

VIMS Invertebrate Collection

Jennifer Dreyer: Research Manager, Curator of the
VIMS Invertebrate Collection

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Gloucester Point, VA

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Collection Overview

Staff:

- Jenny Dreyer: 0.4 FTE
- Gloria Buoncristiano-Thai: Volunteer but now part-time (6-8hr/wk)

Funding:

- NSF Grant
- Biological Sciences Dept. funds basic curatorial supplies (ethanol, jars, vials, etc.)
- 3,500 specimens are catalogued (card catalog) but not digitized; Additional 2,500 will go into Excel
- Using Specify database but very few specimens are entered so far



- Primary strengths- extensive holdings of estuarine and marine specimens from Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
- Additional holdings- mostly marine and some tidal freshwater invertebrates from the full range of the U.S. East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, and Antarctica
- Strong historical sampling dating back to the 1960s
- ~4,500 catalogued taxa and over 13,000 specimens, with continuing growth
- Best represented groups:
 - Annelida: ~1325 lots
 - Mollusca: ~750 lots
 - Arthropoda: ~1100 lots



Challenges

- Limited past curation and digitization effort
- Limited funding
- Challenges for digitization: limited personnel and time (more time is spent on adding new specimens)
- Learning Specificiy
- Need to get thermal labels printed and added to jars
- Hope to have entire collection (including Molluscs) digitized in the next 3 years and accessible online

