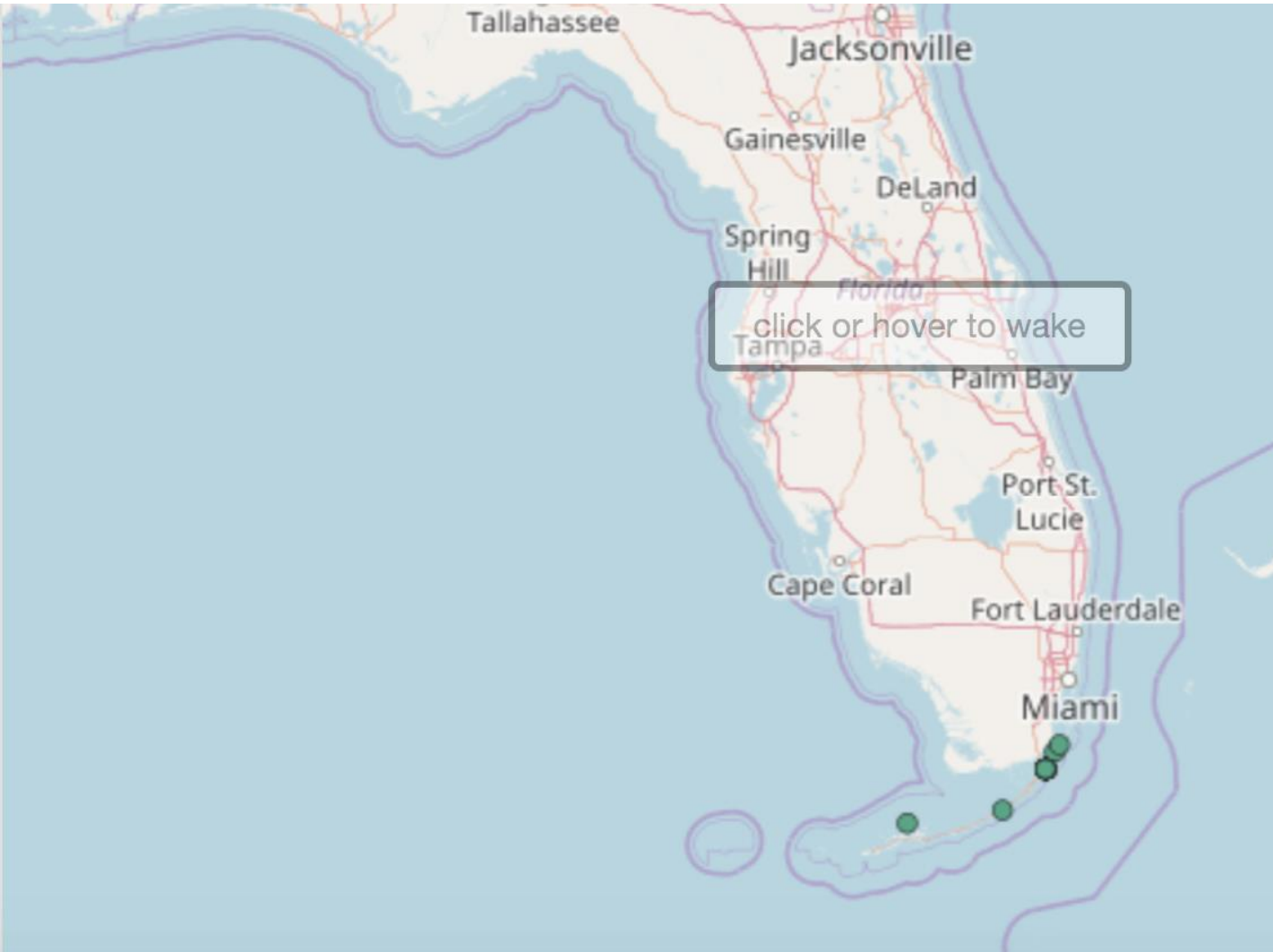
**Date Collected** Start:  End:  ✕



# Specimen Records in iDigBio



*Papilio aristodemus*





# Specimen Records in iDigBio



*Papilio cresphontes*

**Take our 30-second survey**

The U.S. National Science Foundation and iDigBio are required to collect information on use of digitized collections-based specimen data. Please help us meet this requirement every time you use this search portal. Sustainability of the national digitization effort depends on evidence of data use! **Maybe later.**

## Search Records

[Help](#) [Reset](#)

search all fields

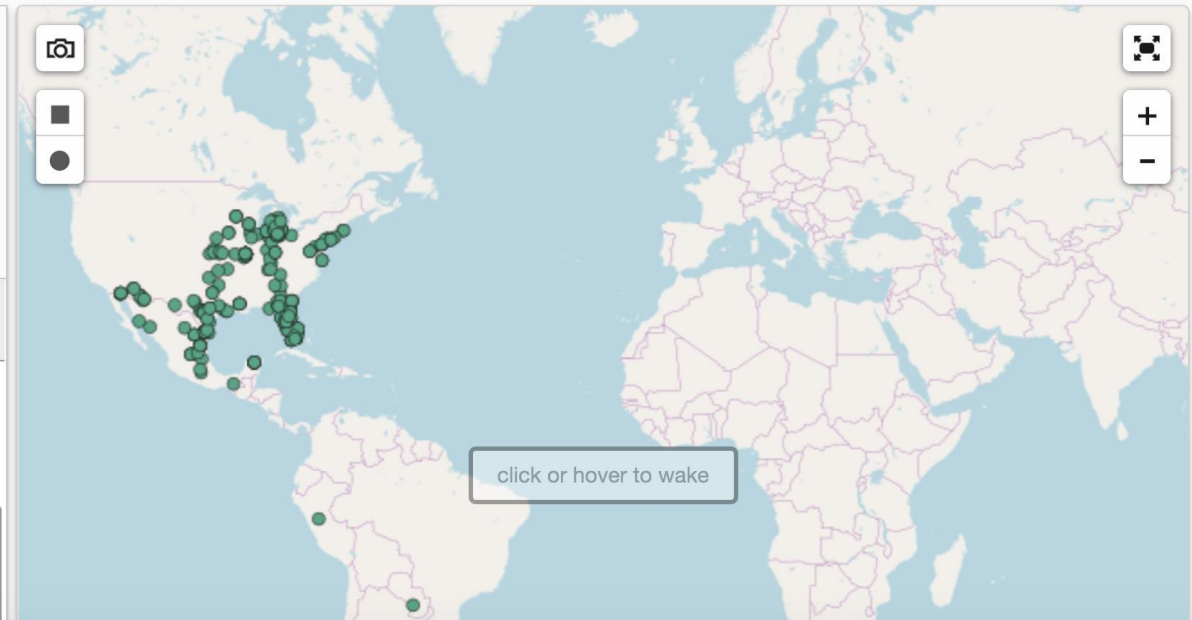
Must have media     Must have map point

[Filters](#)
[Mapping](#)
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[Download](#)

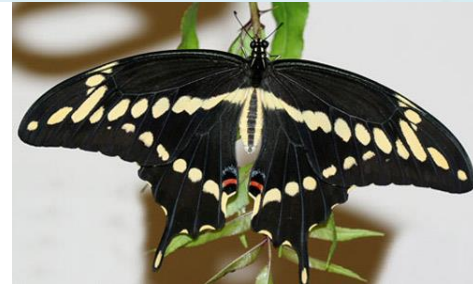
Add a field [Clear](#)

**Specific Epithet** ✕  
 dwc:specificEpithet  
 Present     Missing

**Genus** ✕  
 dwc:genus    [Add EOL Synonyms](#)



# Specimen Records in iDigBio



*Papilio cresphontes*

## Specimen Record

Animalia > Arthropoda > Insecta > Lepidoptera > Papilionidae

### *Papilio cresphontes* cr.

From Entomology Division, Yale Peabody Museum

Continent North America  
 Country United States  
 State/Province Nebraska  
 County/Parish Douglas County  
 Locality Omaha  
 Latitude 41.2472  
 Longitude -95.9557877

Institution Code Ypm  
 Collection Code Ent  
 Catalog Number Ypm Ent 431144  
 Collected By R. A. Leussler  
 Date Collected 1909-06-19



## Media



## From Recordset

Entomology Division, Yale Peabody Museum



The systematic collections of the Yale Peabody Museum's Division of Entomology comprise over 1,000,000 curated specimens. Division holdings include important collections of Lepidoptera, arachnids, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, water beetles and midges, and specialty collections on evolutionary themes. Recent acquisitions also include historically important collections from other institutions. The Division also maintains a general entomological library of periodicals, books and reprints that includes coverage of arachnology donated from the Alexander Petrunkevitch Library.

## Contacts

**Name** Larry Gall  
**Role** Head, Computer Systems Office  
**Email** [lawrence.gall@yale.edu](mailto:lawrence.gall@yale.edu)

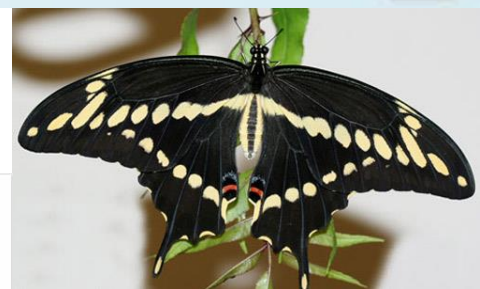
**Name** Larry Gall  
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# Specimen Records in iDigBio



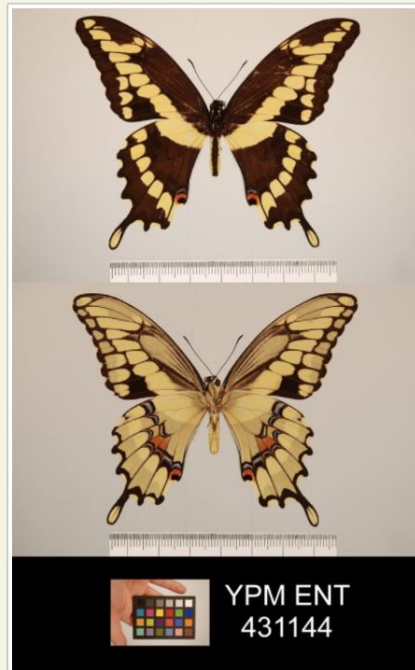
*Papilio cresphontes*

## Media Record

[Animalia](#) > [Arthropoda](#) > [Insecta](#) > [Lepidoptera](#) > [Papilionidae](#)

*Papilio cresphontes* Cr. [view specimen record](#)

From Entomology Division, Yale Peabody Museum



Media retrieved from:

<http://deliver.odai.yale.edu/content/repository/YPM/id/36771/format/3>

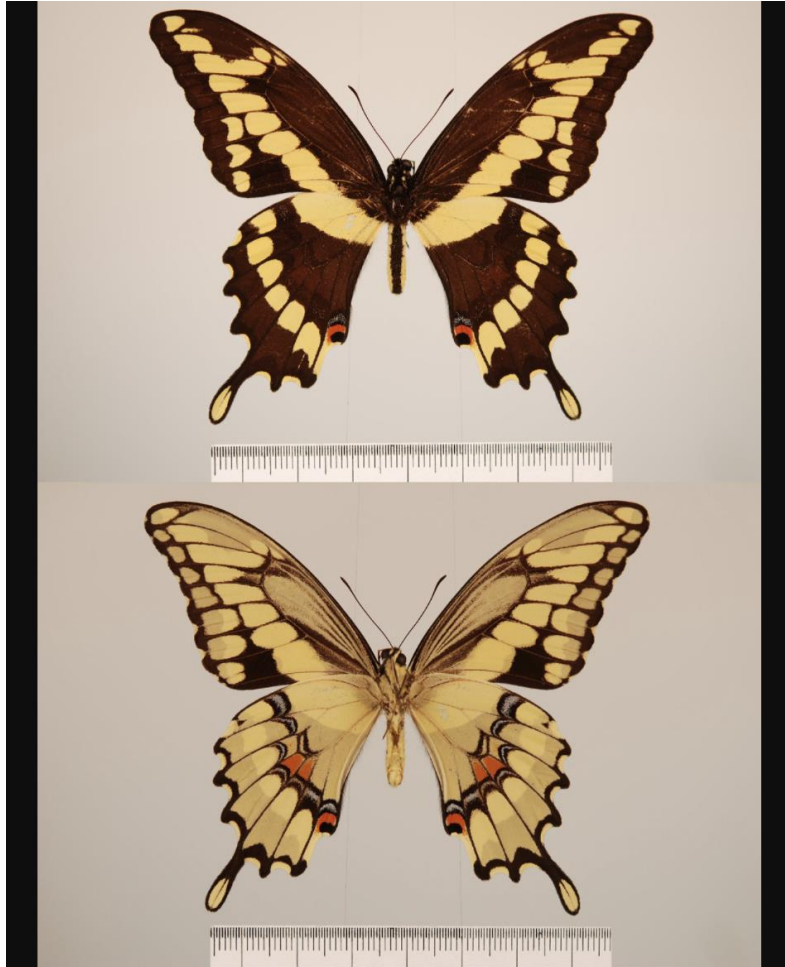
[Open in browser](#)

[Download File](#)

# Specimen Records in iDigBio

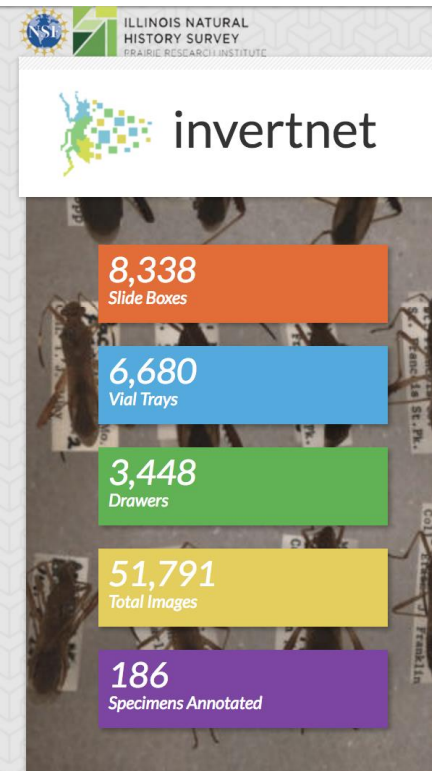


*Papilio cresphontes*



YPM ENT  
431144

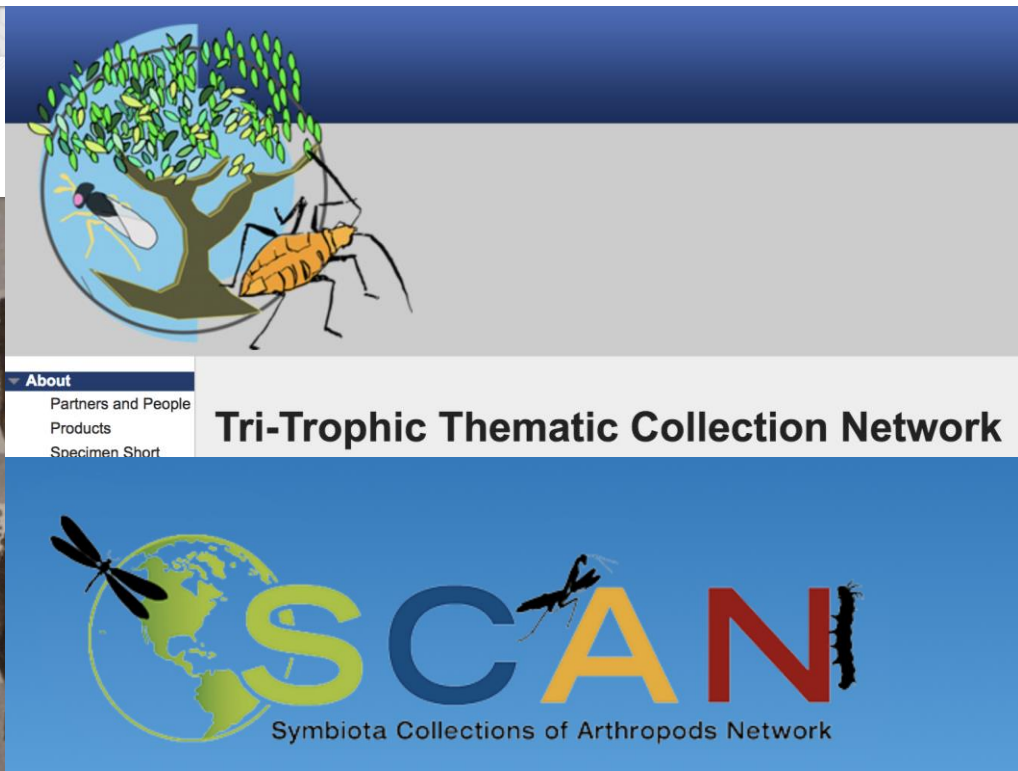
# Thematic Collections Networks



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY  
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

invertnet

- 8,338 Slide Boxes
- 6,680 Vial Trays
- 3,448 Drawers
- 51,791 Total Images
- 186 Specimens Annotated



Tri-Trophic Thematic Collection Network

SCAN  
Symbiota Collections of Arthropods Network

About  
Partners and People  
Products  
Specimen Short



fossil insect  
COLLABORATIVE




LEPNET: Lepidoptera of North America Network

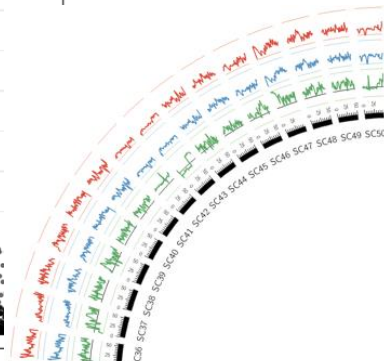
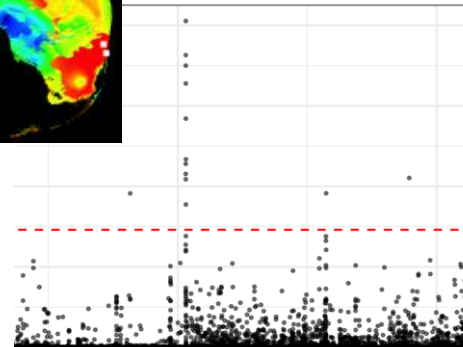
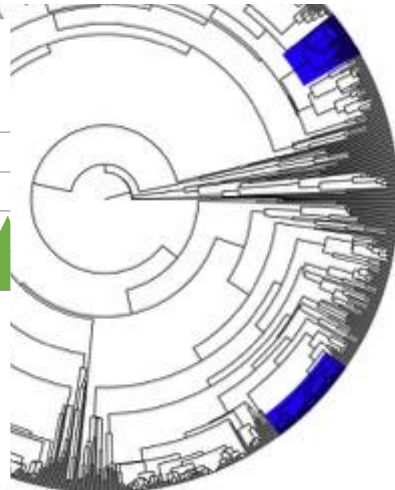
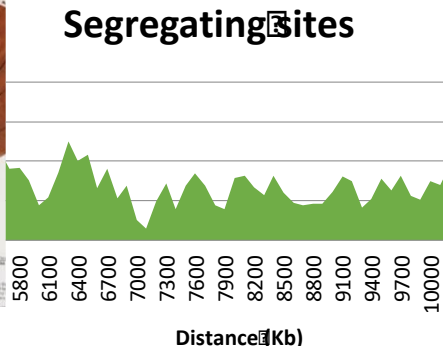


# Linking Heterogeneous Data

Genus	Species	Scientific name	Sample date	SLA dry mass (g)	leaf_area_cm2	SLA_cm2.g	LMA_g.m2	d13C(‰)
Chionanthus	virginicus	Chionanthus virginicus	5/6/15	1.6	489.778	306.1	32.7	-33.17
Chionanthus	virginicus	Chionanthus virginicus	5/6/15	2.36	462.018	195.8	51.1	-31.96
Chionanthus	virginicus	Chionanthus virginicus	5/6/15	1.94	383.707	197.8	50.6	-32.69
Castanea	pumila	Castanea pumila	5/6/15	0.84				-32.91
Castanea	pumila	Castanea pumila	5/7/15	1.843	399.395	216.7	46.1	-32.08
Castanea	pumila	Castanea pumila	5/7/15	1.676	368.592	219.9	45.5	-30.83
Castanea	pumila	Castanea pumila	5/7/15	1.452	326.529	224.9	44.5	-31.42
Castanea	pumila	Castanea pumila	5/7/15	1.249	304.058	243.4	41.1	-30.76
Castanea	pumila	Castanea pumila	5/7/15	1.433	383.797	267.8	37.3	-33.07
Cartrema	americana	Cartrema americana	5/7/15	2.11	339.297	160.8	62.2	-30.79
Cartrema	americana	Cartrema americana	5/7/15	2.68	378.94	141.4	70.7	-31.52
Cartrema	americana	Cartrema americana	5/7/15	3.4	379.952	111.8	89.5	-30.74
Chionanthus	virginicus	Chionanthus virginicus	5/7/15	2.866	393.473	137.3	72.8	-30.03
Diospyros	virginiana	Diospyros virginiana						
Quercus	laevis	Quercus laevis						
Cornus	florida	Cornus florida						
Cornus	florida	Cornus florida						
Cornus	florida	Cornus florida						
Cornus	florida	Cornus florida						



Photosynthetic Pathway  
 Respiration Leaf Area Nfixation Capacity  
 SLA Regeneration Capacity Plant Lifespan  
 Wood Density Growth Form  
 Phenology Type Leaf N  
 Leaf P Leaf Longevity Photosynthetic Capacity  
 Max Plant Height Seed Mass



Position

# Modeling the Distribution of Florida Plants

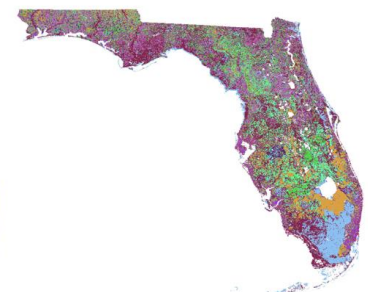
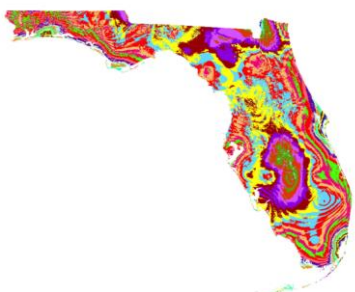
- Location information and environmental data
- Software to model the range of each species
- Project onto future climate conditions
- For Florida plants:
  - 1490 plant species (of 4100 species)
  - >511,000 georeferenced points (GPS)
  - Environmental features: temperature, precipitation, soil, etc.



Charlotte  
Germain-Aubrey



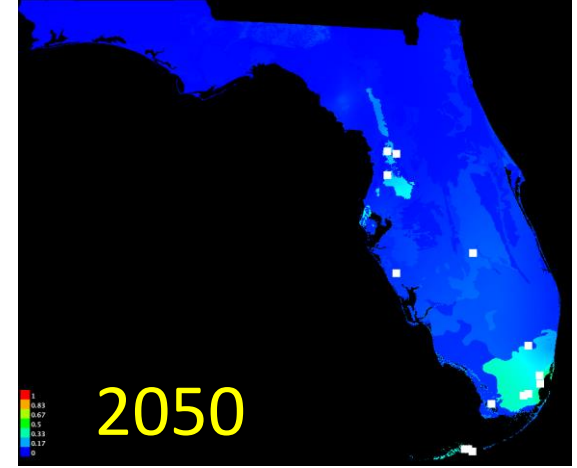
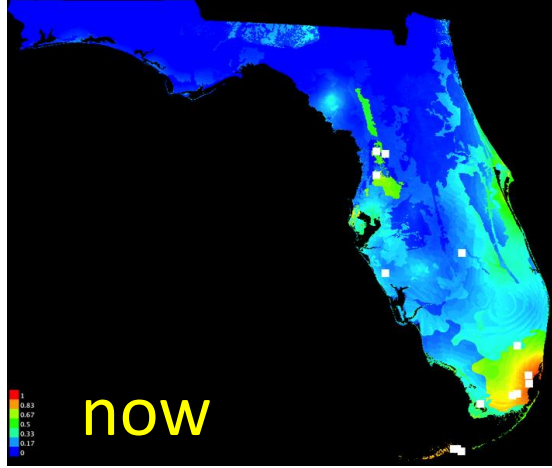
Julie Allen



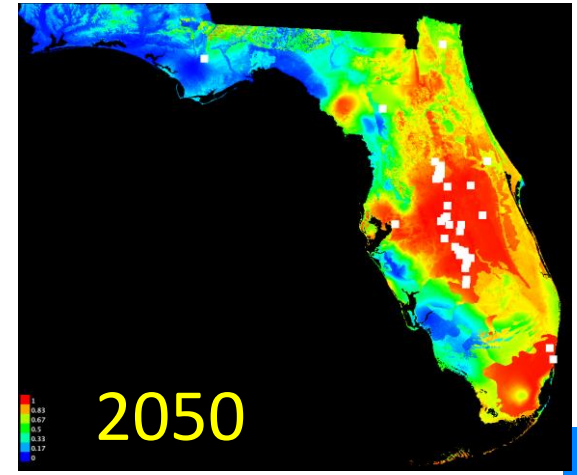
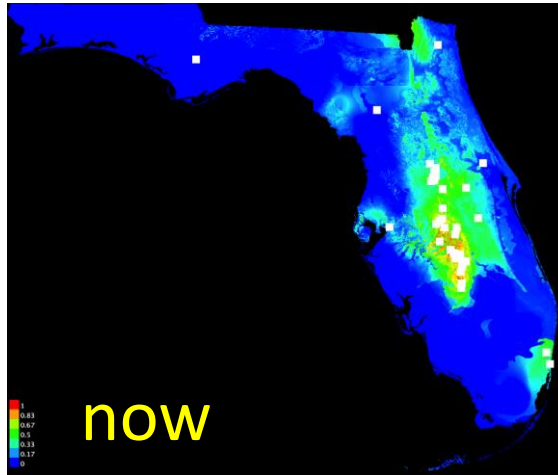


# Responses to Climate Change: Winners & Losers

## *Abildgaardia ovata* (flatspike sedge)

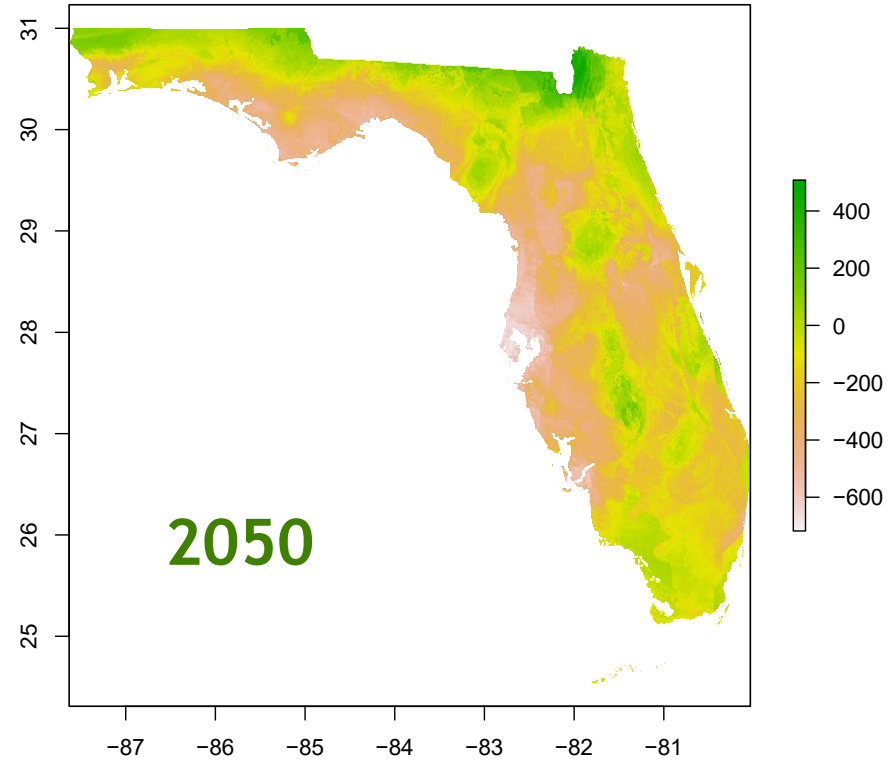
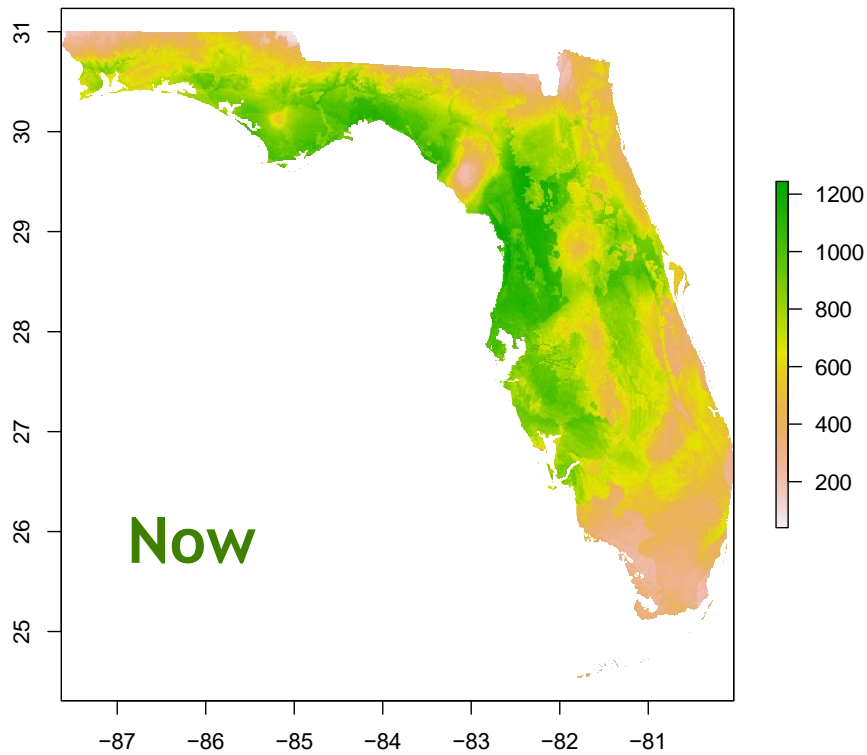


## *Prunus geniculata* (scrub plum)





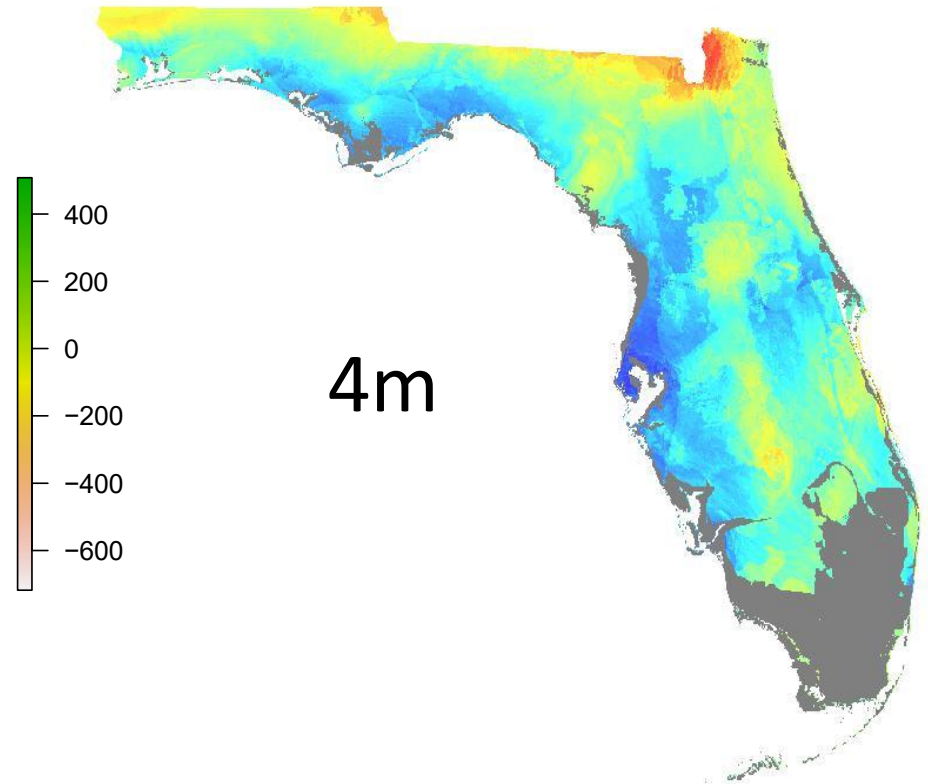
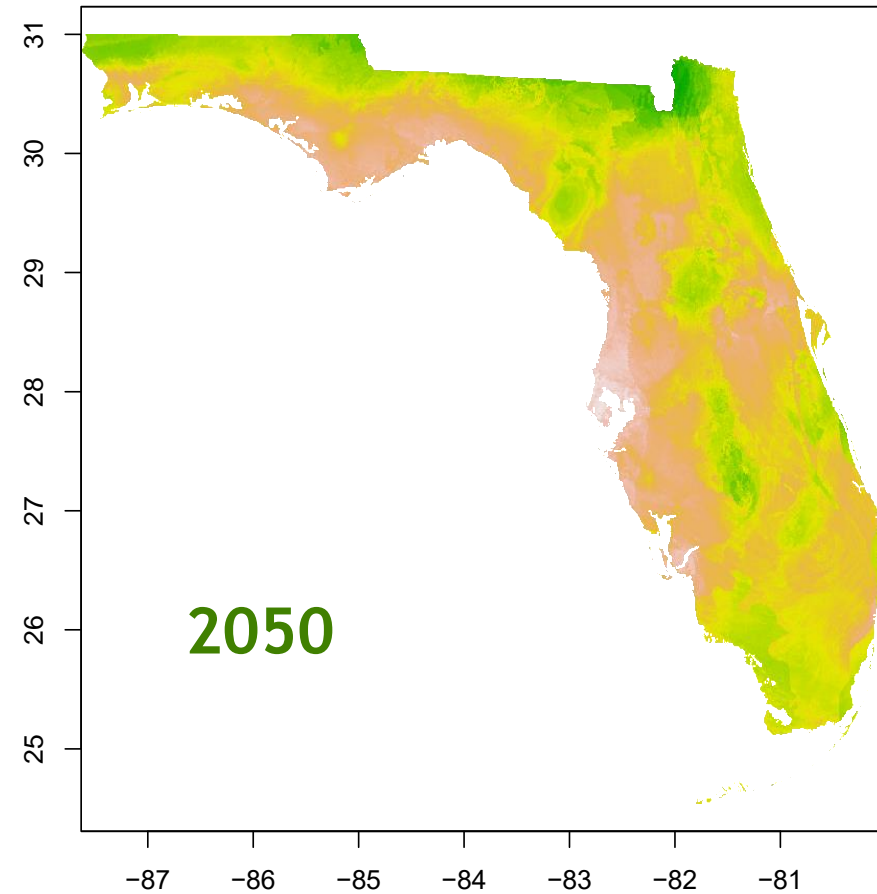
# Florida Plant Diversity



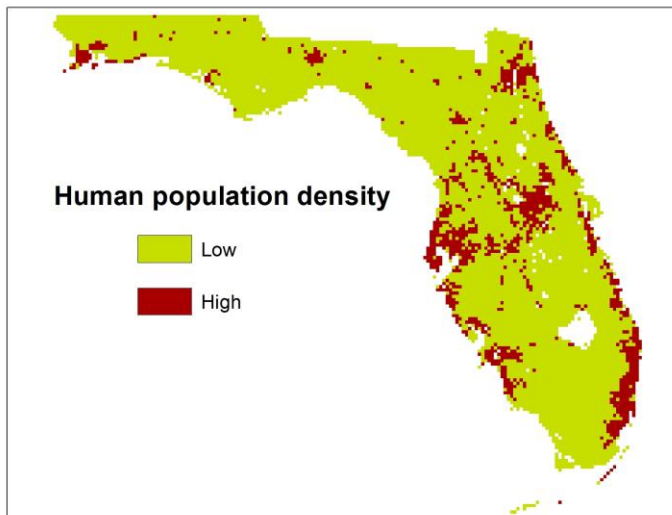
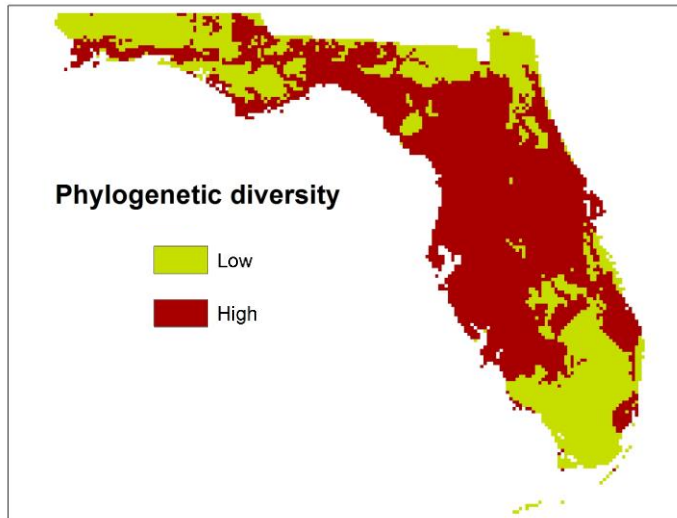
- High species diversity
- Low species diversity

- Panhandle species: NORTH!
- Peninsula species: SOUTH!

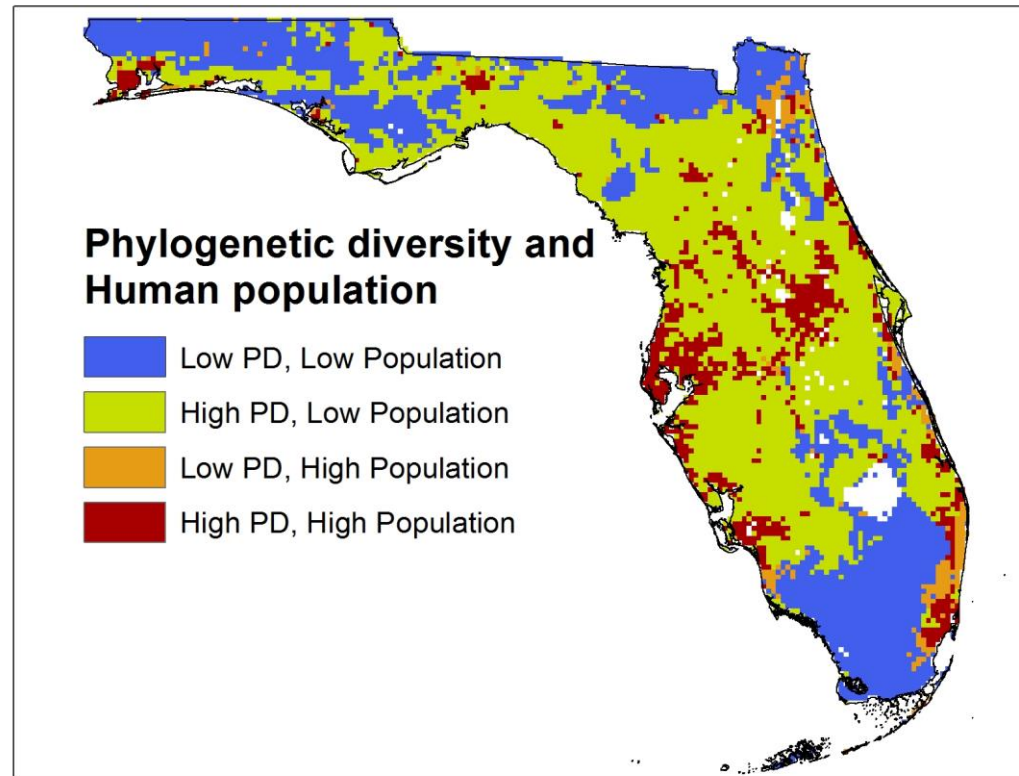
# Florida Plant Diversity: Sea Level Rise



# Florida Plant Diversity

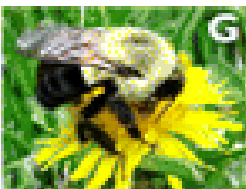
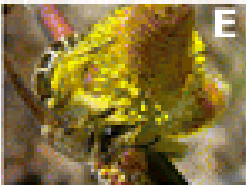


## Human population density





# Phenological Asynchrony in a Changing Climate: Plant Bud Burst, Flowering, Fruiting, Insect Emergence, Bird Nesting & Migration, Mammal Nesting & Survival ...



Bartomeus et al. 2011  
<http://pheno-mismatch.org/>

[http://budburst.org/phenology\\_whyphenology](http://budburst.org/phenology_whyphenology)

# Codistribution of plant bugs (Miridae; Insecta: Hemiptera) and their host plants

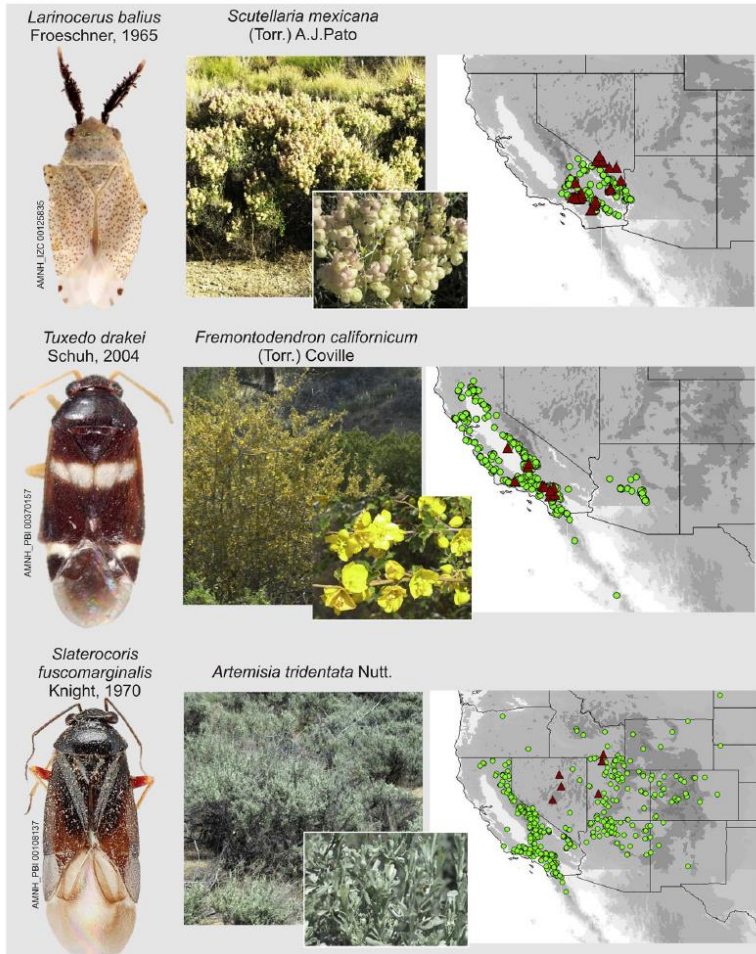


Fig. 1. Three species of Nearctic Miridae in the subfamilies Phylinae and Orthotylinae, their host plants and distribution ranges (plant bug species: maroon triangle; plant species: green circle), illustrating the relatively smaller distribution ranges of these plant bugs compared to their host plant.

Plant bugs: 1339 species, 61,016 records  
Plants: 313 species, 196,012 records

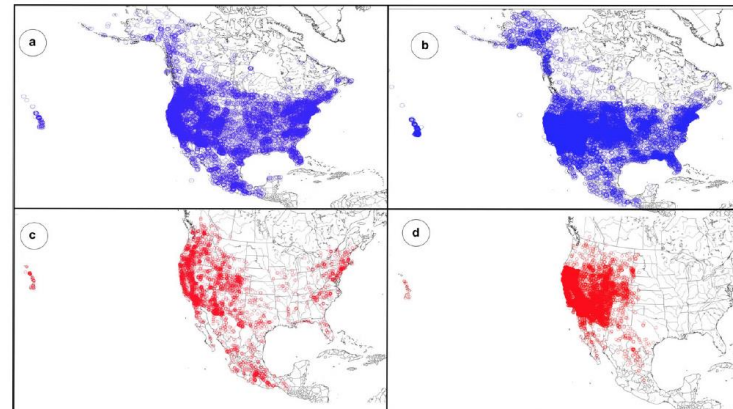
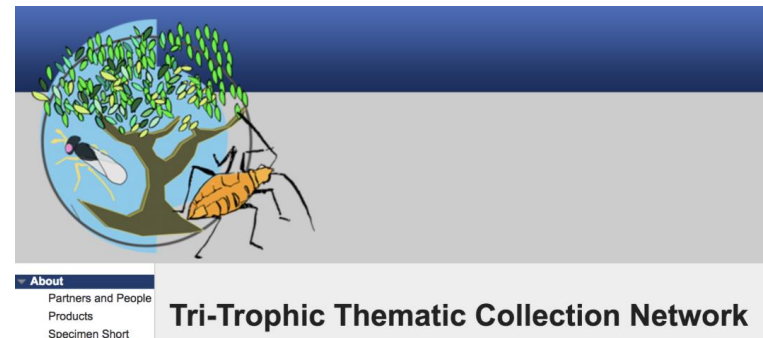
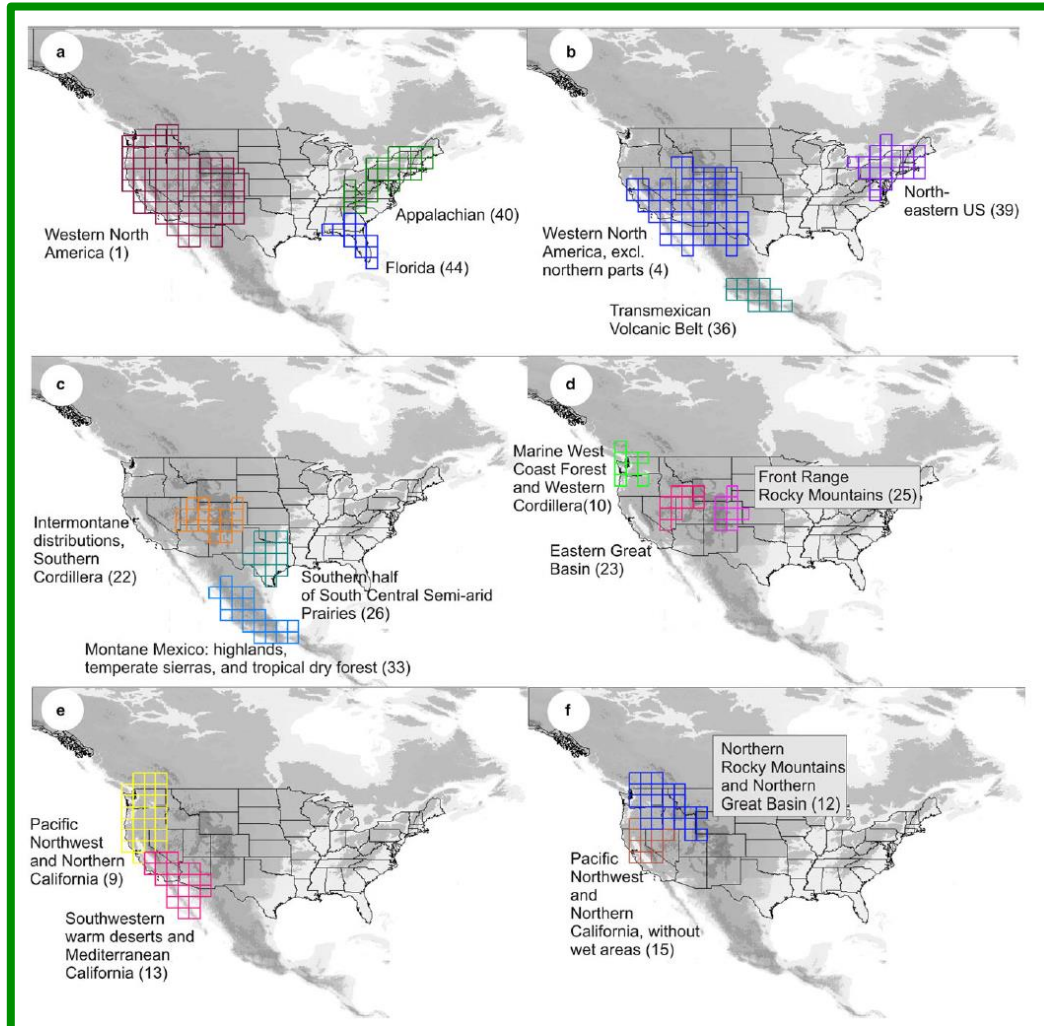


Fig. 2. Maps illustrating all unique localities included in the analysis, documenting dense sampling and localities of scoring species: (a) all unique localities for the default Miridae data set; (b) all unique localities for the plant data set; (c) unique localities of scoring plant bug species; and (d) unique localities of scoring plant species.





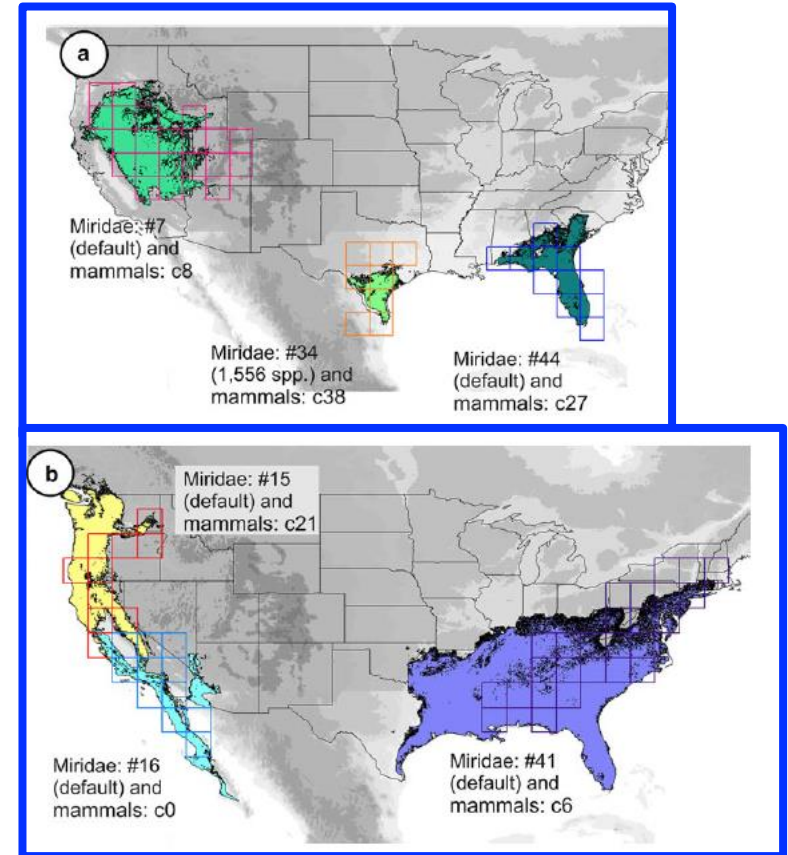
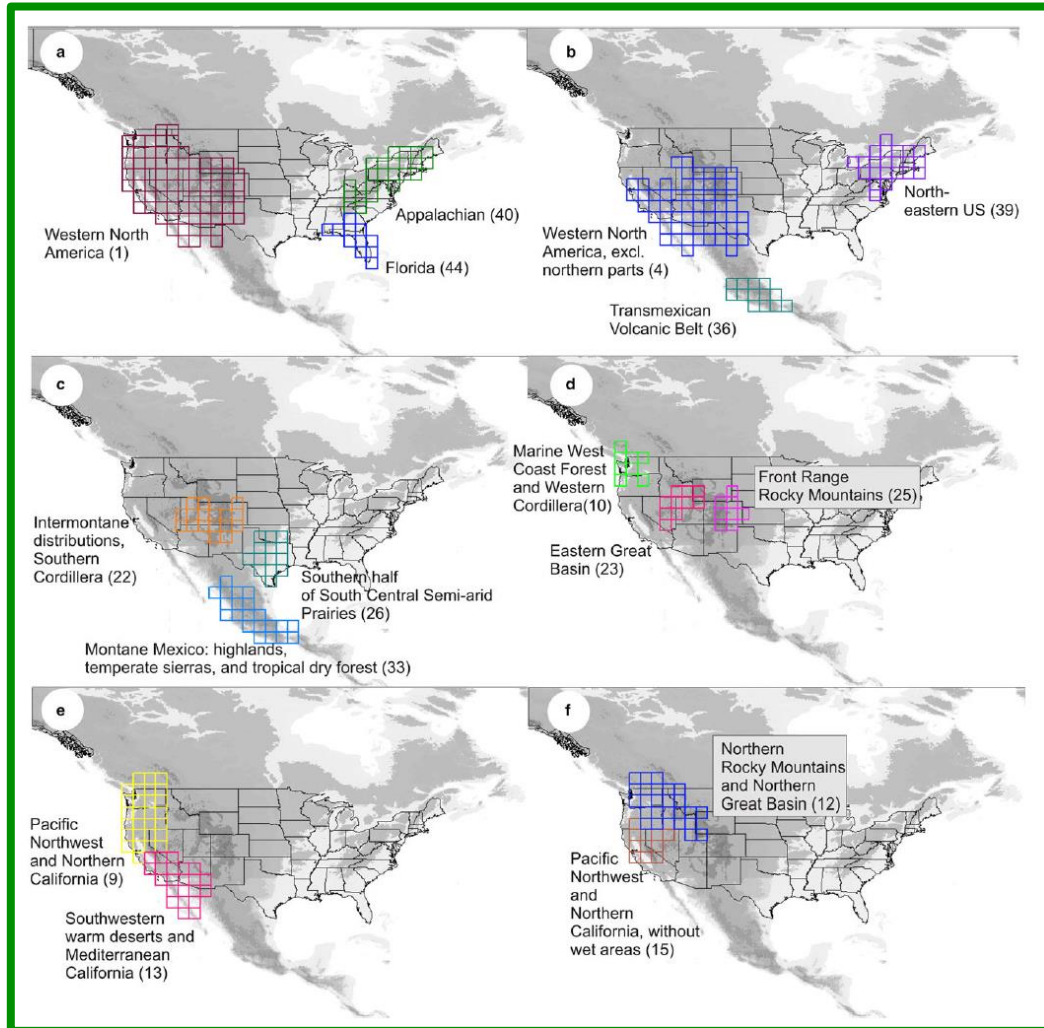
# Codistribution of plant bugs (Miridae; Insecta: Hemiptera) and their host plants



- Shown: 16 Areas of Endemism (AoE) for Miridae
- In all: 45 AoE for Miridae, 10 AoE for plants
- Smaller AoE for Miridae than host plants, although generally congruent



# Codistribution of plant bugs (Miridae; Insecta: Hemiptera) and their host plants

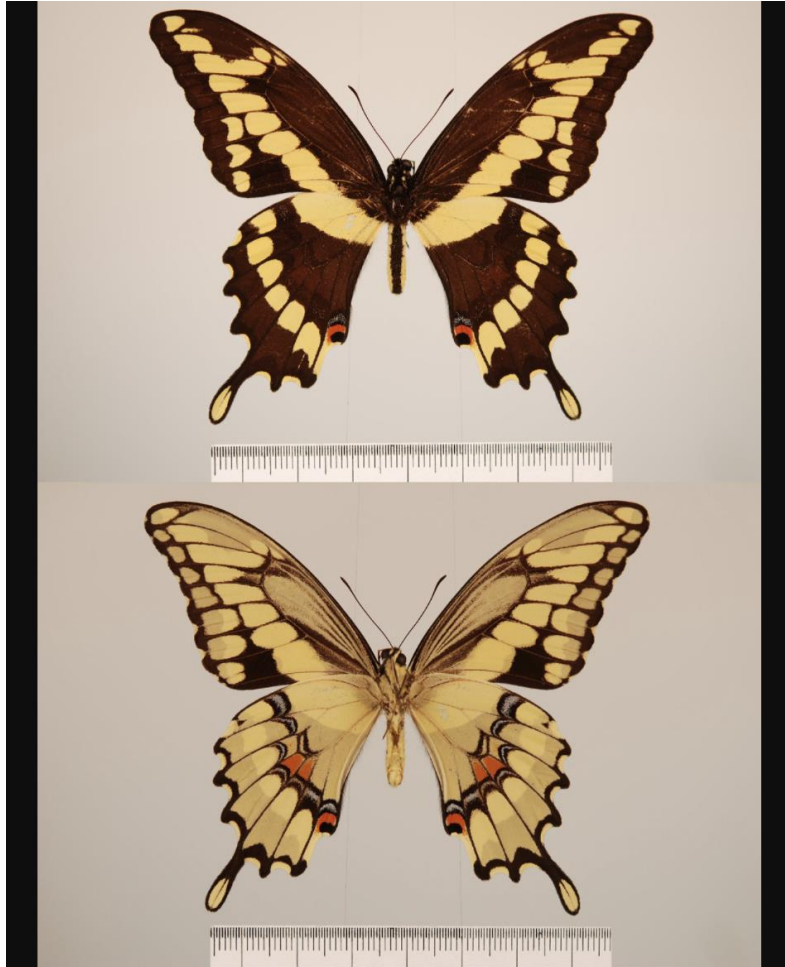


**AoE congruent with mammals, too**

# Specimen Records in iDigBio



*Papilio cresphontes*



YPM ENT  
431144

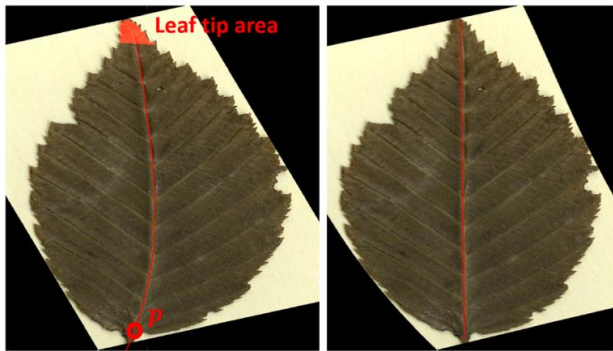
# Traits from Labels, Images, & Text

Machine Learning: Herbarium specimens

Classifying German trees to species

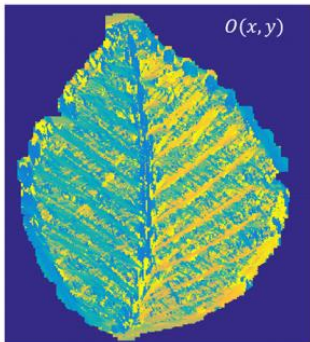
Leaf shape, venation

85% accuracy

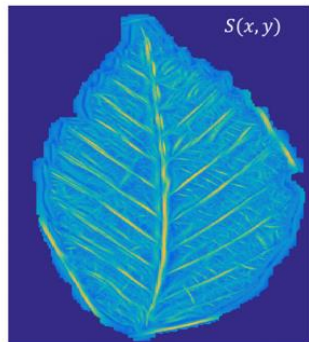


(a)

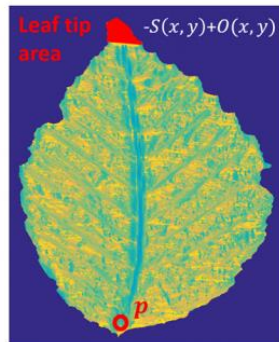
(b)



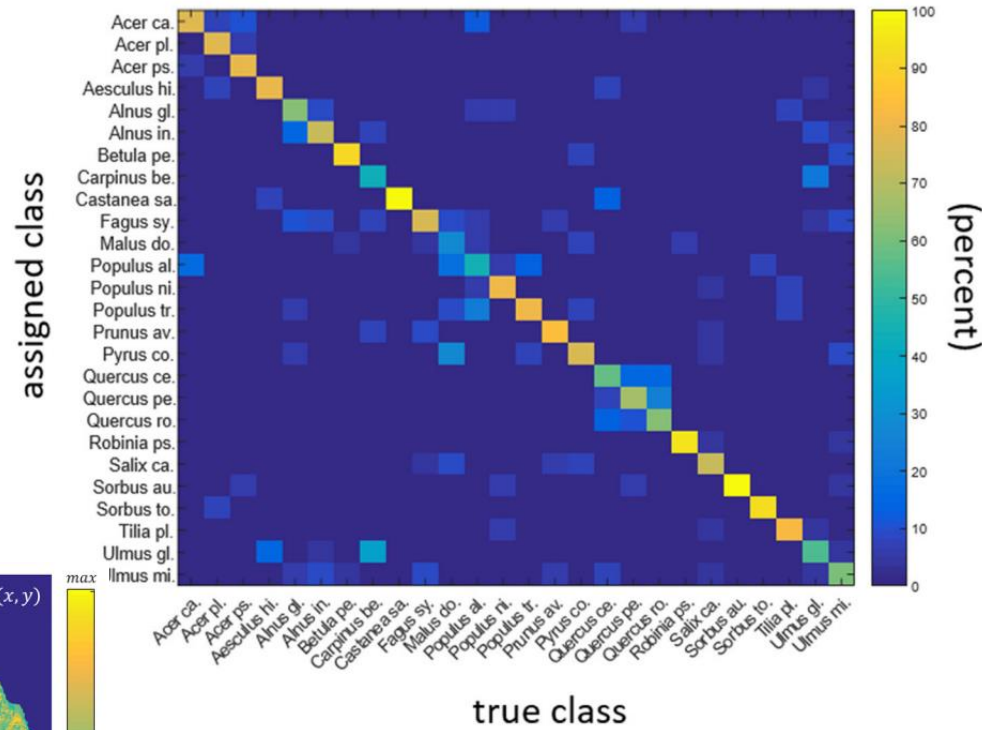
(a)



(b)



(c)







Free web & mobile app dedicated to plant identification and gathering of botanical observations; extending to specimens, phenology

Pl@ntNet is based on an innovative crowdsourcing workflow



BIODIV. DATA



MACHINE LEARNING

NATURE OBSERVERS





*Save the Date*

**PHENOME 2018**

TUCSON, AZ FEBRUARY 14-17

CONNECTING BIOLOGY, SYSTEMS, AND TOOLS

# iDigBio: Enabling Biodiversity Research Through Tool Development & Collaboration

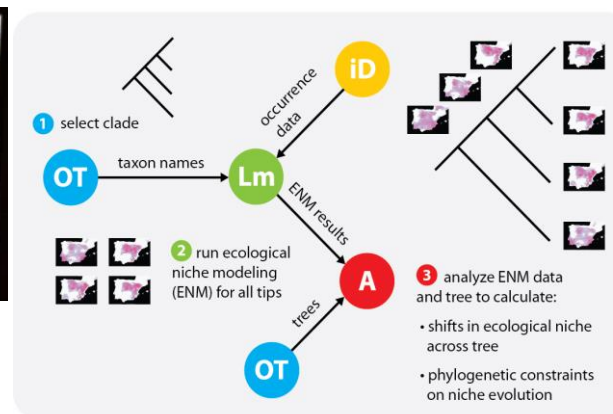
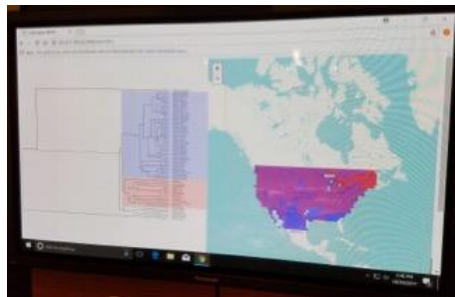
- GUODA: Global Unified Open Data Access
- Jupyter: Python & R notebook infrastructure
- FreshData: Notifications of new data records
- Effechecka: Taxonomic Checklist Generator
- Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (iPlant)
- Links, interfaces, & workflows - Open Tree of Life and Lifemapper
- USVH as a model - linking resources



GUODA

Global Unified Open Data Access

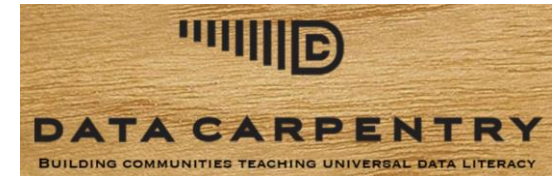
Whole biodiversity dataset analytics as a service





# iDigBio: Enabling Biodiversity Research Through Tool Development & Collaboration

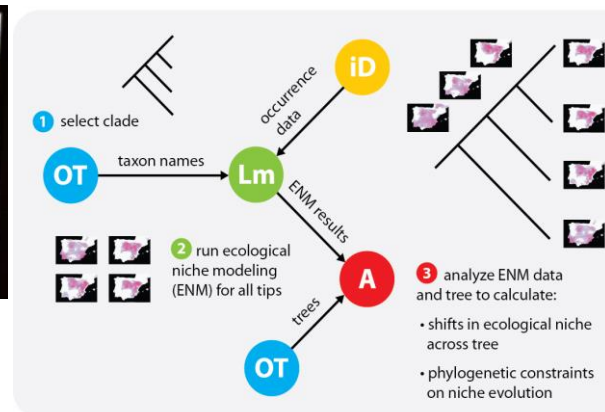
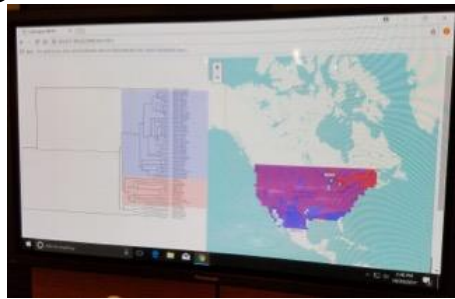
- GUODA: Global Unified Open Data Access
- Jupyter: Python & R notebook infrastructure
- FreshData: Notifications of new data records
- Effechecka: Taxonomic Checklist Generator
- Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (iPlant)
- Links, interfaces, & workflows - Open Tree of Life and Lifemapper
- USVH as a model - linking resources
- Training: Data & Software Carpentries, digitization, software use



GUODA

Global Unified Open Data Access

Whole biodiversity datasets analytics as a service





# Thank you!



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