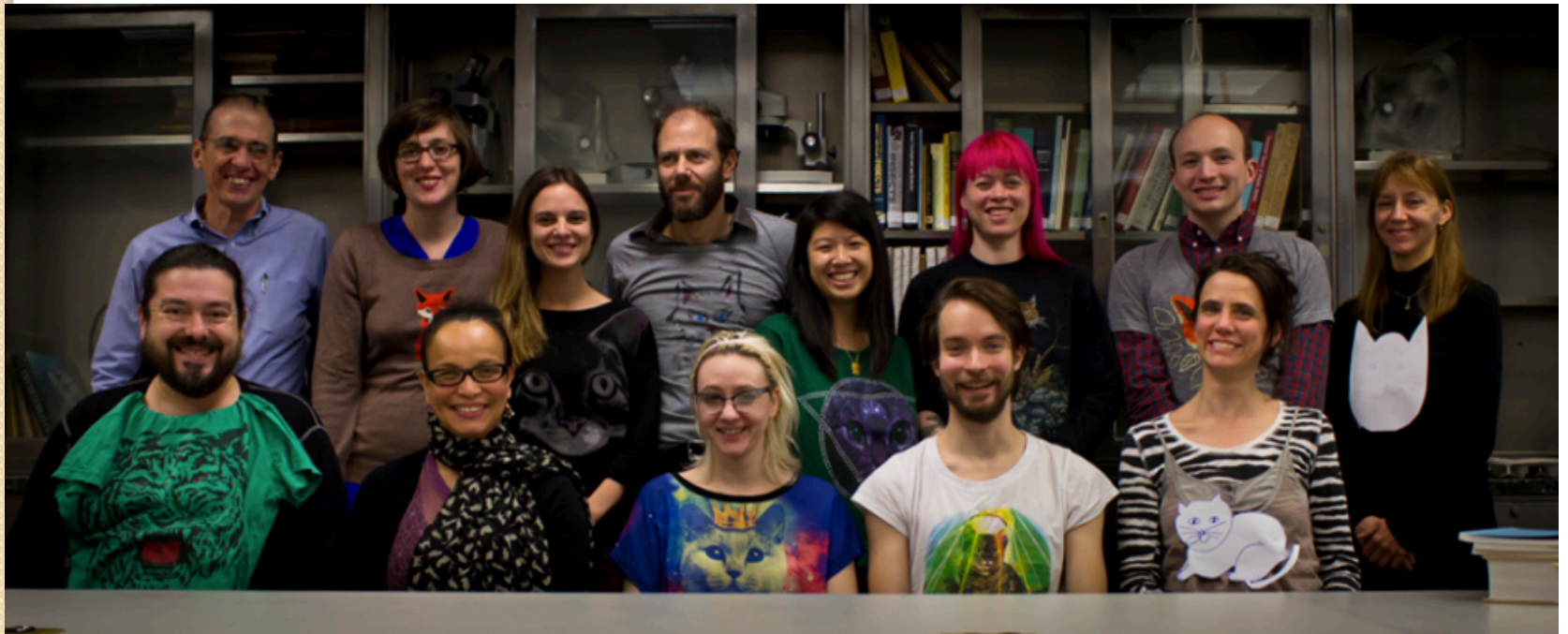


# Tri-Trophic Thematic Collection Network

A Tri-Trophic Databasing and Imaging Project



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## **What:**

Our TCN focuses on one the digitization of the major herbivorous insect clades, the Hemiptera, their host plants, and their parasitoids. The goal is to create a collaborative database which would be made available to the researchers and the general public.

- **Numbers and Statistics:**

- Records will be made available for more than 1.64 million hemipterans, 200,000 parasitoids, and more than 6 million plants in 20 families.
- Total digitized plant bug specimens: 457,553.
- One of the first TCNs funded.



## **Who is involved:**

There are 34 museums and institutions working together and pooling their resources to input their various collections data into the database.

# Education and Outreach through the TCN

- The grant includes funding for two E&O programs:
  - The AMNH's Richard Gilder Graduate School hosted a short course on technological tools and methods to graduate students at the AMNH, affiliated universities, and other students from grand sponsored institutions.
  - A data mining and species-distribution modeling symposium is currently being planned at the University of California, Riverside on June 22-24.

# Other opportunities that have come up as a result of our project:



- Training volunteers in digitization and georeferencing best practices.
- Integration of students across fields of Museum Studies and Bioinformatics
- ATCN digitizer was awarded a Rubenstein Fellowship
- 2 TCN members were invited to teach about Bioinformatics at an international conference.
- Supported REU.
- Invited to speak at high schools.
- Created a public transcription forum for Plant specimens (Discover Life Time Machine).

Were able to create a large number of entry-level jobs due to the workflow of our project.