



# MID-ATLANTIC MEGALOPOLIS

Year 5



Lead PI: Cindy Skema

**Morris Arboretum**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

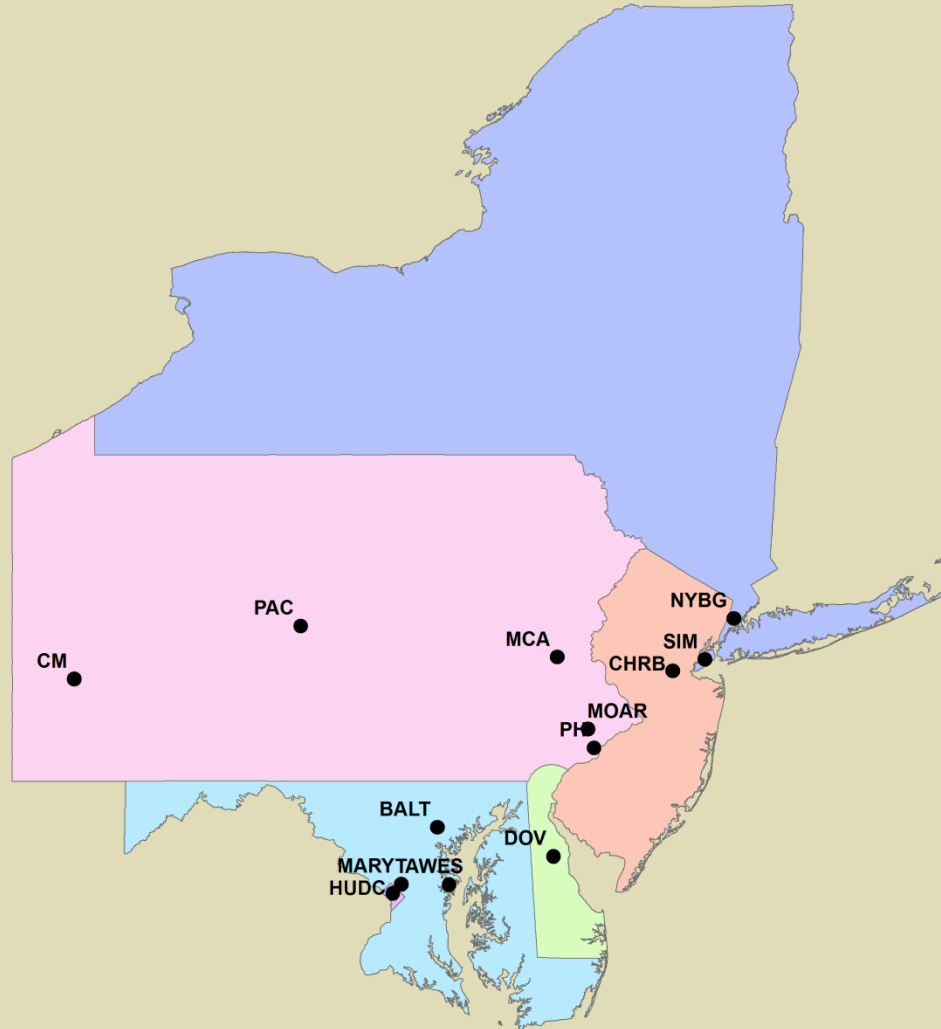


**HOWARD**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Janelle Burke  
21 Sep 2021



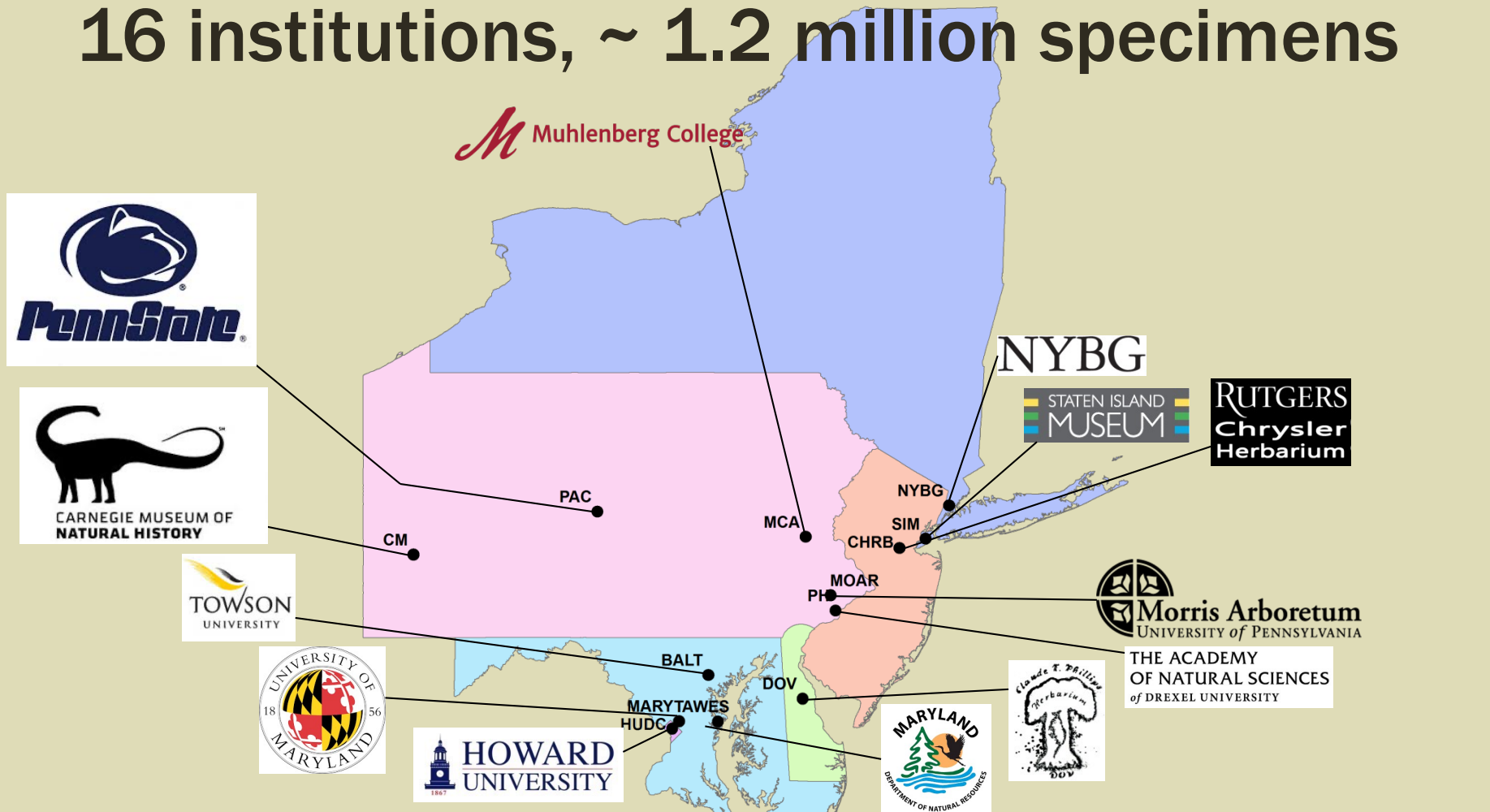
# MID-ATLANTIC MEGALOPOLIS PROJECT





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16 institutions, ~ 1.2 million specimens



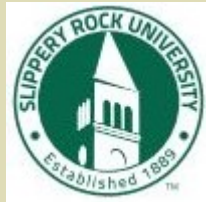
Achieving a greater scientific understanding of our urban areas, one plant specimen at a time.



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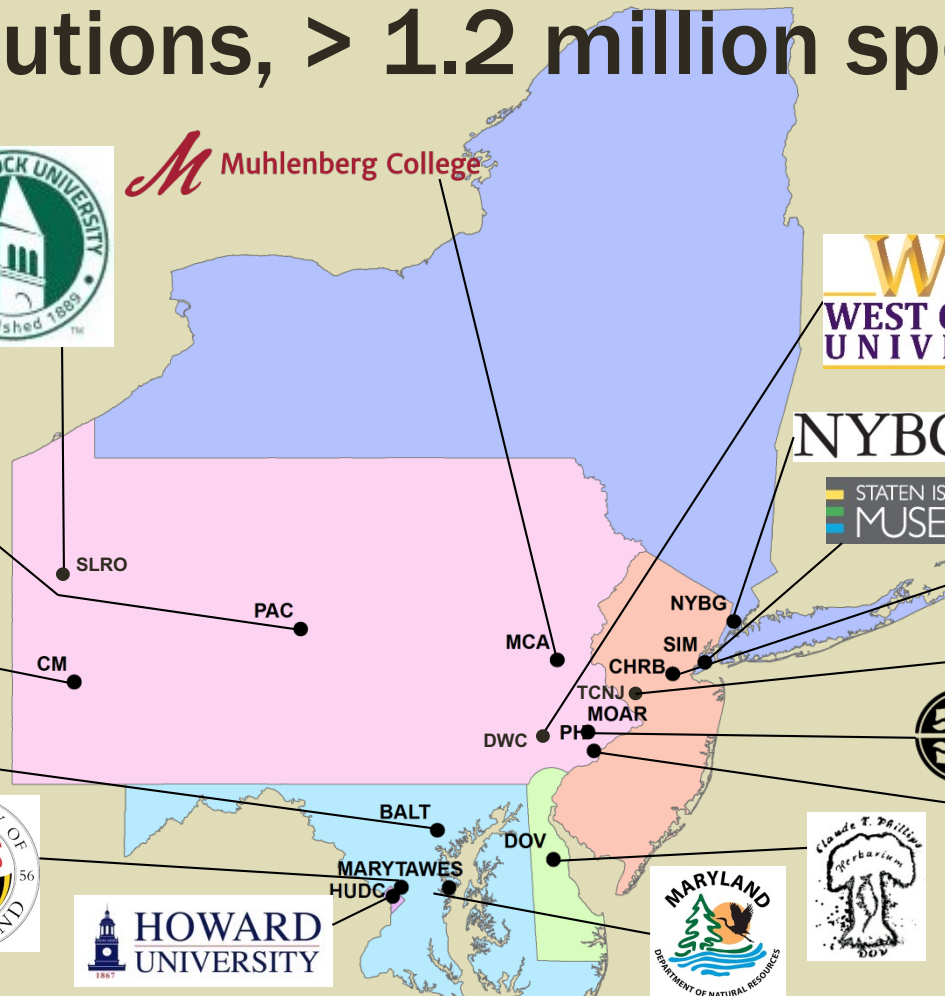
16



M Muhlenberg College



NYBG



UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES of DREXEL UNIVERSITY



Achieving a greater scientific understanding of our urban areas, one plant specimen at a time.



# MID-ATLANTIC HERBARIUM CONSORTIUM

## SHORT TERM GOALS

- 1) Provide a network/resource for herbarium work and the continuation of digitization efforts at all our collaborating institutions
- 2) Provide the training and imaging equipment needed to help new herbaria in the Mid-Atlantic digitize their collections and join the Consortium.

## LONG TERM GOAL

- Our long-term goal is to have all herbaria of the Mid-Atlantic fully digitized and in the portal, accessible to researchers and the public.

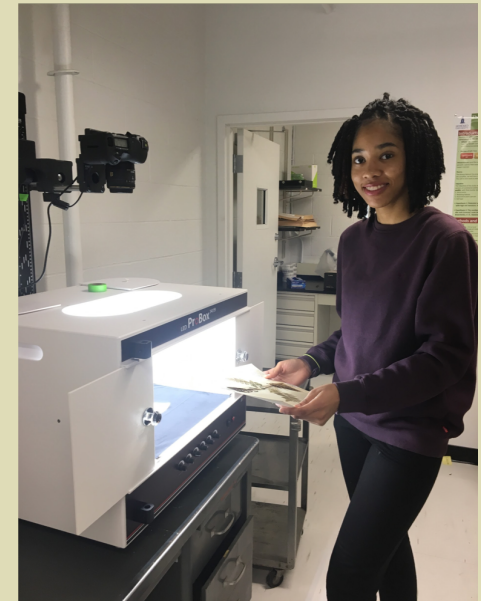


# HUDC- LESSONS LEARNED

- **Howard University is an HBCU in Washington, DC**
- Digitization of Howard University herbarium (HUDC) began in spring 2017 and will be completed in August 2019.
- We imaged every specimen, and sorted post-imaging to complete the digitization process

## Student Training and Outreach

- 2 graduate students and 10 undergraduate students were trained in the specimen digitization process
- Further outreach completed with Instagram and YouTube training videos
- More than 150 undergraduate students participated in specimen transcription through crowdsourcing events



**Student worker Amber Durand  
imaging specimens in the  
Biology building at Howard  
University**



# LESSONS LEARNED- HUDC

- **Trust the students!** Overall, transcription from crowdsourcing events was high quality. Many errors consistent, and easy to correct through batch edits.
- Most specimens were able to be georeferenced to county
- Students like handling the physical specimens instead of only working with virtual records
- Digitization provides the opportunity to update and repair, identify damaged specimens
- Small herbaria can provide intensive sampling of local floral areas localities not found in larger herbaria (e.g., H. David Hammond- Wheaton Regional Park in Wheaton, MD)<sup>1</sup>



**Howard University undergraduate students transcribing specimens at a crowdsourcing event on campus.**

1- Koenemann, D, A. Durand and J.M. Burke. 2021. *Castanea* **86(1)**:61-99 (2021).  
<https://doi.org/10.2179/0008-7475.86.1.61>



**Thank you!  
... Questions?**

**Email [midatlanticherbaria@gmail.com](mailto:midatlanticherbaria@gmail.com)**