Stuart M. Fullerton Collection of Arthropods at the University of Central Florida

Past, Present, and Future

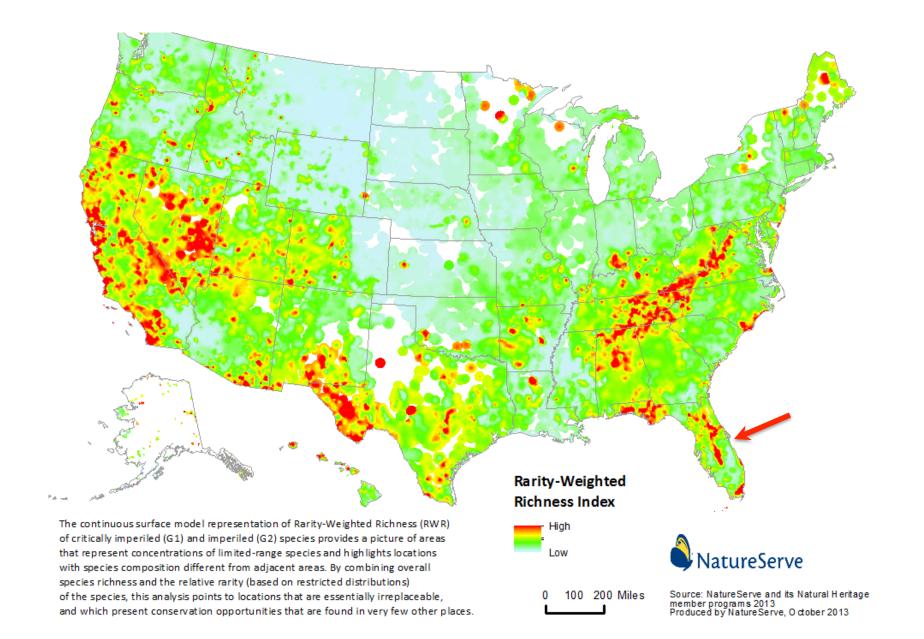


http://bugcloset.cos.ucf.edu/

Hojun Song

Department of Biology
University of Central Florida

Why are regionally focused collections important?





The Bug Closet

The Stuart M. Fullerton Collection of Arthropods at the University of Central Florida (UCFC)

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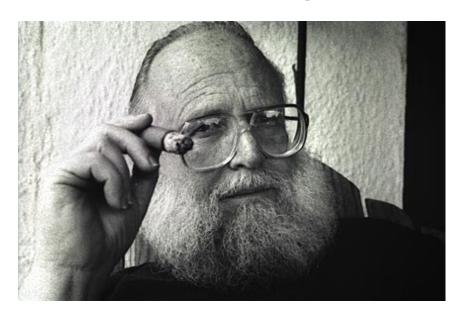
- Regionally focused research collection
- Core mission: to document the biodiversity of insects and related arthropods in Central Florida
- The best recent material for Central Florida insects
- The largest regional collection that has the entire holdings digitized



It all started with Stuart M. Fullerton



History of the Bug Closet

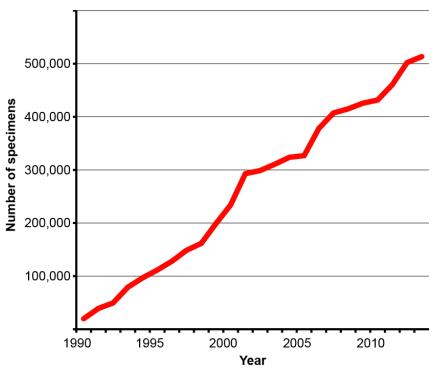


- In 1990, **Stuart M. Fullerton**, upon retirement, decided to create a formal research collection based on local insect fauna.
- In 1993, UCF Dept. Biology gave him a closet-sized room (7 ft x 16 ft), which was affectionately dubbed as the "Bug Closet."



Early days (1993-1997)





- Insects collected from major micro eco-zones defined by vegetation representative of native Central Florida ecosystems [i) Long Leaf Pine/Sand Pine/Turkey Oak, ii) Sand Pine/Rosemary Scrub, iii) Cypress Dome, and iv) Long Leaf Pine/Saw Palmetto]
- Mostly collected by passive traps: Malaise trap, FIT, yellow pan trap, pit fall trap, etc.

Period of expansion (1997-2010)



- In 1997, Dept. Biology created a museum range to house natural history collections.
- In 1997, Fullerton created an endowed account known as the "Fullerton Family Fund" in memory of his family (\$100K + \$50K match).
- The entire operation largely self-funded by Fullerton.
- The collection grew to ~400K specimens.
- It is estimated that Fullerton has given over 1 million dollars in building UCFC.

Period of transformation (2010-2014)

First curator of UCFC (2010): Hojun Song

Dept. Biology hired another entomologist

(2011): Josh King

- Establishment of a full-time collection manager (2012): Sandor "Shawn" Kelly
- Digitization process ongoing
- Current size: 555,714 specimens (as of 11/10/14)

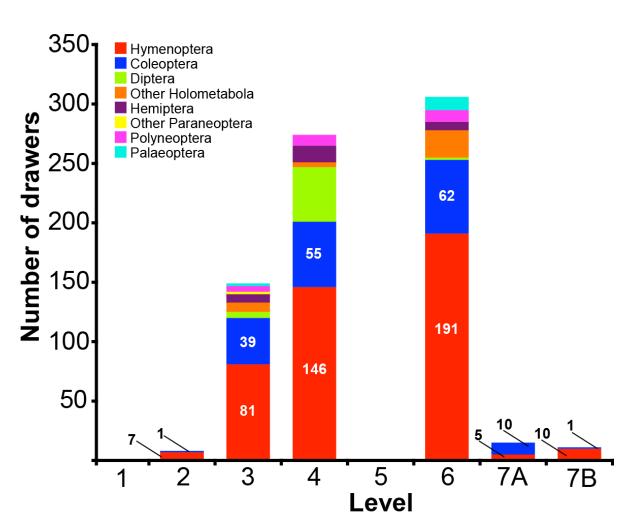


Taxonomic breadth and holdings of UCFC (as of 2013)

	UCFC			
Order	# family	# genera	# species	# specimens
Hymenoptera	74	1,235	2,330	360,339
Coleoptera	102	1,012	1,477	97,784
Diptera	72	426	538	21,238
Lepidoptera	27	160	233	1,818
Other Holometabola	29	54	88	3,669
Hemiptera	55	242	335	17,905
Other Paraneoptera	3	-	-	940
Polyneoptera	27	98	147	5,060
Palaeoptera	13	50	92	1,579
Non-insect Hexapoda	9	-	-	99
Other Arthropoda	35	109	131	2,806
TOTAL	446	3,386	5,371	513,237

Currently, 555,714 specimens

Health of UCFC



Level 1: Conservation problem

Level 2: Specimens unidentified and inaccessible

Level 3: Specimens identified to family and accessible

Level 4: Specimens identified to subfamily or genus and accessible

Level 5: Specimens identified to species and accessible but curation incomplete

Level 6: Specimens identified to species and properly curated in accordance with collection standards

Level 7A: Data capture: Research

data capture

Level 7B: Scientific voucher

material

(Cornell-style drawers, wooden open-face cabinets, metal cabinets)

Geographic profile of UCFC holdings (as of 2013)

Central Florida	329,486	64.20%
Central California	61,040	11.89%
Northern Florida	42,236	8.23%
Great Smoky Mts	21,432	4.18%
Other USA	28,353	5.52%
International	30,690	5.98%
Total	513,237	100.00%

New species described from UCFC

To date, a total of **20 new species** (16 in Hymenoptera, 3 in Coleoptera and one in Diptera) have been described based on recently-collected material.

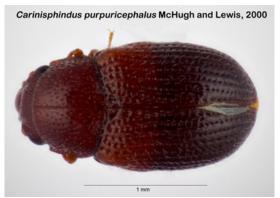






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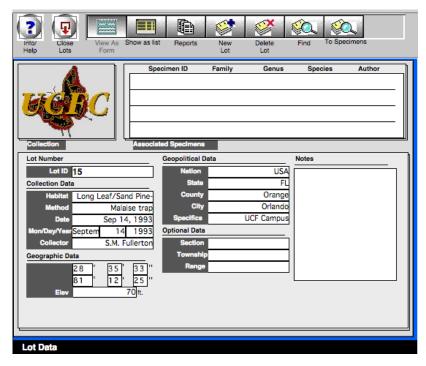








UCFC Database (Stuart's foresight)

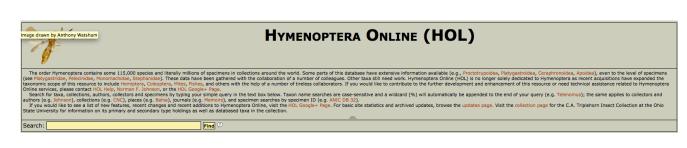


- FileMaker Pro database
- Lot database & Specimen database
- Ecological data (habitat)
- Large series
- Complete and ongoing
- 555,714 specimens databased to date



Database conversion initiative

- Limitation of custom-made FileMaker-based database
 - Not in Darwin Core format
 - Accessibility cumbersome
 - Online, but hidden
- Collaboration with Norman F. Johnson at the Charles A. Triplehorn Insect Collection at the Ohio State University (OSUC)
 - OSUC Hymenoptera Online as a backbone
 - Oracle RDBMS
 - Registered data provider for the GBIF through a DiGIR interface







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The Bug Closet

The Stuart M. Fullerton Collection of Arthropods at the University of Central Florida (UCFC)

HOME

COLLECTION

DATABASE

PEOPLE

OUTREACH

GIVING

NEWS

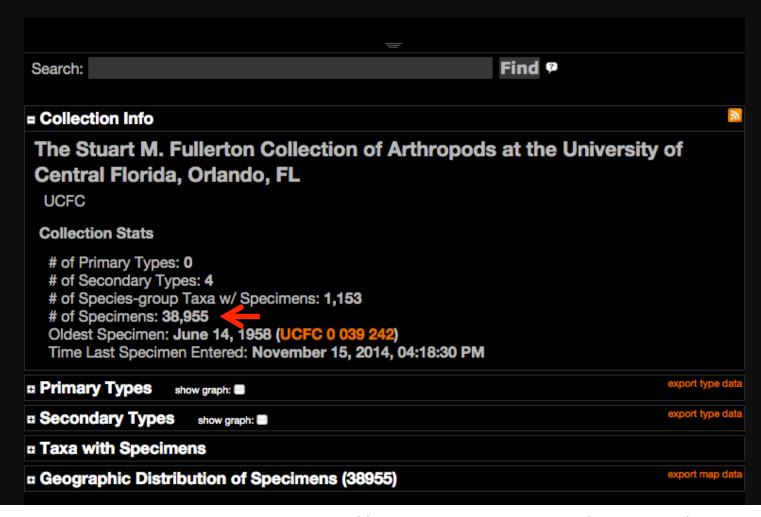
LINKS

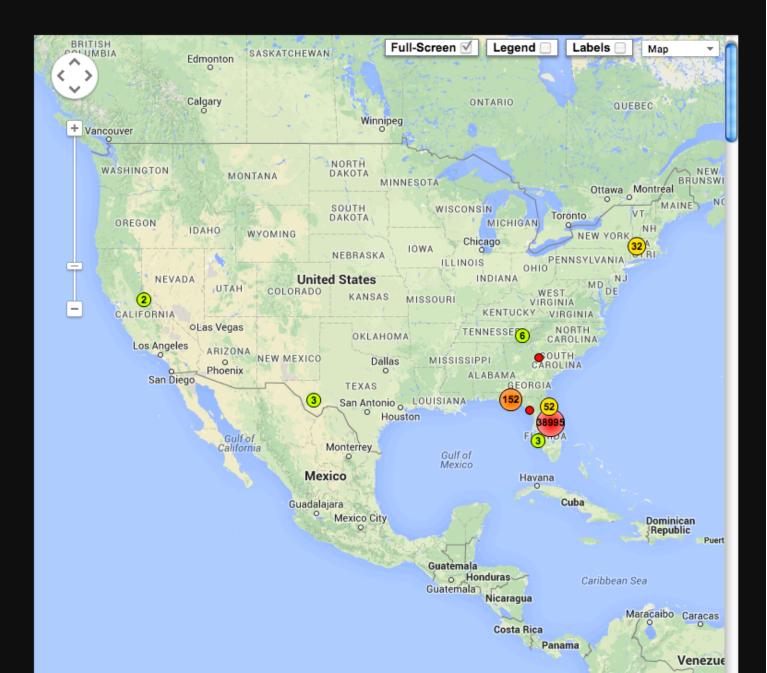


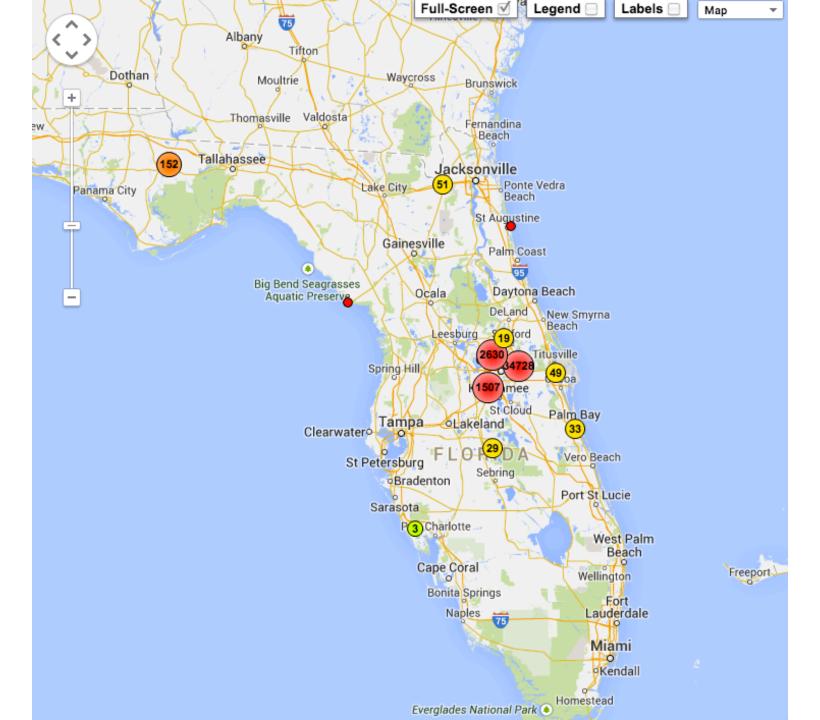
Welcome to the on-line home of Central Florida's preeminent insect collection:

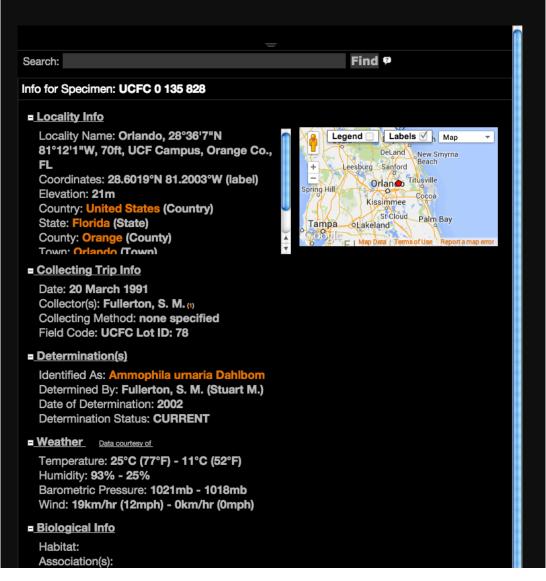
The Bug Closet!

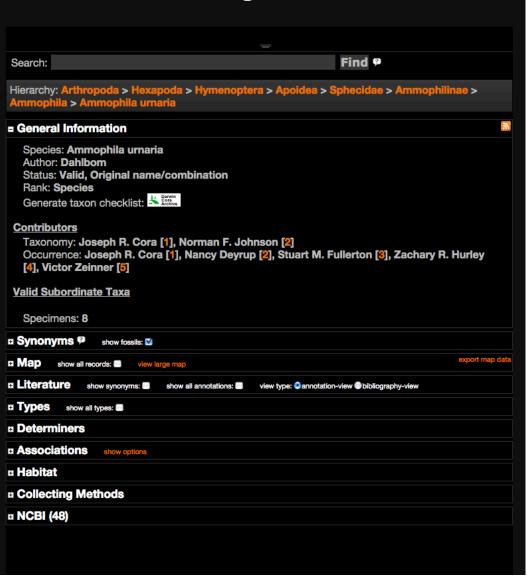








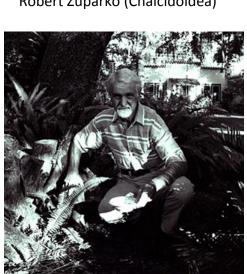




Friends of the Bug Closet



Robert Zuparko (Chalcidoidea)



Lubomir Masner (parasitic Hymenoptera)



Gary Gibson (Chalcidoidea)



Kevin Pitz (Braconidae)



Jason Gibbs (Lasioglossum)



Matthias Buck (Vespoidea)



Margaret Thayer and Al Newton (Staphylinidae)

Outreach







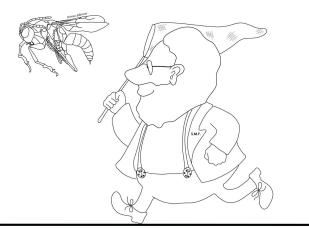


Outreach Coordinator: Derek A. Woller



Entomological Society of Central Florida

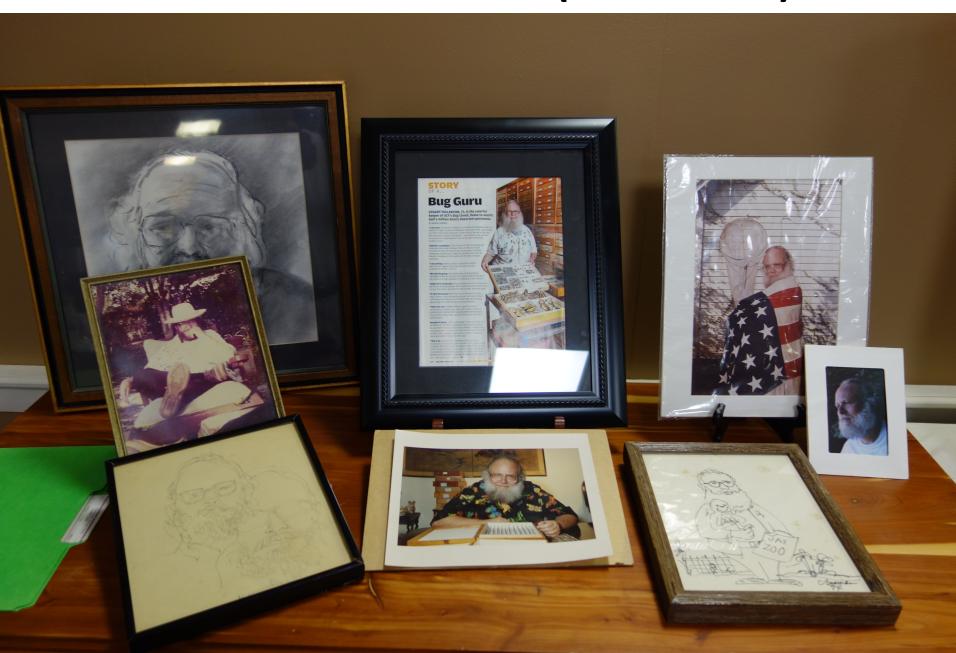
ESCape From boredom...



Entomological Society of Central Florida



Stuart M. Fullerton (1940-2014)



Stuart M. Fullerton (1940-2014)



The Future of UCFC

- UCF commitment
- Endowment
- Facility renovation planned
- Seeking a new curator (tenure-track faculty position)
 - http://biology.cos.ucf.edu/faculty-positions/



Stuart M Fullerton ROF