

Pre-Digitization Curation

What to do with the fossils once we get them out of the ground

Jessica Utrup
Yale Peabody Museum
iDigBio Paleontology Digitization Workshop
September 24-25, 2013

Where to begin

What will be digitized?

Specimens?

Field Notebooks?

Ledgers and Catalogs?

Labels?

Grant-driven project?



doc 0013
Sat. June 29.
Prof Schuchert, Edwards and I left
New Haven on the 10:31 arriving at
Boston 2:30. Dinner on the diner just
before reaching Providence. Took car
to north station and bought tickets and
checked baggage to Port au Portage. Ticket
costs 32.77
Caught 5:13 train to Atlantic and
walked about 3/4 mile northeast of the
station toward Squantum. A small
knoll which is a high tide inland
here exposes the Squantum tillite.
Walked on to the shore east of Squantum
where the tillite is exposed for about
3/4 mile along the beach.

Number	Accession	NAME	LOCALITY	FORMATION	REMOVED FROM	COLLECTED BY	Year
226	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
227	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
228	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
229	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
230	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
231	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
232	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
233	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
234	[]	Hypasurus rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
235	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
236	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
237	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
238	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
239	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
240	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
241	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
242	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
243	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
244	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
245	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
246	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
247	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
248	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
249	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG
250	[]	Chonetes rogersi Owen	Birmingham, New Jersey	Mid Marl bed	Colchester green sand	O.C. Marsh 1858	JTG



From the excavation at Bergen's Hill
30 feet below the surface
March 4, 1852
Letter of J. C. Prevost, p. 3, - used by B. D. S.
depth of bed not stated, or its height above
sea

Prioritize!

You need a plan.

Does your institution have any pre-determined digitization policies?
Does your institution have any project management plan in place?



**DIGITISATION OF
NATURAL
HISTORY
COLLECTIONS
DATA**

<http://tinyurl.com/gbifdigi>

Biodiversity Informatics, 7, 2010, pp. 93 – 112

NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMEN DIGITIZATION: CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

ANA VOLLMAR (FORMERLY 1), JAMES A. MACKLIN (1), LINDA S. FORD (2)

Damage?

If a specimen or object is damaged, do you route it to conservation or simply make a note and move on?

Conservation (1) - Display

File Edit Select View Tools Tabs Multimedia Window Help

CON.00552: 15/05/1996 [Moore, B. P.] - VP.021750 1245

Conservation

Number: CON.00552 Department: Vertebrate Paleontology

Purpose: for treatment Date Received: 15 May 1996

Received From: Date Returned: 26 Aug 1996

Conservator: Moore, B. P.

Treatment

MATERIALS: Stone. CONDITION: The fossil is broken in two along an old glue joint. There is some minor chipping of the plaster fill at the edge of the break. TREATMENT: The fossil was joined with Acryloid B-72, an acrylic copolymer. The crack along the joint was filled Polyfix, a cellulose spackle that was toned in with acrylic paint.

Conservation Objects Object Objects Description Condition Proposal Tre

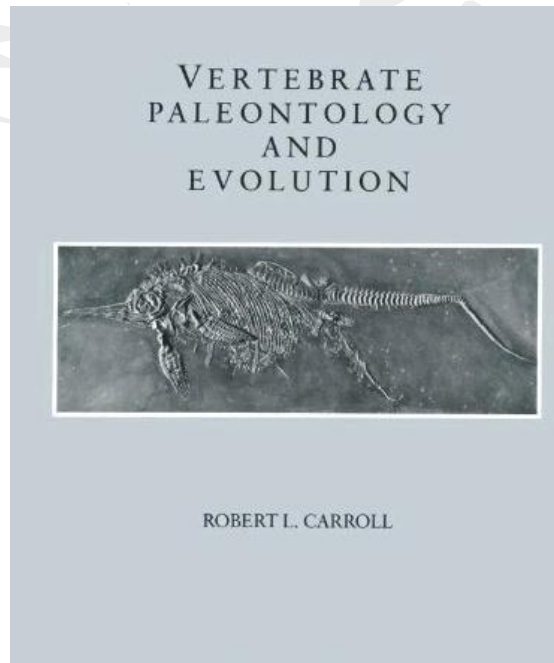
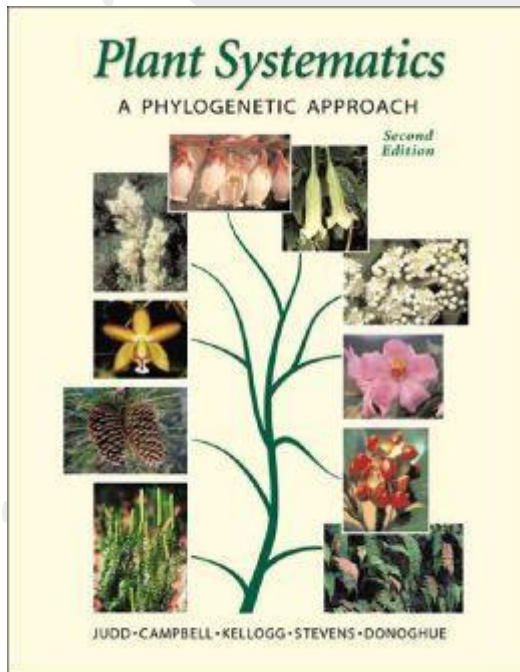
Display Record 5 of 15 job IP 20103



Specimens - Taxonomy

Taxonomic Hierarchies

- Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology
- Plant Systematics
- Vertebrate Paleontology and Evolution



TREATISE
on Invertebrate Paleontology

Plus recent papers for certain taxonomic groups that have been significantly updated since the publication of these works.

Specimens - Identifications

Expert determinations?

Trained museum assistant?

Graduate students?

Who enters new taxonomy? How do you keep spelling errors to a minimum?

Image Naming Conventions

<http://tinyurl.com/idigbioimages>

Institution-wide
standards
or
division-specific
standards



YPM IP
601272