

BioScience 2015

# Accelerating Digitization of Biodiversity Research Specimens through Online Public Participation

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# 3 billion biodiversity specimens



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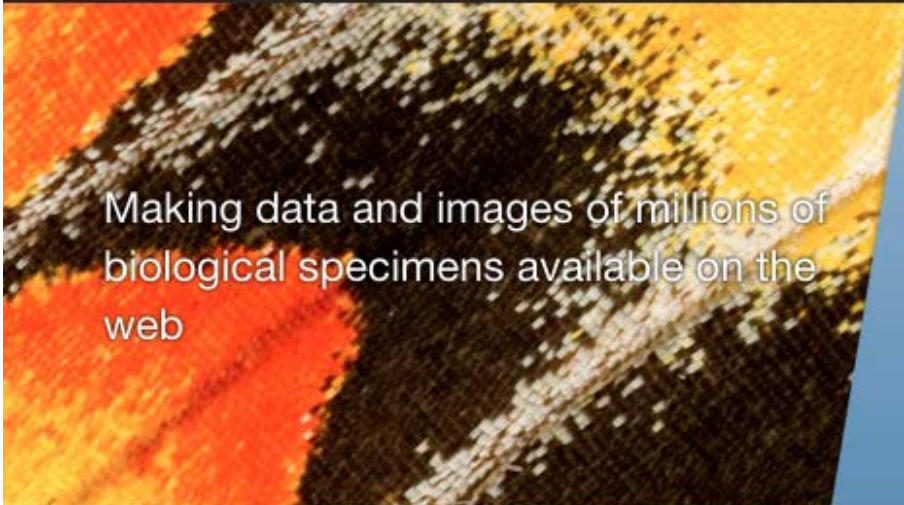






[blogs.notesfromnature.org](http://blogs.notesfromnature.org)

10% of US specimens are digitized



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

28,348,539

Specimen Records

4,643,124

Media Records

443

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?

### Researchers

Learn about research directions



### Collections Staff

Learn how your collection can benefit from our work



### Teachers & Students

Download lesson plans about using digitized specimens



# Five discrete task clusters of digitization

- pre-digitization curation and staging
- specimen image capture
- specimen image processing
- electronic data capture
- georeferencing locality descriptions

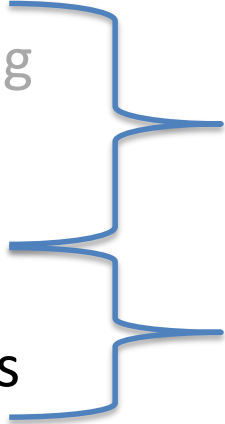
# Five discrete task clusters of digitization

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Onsite  
participation

# Five discrete task clusters of digitization

- pre-digitization curation and staging
  - specimen image capture
  - specimen image processing
  - electronic data capture
  - georeferencing locality descriptions
- 
- The diagram consists of two blue curly braces on the right side of the list. The top brace groups the first three items: 'pre-digitization curation and staging', 'specimen image capture', and 'specimen image processing'. The bottom brace groups the last two items: 'electronic data capture' and 'georeferencing locality descriptions'.
- Onsite participation
- Online participation

# Five discrete task clusters of digitization

- pre-digitization curation and staging
- specimen image capture
- specimen image processing
- **electronic data capture**
- **georeferencing locality descriptions**



Onsite  
participation

**Online  
participation**

# Five discrete task clusters of digitization

- pre-digitization curation and staging
  - specimen image capture
  - specimen image processing
  - **electronic data capture**
  - **georeferencing locality descriptions**
- 
- The diagram shows a blue bracket on the right side of the list, grouping the first three items (pre-digitization curation and staging, specimen image capture, and specimen image processing) under the label 'Onsite participation'. A second blue bracket groups the last two items (electronic data capture and georeferencing locality descriptions) under the label 'Online participation'.
- Onsite participation
- Online participation**

24 tasks in these categories:

**Transcribing**

**Cataloging**

**Translating**

**Georeferencing**

**Recording and Creating Content**

**Mapping**

**Tagging**

**Categorizing**

**Linking**

**Contextualization**

**Correcting/Modifying Content**

# **Digitizing Biodiversity Specimens:**

Citizen Science as a Tool for Bringing  
Specimens Full Circle

- Transcribing Specimen Label  
and Ledger Text
- Georeferencing
- Annotating

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No. Locality.

323. *Arundal*

NAME, SYNONYMS, AND PECULIARITIES.

*Radiated brown stillite*  
*in laccolite, from*  
*primitive rocks.*

*Bicucullaria* (L.) Bernh.  
E of *Bicuculla occidentalis* Rydb.  
rr. Bot. Club 29(3):160. (1902)  
Legler, 1 Sep 2005 WTU

FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA

*Bicucullaria* (L.) Bernh.

asley R. Stern (CHSC)

1993

Revision acc. to International Rules

*Bicucullaria* (L.) Bernh.

L. St. John.

March 1923.

Bull. Torr. Cl. 29:160:1902.



FIDE  
PIPER, FL. WASH.  
PAGE 284

*Bicucullaria cucullaria* (L.) Millsp.

FLORA OF WASHINGTON.  
W. ELICKITAT CO.

PLANTS OF OKLAHOMA  
ROBERT BEBB HERBARIUM  
The University of Oklahoma

Oklahoma County

Scrophulariaceae

*Penstemon oklahomensis* Penn.

SE corner of Tinker AFB. T11N R2W Sec. 26.  
Topography: rolling upland. Habitat: Mixed-Grass Prairie.  
Herbaceous perennial. 2-3 dm tall. Flowers white.

F. L. Johnson  
TNK017

4 May 1994

Plant Inventory of Tinker Air Force Base by Oklahoma Biological Survey



COON DISTRICT

Natural Order: *Rutaceae*  
Generic name: *Citrus*  
Specific name: *Garrawayi*, Bail.  
Vernacular name:  
Habitat: *W. White, Coon.*  
Collector: *R.W. Garraway*  
Remarks: *May 1904*  
F. M. BAILEY.



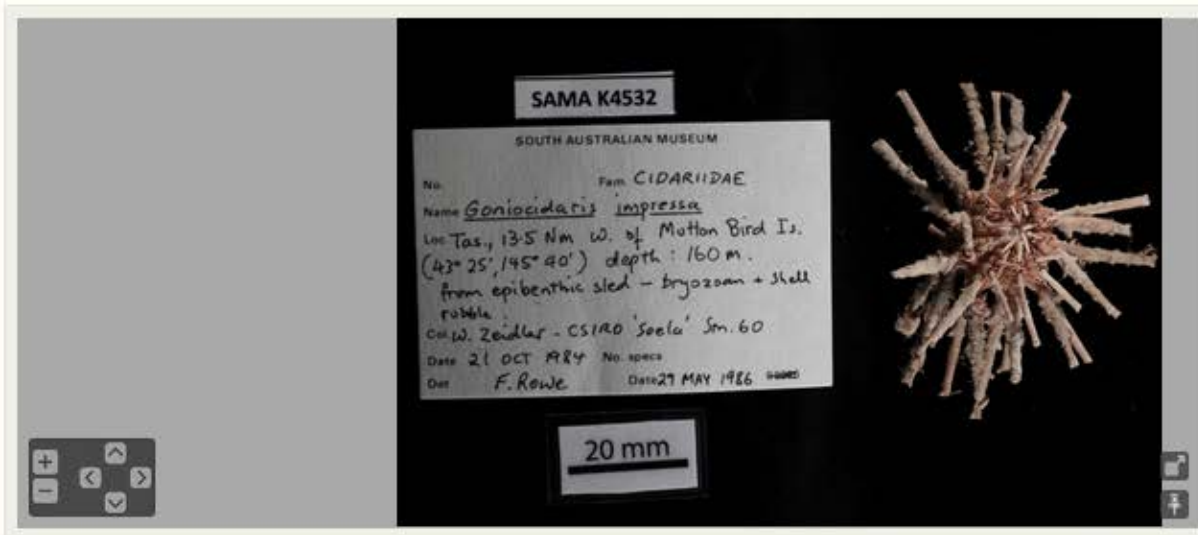
*Oxytropis Halleri* - Bunge  
Sea. cliffs  
Melvich  
Sutherlandshire.  
10. VII. 85. H.E. Fox

Ex Herb. CHARLES BAILEY,  
Hempstead, Chesham, Gloucestershire.

EM332156

No. *Oxytropis arvensis*, R.  
Cybele Bot. Ex Herbarium W. L. Nieuw, Cheltenham.  
Locality: *Thurso.*  
County: *Caithness.*  
Collected by *R. Dick, comm. W. L. Nieuw.*  
Communicated by Charles Bailey, Manchester.

EM332150



### Specimen Information

Institution: SAMA

Project: South Australian Museum Sea Urchin Expedition 1

Catalogue No.: K4532

Taxa: Goniocidaris impressa

Copy values from a previous task

1. Verbatim Text – Record exactly what appears in the labels so we have a searchable reference for them



2. Collection Event – a collecting event is a unique combination of who (collector), when (date) and where (locality) a specimen was collected

Shrink

Verbatim Locality

State Province

Country

Collector





Donor

Date collected

Event Time

Verbatim Latitude

symbols:

Verbatim Longitude

symbols:

Depth (from)

Depth (to)

Measurement Unit

Transcribe museum records to

# TAKE NOTES FROM NATURE

START TRANSCRIBING

4

Archives available

1,111,507

Total transcriptions

7,555

Users contributing

## COUNTRY

The country the specimen was collected in.

## ANNOTATION

By

## COOLEY HERBARIUM

Dryopteris spinulosa (O.F.Muell.)  
Watt

var. americana (Pisch.) Fernald

Maine, Washington County, Jonesport.

Collector: A. W. Cheever

August 1914.

[Discuss](#)

-- Country --

OK

[Skip this field](#)

1/9

[FINISH THIS RECORD](#)



ATLAS of LIVING AUSTRALIA  
sharing biodiversity knowledge



Smithsonian

SMITHSONIAN DIGITAL VOLUNTEERS: TRANSCRIPTION CENTER



Les herbonautes

L'herbier numérique collaboratif citoyen

ZOONIVERSE  
REAL SCIENCE ONLINE



herbaria@home  
recording historical biodiversity

log in | register

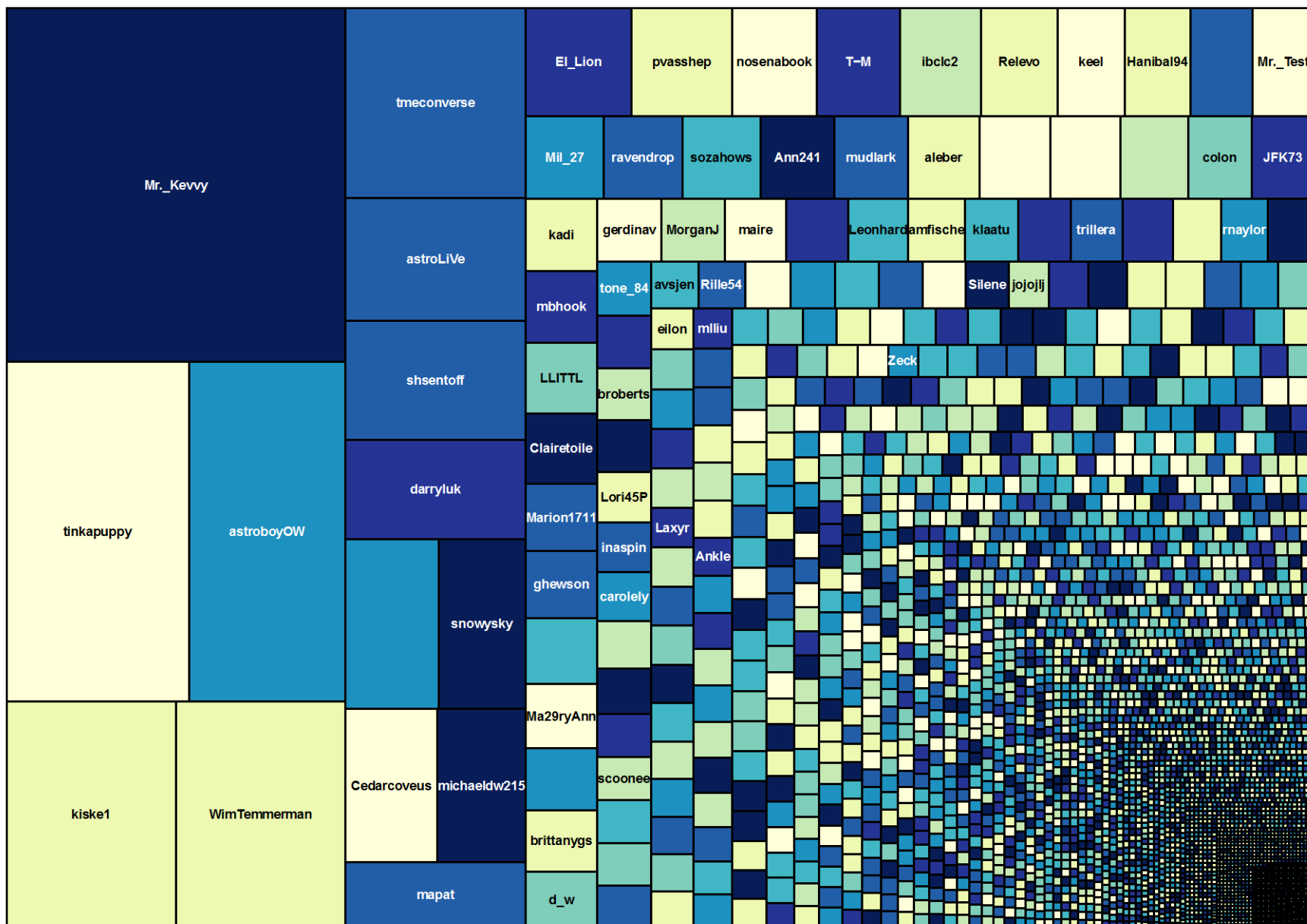


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# Contributions of Notes from Nature volunteers



Total transcriptions: 188,184; Number of volunteers: 3,805; Mr. Kevvy's transcriptions: 18,782 (10%)

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA  
HERBARIUM  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

*Garberia fruticosa*(Nutt) A.Gray

Hab. High pine land

Loc. Lake Stearns, Fla.

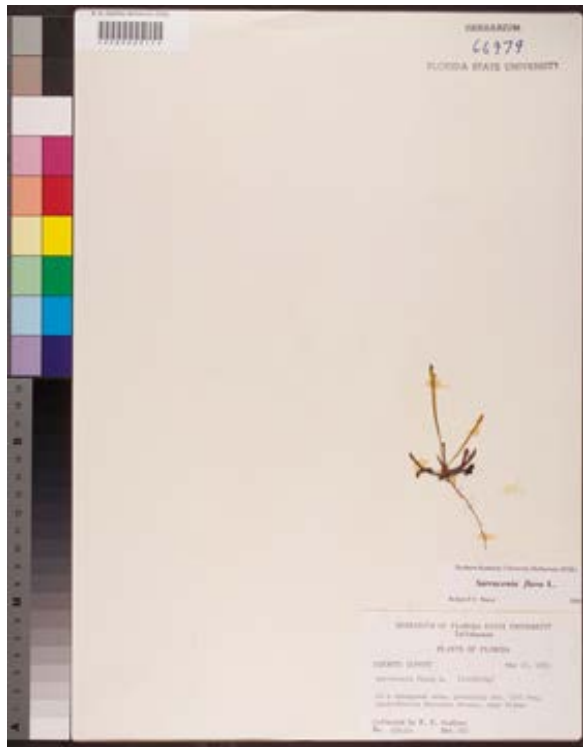
Coll. Burger & West

Date 11-4-27

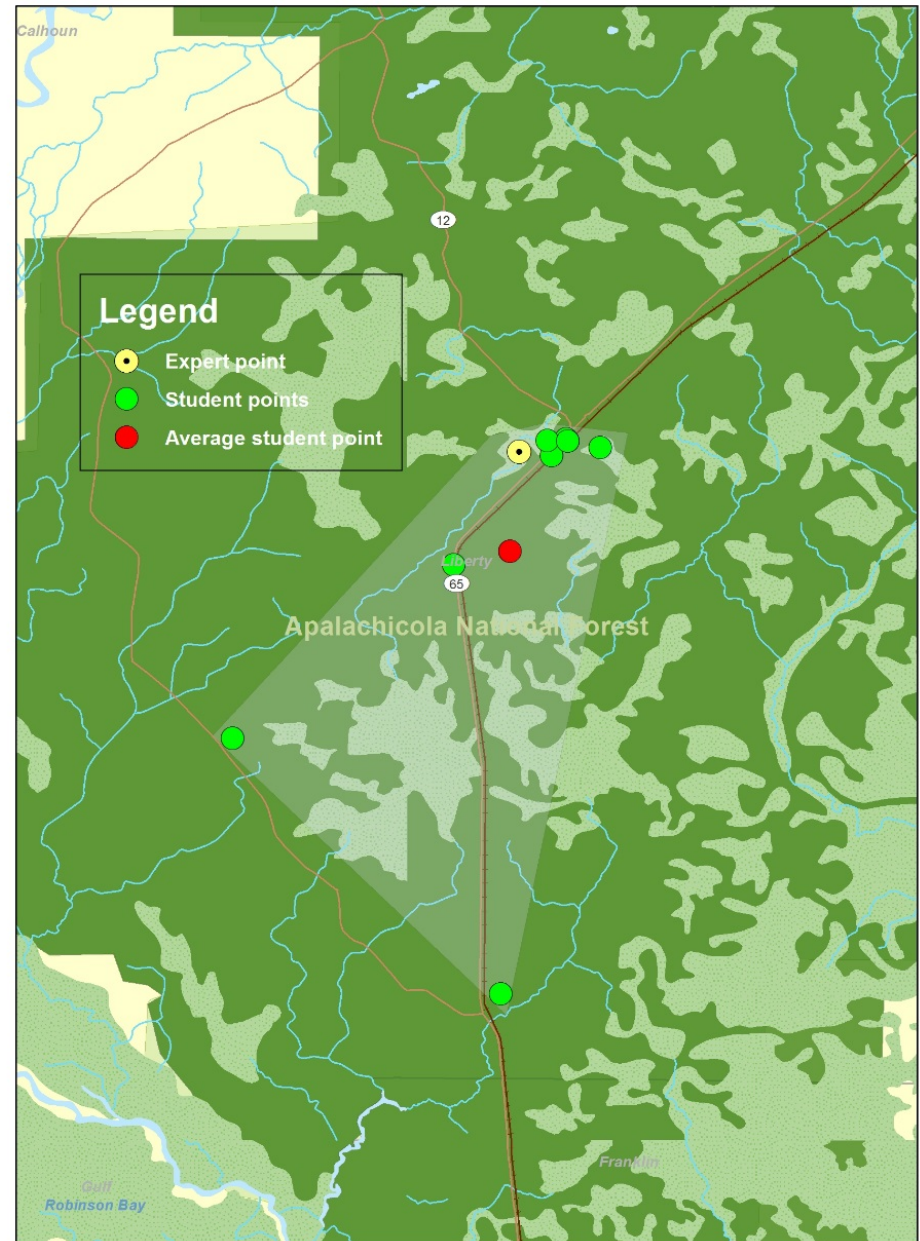
Det. Erdman West

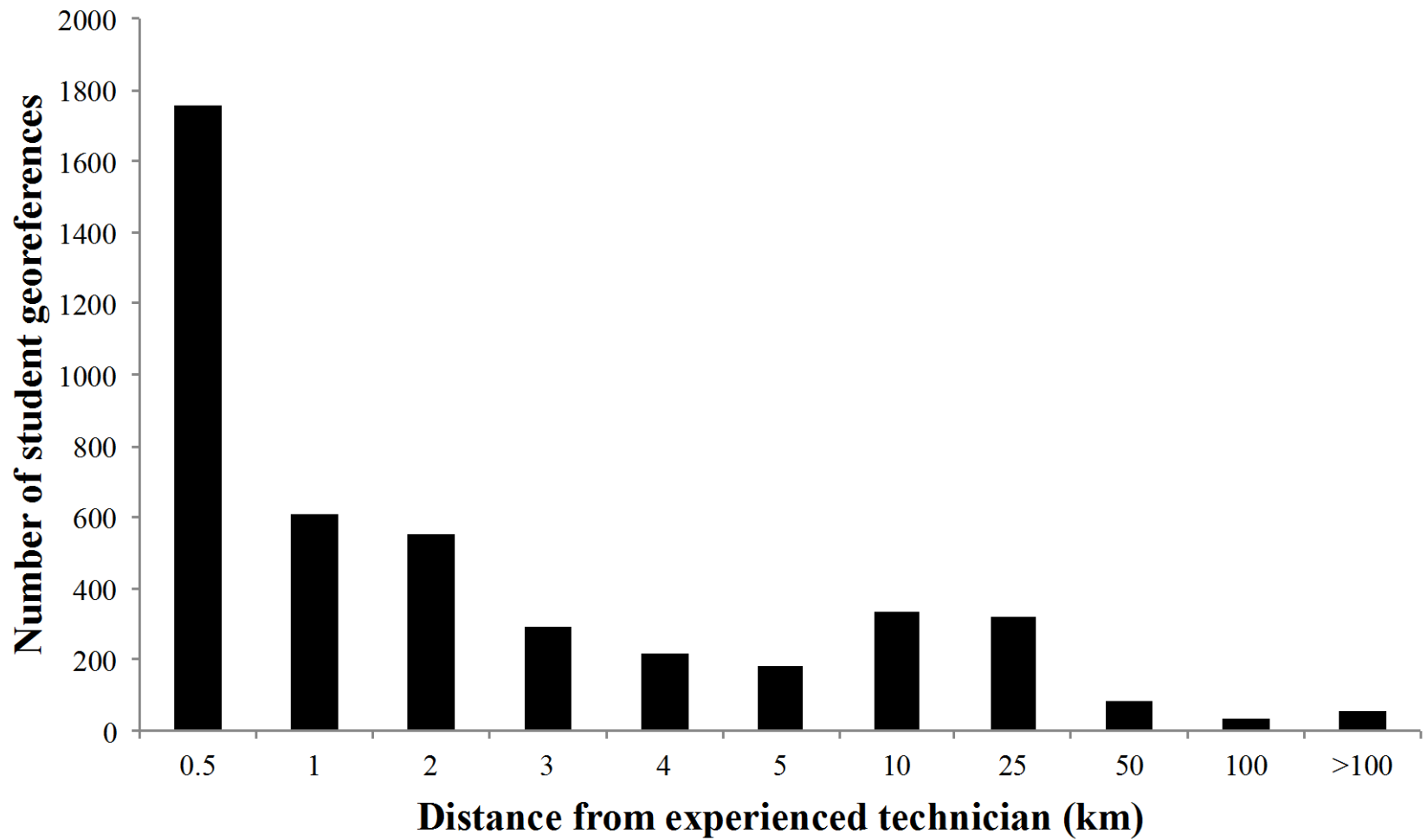
No. B-970

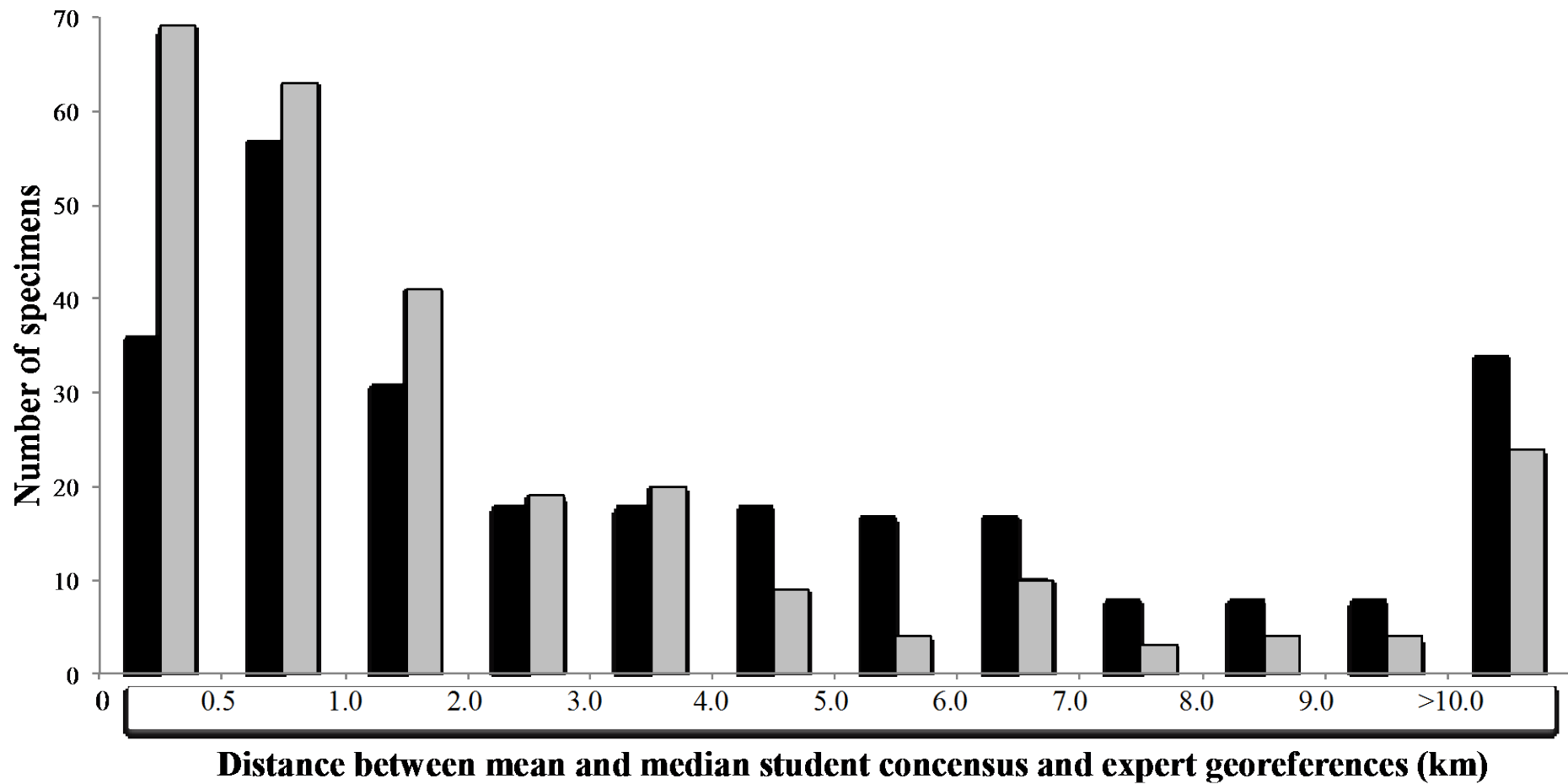
J. K. SMALL: P. 1336 MANUAL OF  
THE SOUTHEAST FLORA - 1933



Apalachicola National Forest.  
 Verbatim Locality: titi bog, Apalachicola  
 National Forest, near Wilma.  
 Habitat: in a sphagnous area, presently  
 dry, titi bog





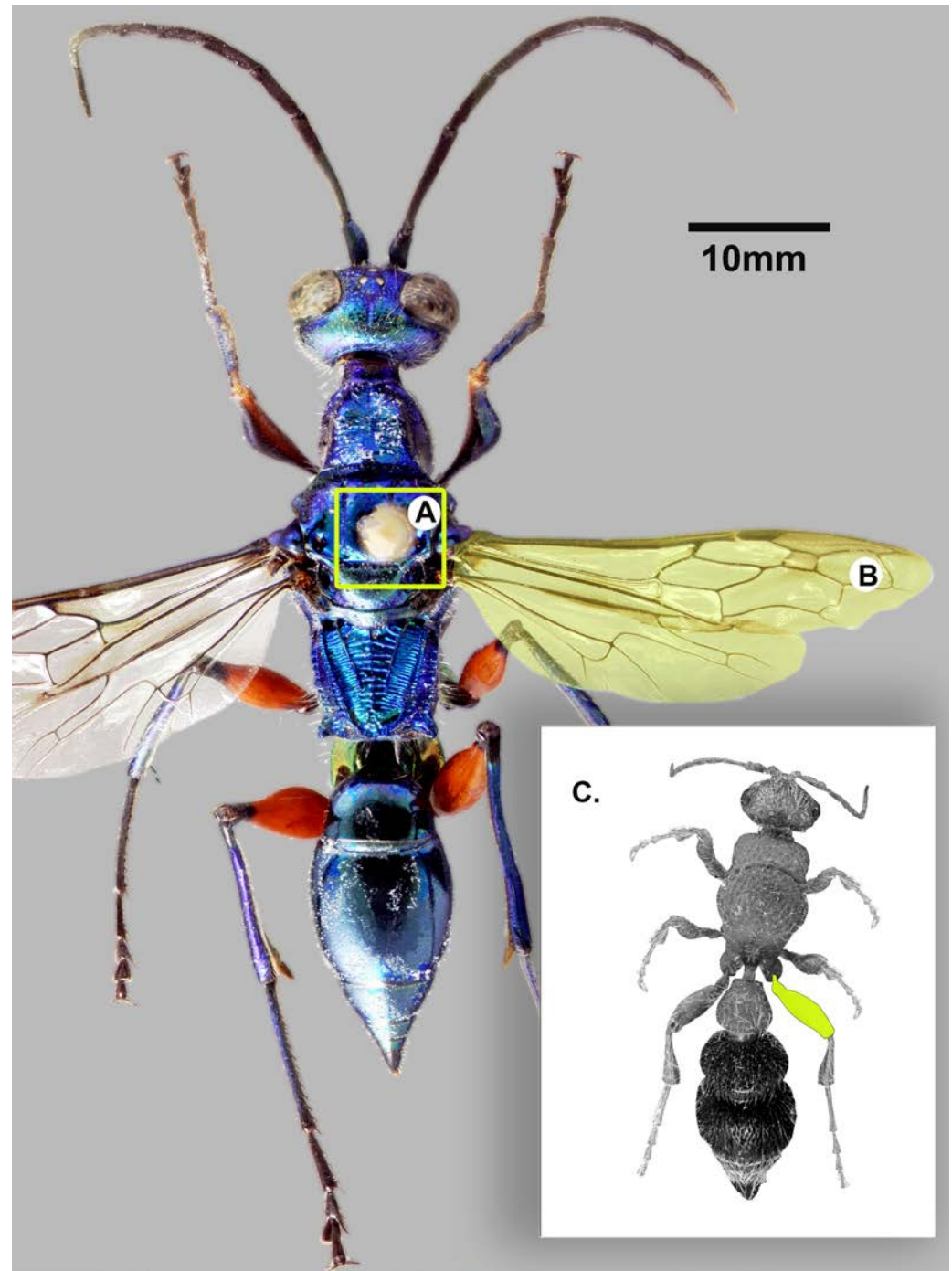


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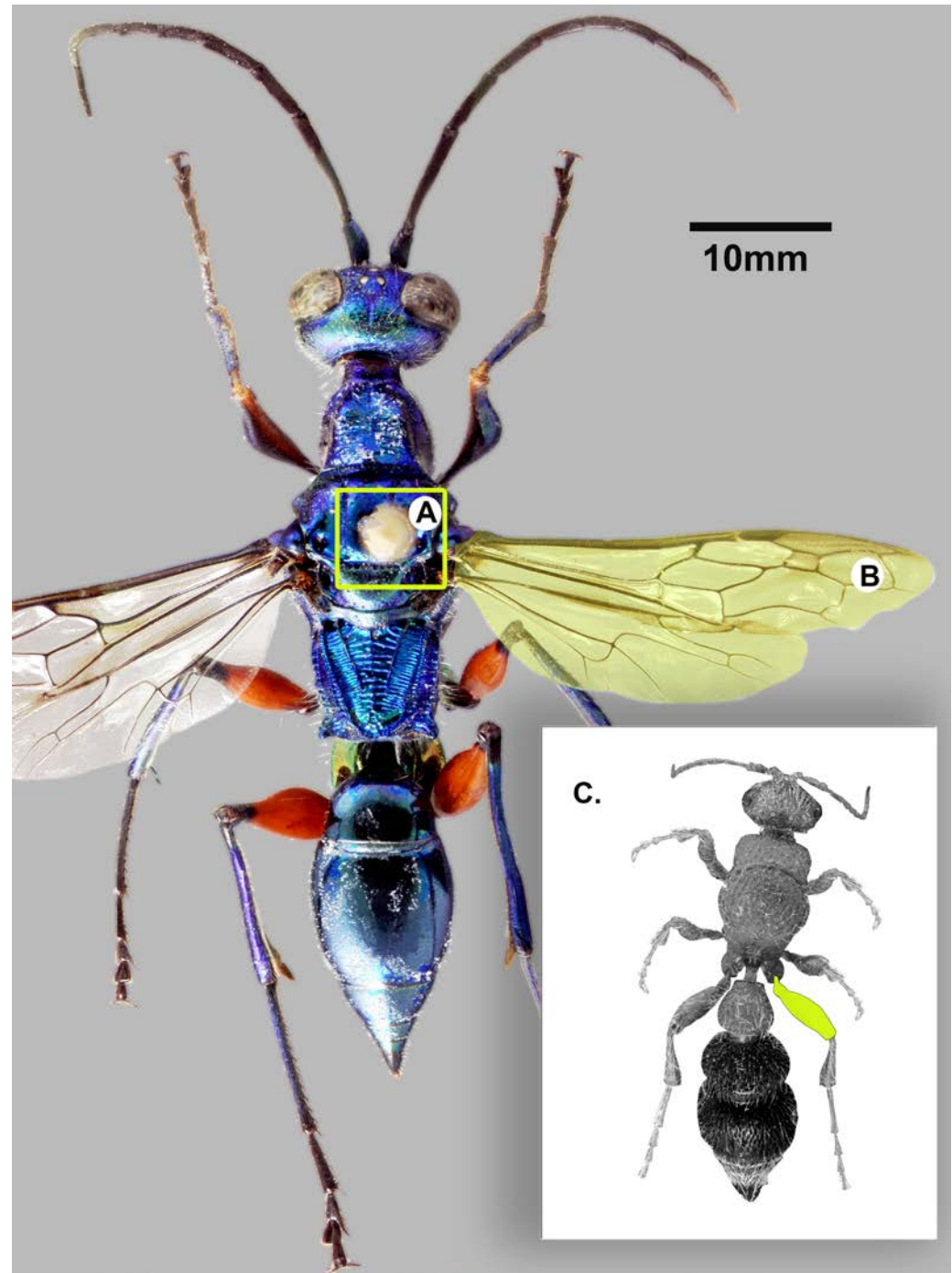
A: “Draw a box around any damage to the specimen”



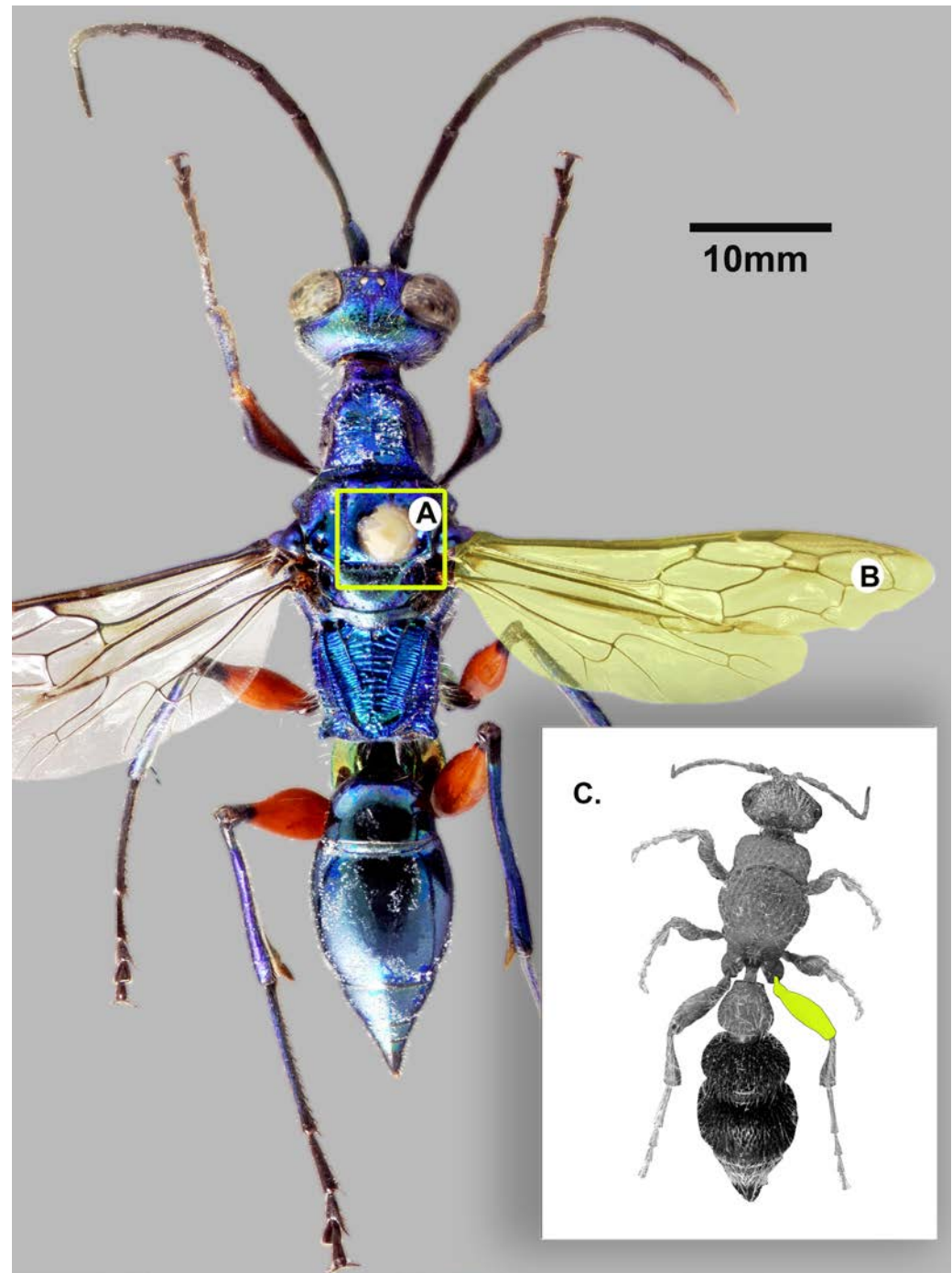
*Ampulex compressa* (F.) from the  
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin  
([morphbank.net/?id=102143](https://morphbank.net/?id=102143))

B: “Outline the wings of the specimen”

*Ampulex compressa* (F.) from the  
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin  
([morphbank.net/?id=102143](https://morphbank.net/?id=102143))



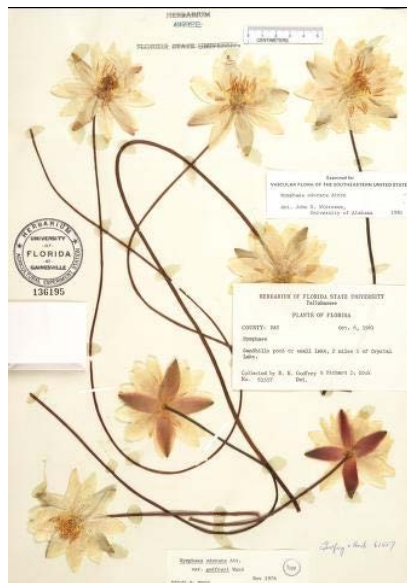
C: “What color is this part of the body?”



*Ampulex compressa* (F.) from the  
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin  
([morphbank.net/?id=102143](https://morphbank.net/?id=102143))

These tools and others have supported substantial progress of digitization.

**Looking ahead**, we recommend:



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**Looking ahead**, we recommend:

1. gathering experimental data on optimal user interface configurations



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1. gathering experimental data on optimal user interface configurations
2. experimentation for quality control

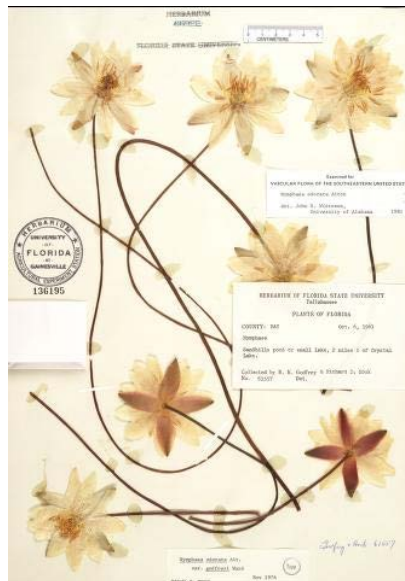
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4. understanding motivation for user engagement



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4. understanding motivation for user engagement
5. development of education and outreach materials



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**Looking ahead**, we recommend:

1. gathering experimental data on optimal user interface configurations
2. experimentation for quality control
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4. understanding motivation for user engagement
5. development of education and outreach materials
6. creation of best practice and standards documents



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**Looking ahead**, we recommend:

1. gathering experimental data on optimal user interface configurations
2. experimentation for quality control
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4. understanding motivation for user engagement
5. development of education and outreach materials
6. creation of best practice and standards documents
7. improved interoperability among tools



# Citizen science and digitization on a global scale

*WeDigBio Special Interest Group Meeting*

*eDigBio*

*Thursday  
1:30-3:10  
Hawthorne*



<http://tinyurl.com/kgzmelv>

*wedigbio.org*



Thank you!

[o.fsu.edu](http://o.fsu.edu)