

Systematic Collections Committee

Committee Members: S. Ticul Álvarez-Castañeda, Jeffery E. Bradley, Robert D. Bradley, Juan Pablo Carrera-E., Chris J. Conroy, Guillermo D'Elia, Katrina Derieg, Robert C. Dowler, Jonathan L. Dunnum (Chair), Kurt E. Galbreath, Eliecer E. Gutiérrez, Carlos A. Iudica, Thomas E. Lee, Jr., Rafael N. Leite, Rosie Liao, Burton K. Lim, Consuelo Lorenzo, Darrin P. Lunde, Holly L. Lutz, Jason L. Malaney, Tabitha R. McFarland, Suzanne B. McLaren, Bryan S. McLean, Nancy D. Moncrief, Link E. Olson, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Caleb D. Phillips, Marcia A. Revelez, Duke S. Rogers, Dakota Rowsey, Laura Steger, Richard D. Stevens, Cody W. Thompson, Nathan S. Upham, Andrea E. Wishart.

Mission:

The Systematic Collections Committee advises curators worldwide in matters relating to collection administration, curation, and accreditation, and maintains a directory of mammal collections. The Committee also surveys existing collections approximately once each decade and maintains a list of curatorial standards for managing a collection-accreditation program under the auspices of the Society.

Information Items:

- 1) Accreditation decisions were made for two collections.
 - a. Arizona State University Natural History Collections, Tempe, AZ
 - i. The SCC did not grant accreditation but provided recommendations for necessary improvements and suggested reapplication for accreditation once completed.
 - b. National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Biorepository
 - i. The SCC did not grant accreditation based on status of the biorepository as a project as opposed to a permanent collection. SCC will revisit the application after a proposed update of the *Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections* (see item 3 below) is completed.
- 2) Four collections are currently at various stages of the accreditation review process.
 - a. Northern Michigan University
 - i. Provided self-assessment documents
 - ii. Site visit performed by Cody Thompson (30 September 2022)
 - iii. Awaiting full committee discussion/decisions
 - b. University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
 - i. Provided self-assessment documents
 - ii. Awaiting site visit
 - c. Colección Regional Durango (CRD), Durango, Mexico
 - i. Provided self-assessment documents
 - ii. Awaiting site visit (S. Ticul Álvarez-Castañeda to visit as one SCC rep)
 - d. Museum of Natural History, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
 - i. Provided self-assessment documents
 - ii. Site visit performed by SCC during Tucson ASM meeting
 - iii. Awaiting full committee discussion/decision

- 3) The *Basic Curatorial Standards for Systematic Collections* (Journal of Mammalogy, 85:180-181, 2004) is now nearly 20 years old. The SCC has agreed to update this document to better reflect current best practices in curation and management and the evolution of specimen preservation and use. Specific areas identified as needing attention include:
 - a. SCC conflict of interest in accreditations.
 - b. Establishing clear guidelines for what types of collections SCC accredits and what constitutes collection permanence.
 - c. Unambiguous definition of *professional mammalogist* in relation to collection responsibility requirements.
 - d. Ensuring guidelines incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion values.
- 4) The committee accepted the resignation of John Hanson and Carl Dick in 2022. We thank them for their many years of service to the committee.
- 5) The committee welcomed two new members: Laura Steger and Rosie Liao, NEON Biorepository, Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center, Arizona State University.
- 6) Conversion of the *Mammal collections of the Western Hemisphere: a survey and directory of collections* into a digital format hosted on the ASM website was proposed two years ago. No progress has been made in this effort. This remains a collaborative goal for the SCC and Informatics Committees.

Action Items:

The Committee requests an annual budget of \$3000 in 2023-24.

- 1) The SCC has not utilized its allotted budget in many years due to the generosity of SCC committee members who have used personal funds when doing accreditation visits. As this is not guaranteed to occur going forward, we request funds to assist with travel costs for up to three site visits of mammal collections and genetic resources facilities for the accreditation programs.
- 2) Funds are also requested to support the initial costs associated with initiating the development of an online collections database (e.g., server space, domain costs, software, consulting fees) hosted on the ASM website.

Proposed budget:

Travel for 2 persons/site visit (airfare or car).....	\$1200
a. Colección Regional Durango, Durango, Mexico	
b. Sam Noble Ok Mus Nat Hist, Norman, Oklahoma	
Lodging/food as needed.....	\$800
Online collections database development.....	\$1000
Total	\$3000

Respectfully submitted,
4 May 2023,



Jonathan L. Dunnum, Chair
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