Guided discussion: Summarizing the grand challenges confronting field stations and how digitization might influence overcoming these, despite limited resources

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What are the challenges?

• Limited or no digitization experience
• Limited IT support
• Coordination among other collections or other field stations
• Value perception of Field Station collections
• Funding/staffing: doing more with less
• Diverse collections in varying degrees of maintenance
What are the opportunities?

- Discoverability: non-digitized = non-existent; not registered = non-existent
- Small collections: you can feasibly digitize your entire collections
- Dark Data: unique specimens; unexpected value; research trigger; richer data
- Community coordination
- Digitization creates diverse outreach opportunities and can itself be outreach
- NSF funding programs: ADBC, CSBR, PFRB
How can iDigBio help move things forward?

• Example workflows, protocols, equipment recommendations, etc.
  – Modifying the wheel, not reinventing it
• Training workshops & webinars:
  – Digitization expertise
  – Data & data management expertise
• Attribution
• Outreach resources, coordination, and promotion
• Community-building
Next Steps…

• Get involved with iDigBio!!

• iDigBio webinar series for Field Stations?
• iDigBio Field Station Working Group?
• Field Stations organize a TCN proposal?
  – Other collaborative proposal(s)?
  – Mobile digitization team?
• Create a Symbiota portal for Field Stations?