Plants, Herbivores, and Parasitoids: A Model System for the Study of Tri-trophic Associations



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HERBARIUM UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

iDigBio Summit III 19 November 2013



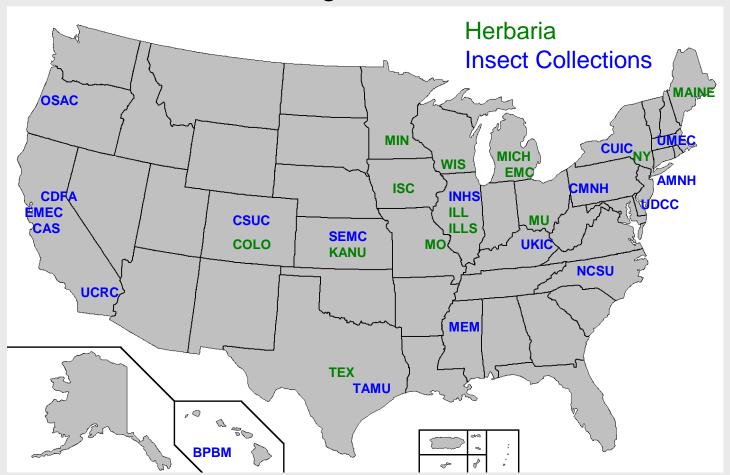


Tri-trophic TCN

PI: Randall "Toby" Schuh (AMNH)

32 institutions: 18 insect collections, 14 herbaria

NYBG is lead on botanical digitization, AMNH on entomological



Goals

Plants

- Image and database 1.26M specimens from 20 families of vascular plants
- Unify these with 3.5M specimens from 3 data providers
- Mobilize total of 6.06M specimens

Bugs

- Database 1.16M specimens from 92 families of Hemiptera
- Unify these with .38M specimens from 3 data providers
- Image selected specimens

Parasitoids

Database 45K specimens from 5 families of Hymenoptera

Integrate trophic levels (7.65M records) in Discover Life

Progress on Goals – start of year 3

- Botany: (currently at NY)
 377K skeletal records and images (75% of expected)
 1.18M existing, complete records (88% of expected)
- Insects + Parasitoids:

 646K records completed (53.3% of expected; 15-182% from contributors)

Major Accomplishments

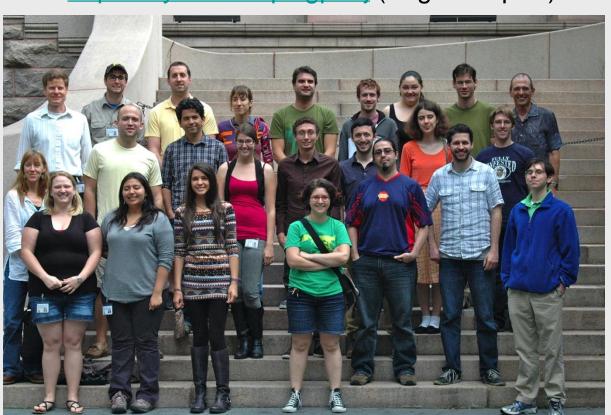
- Entomological database software (Arthropod Easy Capture) now an iDigBio-supported virtual appliance: https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/IDigBio_Virtual_Appliances
- Botanical imaging protocols finalized and disseminated: https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/Digitization_Resources
- Symbiota and Discover Life portals opened to enable all botanical partners to access images and populate skeletal records
- Education & Outreach: numerous activities

Specimen Informatics Course

May 13–24, 2013 at AMNH and NYBG
Offered by 8 faculty through AMNH's Richard Gilder Graduate School Lectures, tours, demonstrations, workshops, exercises, assignments

73 applicants; 23 students from campuses throughout U.S.A.

<u>http://tcn.amnh.org/home/specimen-course</u> (course curriculum and materials)
<u>http://tinyurl.com/pwgpuhj</u> (iDigBio report)



Remaining Challenges

- 1. Completion of databasing and imaging
- 2. Population of botanical records from images
- 3. Integration of data sets---across institutions and across trophic levels







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Upcoming Activities

Specimen Digitization Symposium

- UC-Riverside, 2014 (late June?)
- data-mining and species distribution modeling
- use Tri-trophic Database as platform
- targeted to systematists and ecologists

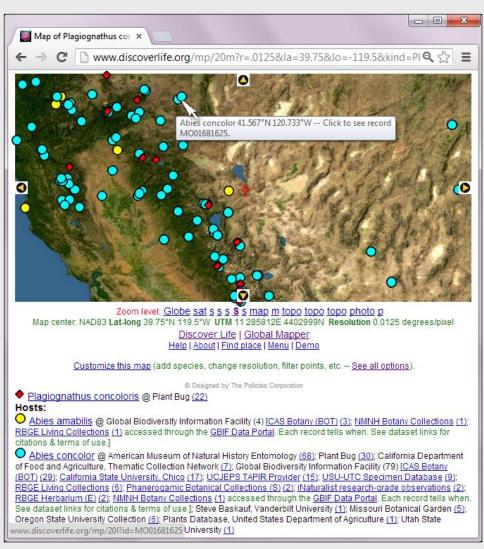
Data discovery and integration through Discover Life

- images and data
- integrate trophic levels

Integration of trophic datasets in Discover Life

- Generate species pages with specimen data, maps, and images
- Create a linkage between host/herbivore/parasitoid data
- Data updated every ±24 hours
- Come to our demo describing DL capabilities.





www.discoverlife.org/tttcn/

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Our digitizers; for their careful work and dedication to our mission

Tom Murray; for sharing his photographs





