

Collection Overview

American Museum of Natural History

Division of Invertebrate Zoology



Staff:

1 Curator (Estefanía Rodríguez, co-PI)

1 Curatorial Associate, shared (Christine Johnson, co-PI)

1 Museum Specialist (full-time) (Lily Berniker, senior personnel)



AMNH Collections

~10 million specimens of marine invertebrates non-arthropods (~400K lots)

> 5,000 type material lots

Holdings (non-Mollusk): ~92K lots

Databased: 40K lots (initially 35K)

Lots to digitize: 52K lots (initially 57K)

Database: KE emu

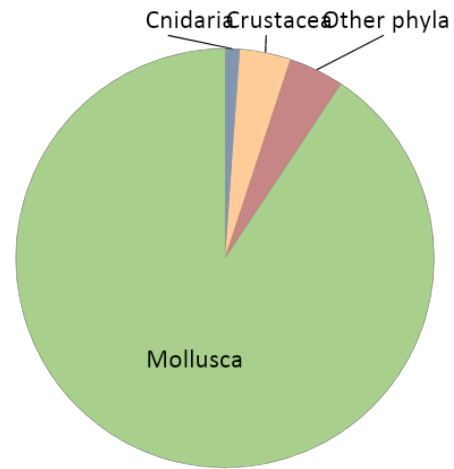
Strengths

Taxonomic: 7,304 databased names (non-mollusk). Annelida, Bryozoa, Crustacea, Cnidaria

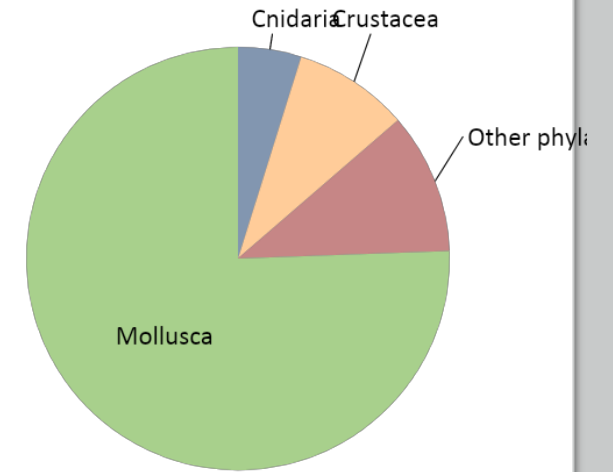
Geographic: USA coasts, Caribbean, North and South Atlantic

Historical: collections from 1800-2020. Collections peak 1920-1940

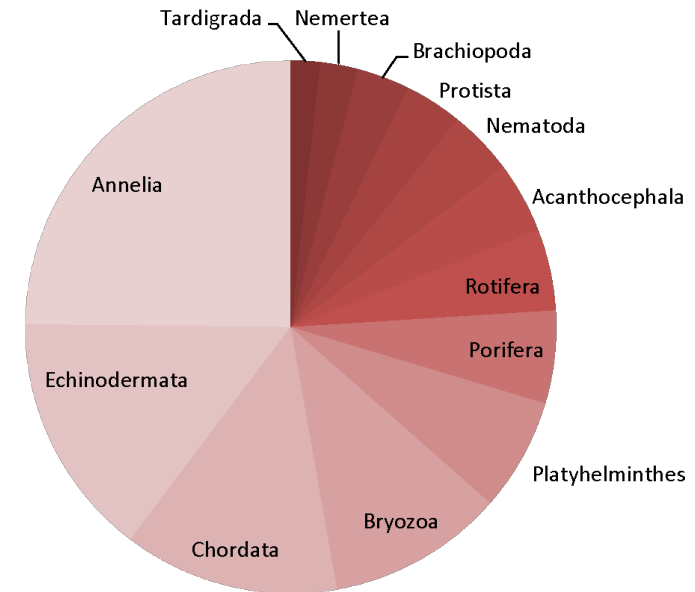
Total Collection Size



Database Records



Other Phyla



AMNH Collections Digitization

Efforts & Grants

Goals (5 yr)

Challenges



Relevant Digitization Efforts & Grants

- ❖ **Institute of Museum & Library Services** (Coral Rehousing & digitization, Chris Johnson)
- ❖ **NSF** (DigIn)
- ❖ Regular AMNH Collection curation

Goals

- ❖ Digitization of Crustacea, Cnidaria (wet), Echinodermata, Porifera, Annelida collections (56,700 lots). Progress to date: 5K digitized
- ❖ Generate/mobilize 7000 images (specimens/card catalogues)
- ❖ Georeference digitized localities
- ❖ Data share (GBIF/IDigBio)
- ❖ Visualize ecological communities

Challenges

- ❖ Outdated names and, thus, outdated organization
- ❖ Rehousing, while digitizing?
- ❖ Insufficient full-time assistant staff
- ❖ Lack of taxonomic expertise