

Research & Collections Newsletter



March 2010

re•search (rī-sûrch', rē'sûrch) n. **1.** Scholarly or scientific investigation or inquiry. See synonyms at **inquiry**. **2.** Close, careful study. **3.** When performed on collections, the raison d'être of all great natural history museums.

Collection News

Mineral Sciences



Four important specimens were purchased at the gem and mineral shows in Tucson, Arizona in early February. A 23.16 carat faceted apatite gem from Madagascar is remarkable for its large size and striking “neon blue” color. A coquimbite with lustrous purple crystals up to one inch, from the Javier mine, Ayacucho Dept., Peru, is among the finest known examples of the rare species. A thin 1.66-gram slice of the Dar al Gani 400 lunar meteorite, measuring 1½ inches across, from Dar al Gani, Libya, is the first piece of the Moon in the Museum’s collections.

The fourth specimen is perhaps the most surprising. With well-formed crystals to one inch, it is certainly one of the finest ruby specimens known from California. It was found by a visiting Russian mineralogist in late January of this year in Cascade Canyon in the San Gabriel



Mountains near the boundary between Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. Acquisition funds for all four specimens came from the Museum's Gem & Mineral Council.

Ornithology

Allison Shultz of San Diego State University took color measurements from tanager specimens on 13-15 January as part of her graduate studies on the evolution of plumage patterns in the diverse Neotropical family Thraupidae. Doctoral student Chelsea Berns of Iowa State University spent 19-24 February in the collections for her dissertation work on the quantification of sexual dimorphism in bill shape in hummingbirds; Chelsea photographed the bills of several hundred hummingbird specimens for subsequent digital morphometric analysis and will analyze her results in the context of recently constructed phylogenetic trees of the major hummingbird clades.

Conservation

For the past several weeks Conservation has been focused on the installation details of the first Rotunda exhibit, *What on Earth?* This work includes the review of climate-controlled case designs for the sensitive specimens and objects, collaborating with Exhibits, NHM registrar Theresa Manalo, and mountmakers from ELY to prepare mount designs, photography of all objects, as well as additional specimen preparation. Tania and Liz have also continued to prepare artifacts for *Under the Sun*; among the most recent objects to enter the lab are a harp (at right), zither, tambourine and cowbell.



Vertebrate Paleontology

Mike Williams, Kathy Gonzalez, Talin Nazarian, and Debora Lee are in the final phases of preparation for the new *Age of Mammals* exhibit hall. In addition to essentially daily work with artists, writers, designers, and skeleton mounters, we held a workshop in February with the company ELY, who will be fabricating the individual mounts that will hold our specimens. Sam Mcleod, Vanessa Rhue, and Gary Takeuchi are the primary staff working with ELY on this. The company Cinnabar, of Glendale, is in the midst of display base installation. Randy Cooper and associates have completed their creation of custom-designed wire mesh artwork that will partly enclose skeletons.



Photo: E. Freeman

Marine Biodiversity Center

Collaborative Curation – Moss Landing Invasive Species Study

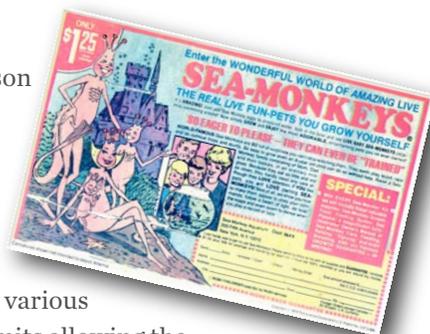
Approximately 680 lots of marine invertebrates spanning 11 phyla and identified by taxonomic specialists were hand delivered in February by Ashleigh Lyman and Zea Walton from the Marine Pollution Studies Lab (MPSL) at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. Our own Leslie Harris and Gordon Hendler served as taxonomic experts for polychaetes and echinoderms, respectively. This collection comes from several large biodiversity surveys along the outer coast of California and San Francisco Bay collected between 2004 and 2007. The California Department of Fish and Game is required by state law to conduct surveys to assess the presence of non-native aquatic species.

A coordinated curation effort between the MPSL and our Marine Biodiversity Center made it possible to receive these voucher specimens

fully curated to our museum specifications at a tremendous curatorial time-savings. MPSL sent us the data electronically, and we databased the collection and mailed them our labels to be associated with the specimens. Kathy Omura worked with MPSL staff on our wet-preserved curation protocols. MPSL then curated the collection to our exact specifications and associated the specimens with the labels. This coordinated effort resulted in a well curated, high value donation. There was less labor needed to get the specimens to the LACM, and orders of magnitude less labor for us here at the MBC. A win-win situation for all and a great model for the future acquisitions of high quality, well curated, and important invertebrate specimens.

Crustacea: Sea Monkeys and So Cal Rains

Usually Museum staff equate our much needed rains to roof leaks, but this is the season of new fairy shrimp acquisitions. The rains fill the vernal pools. Dormant embryos (cysts) of branchiopods (including fairy shrimp, which are sometimes sold to the public as “Sea Monkeys”) are hatching and progressing through their life cycle. The Museum is one of only two officially designated repositories, and the only one in Southern California, for fairy shrimp species, many of which are threatened or endangered. These specimens are acquired during assessment surveys conducted by various



agencies that have Federal permits allowing the collection of these rare invertebrates. To assist the donors in providing high quality curated specimens, the Crustacea section has posted instructions for the preservation and handling of vernal pool crustaceans: <http://collections.nhm.org/archive/NHMCrustaceaCollectProtocolDec2009.pdf>

So far this season, we have accessioned 80 specimens from 14 different sites, mostly from San Diego County.

Rancho La Brea

As presented by Andrea Thomer at a brown bag lunch last month, one of the current Project 23 deposits is turning out to be very interesting. The box walls of deposit 5B were completely removed prior to excavation. This allows us to study and photograph the stratigraphy in more detail. Former volunteer and geologist Kim Scott is assisting in describing the geology of the deposit.

Observations thus far include a stream channel in lower units



overlain by over-bank deposits with possibly four asphalt seep events throughout. Lower asphaltic layers thus far contain

mollusk shell, plant material and turtle remains while the top asphaltic layer contains larger fossils including a semi-articulated camel and associated metapodials of coyote and dire wolf.



Andrea Thomer and volunteers excavate deposit 5B

Field Work

Entomology

On February 25, a group of people interested in Santa Monica Mountains insects and spiders went into the field for the morning. Our goal was to observe the pitfall trapping program of the National Park Service, so that we could assess the possibilities for our Spider Survey, as well as to put up two Malaise traps for our ongoing hover fly survey of Los Angeles County. The weather was beautiful, the pitfall traps had lots of spiders, and we found two great new sites for our traps. Participants were (left to right) Lila Higgings (Education & Exhibits), Janet Kempf (Entomology Section volunteer and spider expert), Jim Hogue (CSUN), and Brian Brown (LACM Entomology Curator).



Meetings, Workshops, and Presentations

Rancho La Brea

The Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists (WAVP) was hosted by Arizona Western College (AWC) in Yuma, Arizona, in February. It was co-organized by Fred Croxen of AWC and collections manager Chris Shaw from RLB. Several staff members and volunteers from RLB attended. Chris presented results of studies of the paleoecology in Northwestern Sonora, Mexico, and Trevor Valle presented on the amphibians and reptiles from Project 23. Chris and Fred led the after-symposium field trip to El Golfo de Santa Clara to collect Pleistocene (Irvingtonian) fossils at a known microsite.

Malacology

Lindsey Groves and Jim McLean attended the 14th gathering of the Southern California Unified Malacologists (SCUM) at the city of San Diego Marine

Biological Lab on 23 January. Also in attendance were Malacology associates Pat LaFollette, Ángel Valdés, and Lance Gilbertson, and Pacific Conchological Club members Terry Rutkas and Shawn Wiedrick.

Ornithology

Curator Ken Campbell and Collections Manager Kimball Garrett attended the joint meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society, American Ornithologists' Union, and Society of Canadian Ornithologists in San Diego on 7-11 February. Dr. Campbell presented a talk co-authored with Zbigniew Bochensky on *The fossil owls of Rancho La Brea, California*. Garrett, along with Research Associate Kathy Molina, led a busload of 40 ornithologists on a day-long field trip to the Salton Sea in conjunction with the meeting, highlighting some of their research there and pointing out bird species and habitats unique to that area.

History



For the February 18th R&C seminar, Collections Manager Betty Uyeda presented a screening of *The Street Names of Los Angeles – A History*, a video featuring historic photographs and documents from the Seaver Center. Uyeda began the project one year ago as a way to increase public awareness of the collections. The video has been repackaged into six segments, with a new one rolled out each week on the Museum’s YouTube site.

Pictured above is one of the photos included in the video, Lieutenant Edward O.C. Ord, responsible for creating the first American survey of Los Angeles.

Marine Biodiversity Center

On February 17, Regina Wetzler and Emma Freeman attended the *DNA Barcoding: Progress, Prospects, and Challenges* colloquium hosted by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) in Costa Mesa, California. Speakers included Dr. Paul Hebert, Biodiversity Institute of Ontario and Canadian Centre for DNA Barcoding, who gave the keynote address. He was followed by Dr. Dirk Steinke, Canadian Centre for DNA Barcoding (“One Gene – All Life: DNA Barcoding Overview and Progress, and the Marine Barcode of Life Initiative”), Dr. Bernard Sweeney, Stroud Water Research Center (“Water Quality Analysis using Macroinvertebrates with and without DNA Barcoding”), Dr. Mehrdad Hajibabaei, Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (“Next Generation Biodiversity Analysis”), and Dr. Erik Pilgrim, US EPA Molecular Ecology Branch (“Barcoding Difficulties and Challenges”).

The colloquium emphasized how the use of DNA barcodes can provide a sophisticated tool for identifying species. It was well attended with folks coming from USC, UC San Diego, CalState Fullerton, CalState Long Beach, and staff representing city and county water quality agencies in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. An upcoming barcoding taxonomic workshop will be processing specimens to be used in building the DNA barcode library of Southern California marine benthic invertebrates. We are working toward becoming the repository for these highest grade specimens. These would be the first fully identified, vouchered, ethanol preserved, molecular grade Southern California marine invertebrates to augment our collections.

External Funding

Vertebrate Paleontology

On the evening of 23 February, John Harris and Xiaoming Wang participated in an evening fund raiser program that highlighted our Museum’s new exhibits. As a demonstration of the type of items that will be seen in our new Age of Mammals Hall, Samuel McLeod and Gary Takeuchi rolled out our newly-mounted skeleton of a juvenile fossil sperm whale from the middle Miocene Sharktooth Hill Bonebed near Bakersfield, California.

Public Outreach

Entomology

On February 20, Janet Kempf of the Entomology Section gave a lecture on spiders at the National Park Service Headquarters in Thousand Oaks. It was attended by about 60 people, and prominently featured our Los Angeles Spider Survey. Afterwards, many of the people in the audience were able to see up close the live spiders Janet brought along with her.



Malacology

On January 16th Lindsey Groves led three Malacology collection tours for 29 participants of Scavengers Safari (*Conchs, Cowries, and Clams ... oh my!*).

Vertebrate Paleontology

Lawrence Barnes presented a lecture about Orange County fossils and the politics of saving fossils, and gave a preview of our Age of Mammals Exhibit Hall, to members of the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society on 12 January.

History

Valentino for Valentine's

In February, the Hart Museum and Natural History Museum partnered with the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society to produce *Valentino for Valentine's*. The event featured a special exhibit of Valentino artifacts in the Hart Museum with a talk by History Material Culture Collections Manager Beth Werling, still images of the silent screen's romance king in the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, and a screening of Valentino's *Son of the Sheik* in Hart Hall. All Valentino artifacts and still images were provided by the History Department, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

First Fridays



glimpse of three artifacts (oil pump jack, wooden water pipe, and downtown L.A. model) undergoing conservation treatment in preparation for the future *Under the Sun* exhibition.

Photos: Ryan Miller

On February 5, senior consulting conservator Claire Dean and History curators William Estrada and Sojin Kim participated in *First Fridays*, presenting a tour, "Energy, Power, and the Transformation of Early L.A.," that provided visitors with a behind-the-scenes





College Commons

On January 26, a panel of USC faculty participated in a discussion, “The Map of the World: Movement and Mystery,” which was part of the USC *College Commons: Uncommon Conversations* series. The event, presented in the NHM foyer, drew upon and included a display of maps from the Seaver Center’s collections. At left (L to R): Seaver Center staff Brent Riggs, Betty Uyeda, and John Cahoon display maps from their collection at the USC College Commons event.

Anthropology and Ornithology

At the Curator’s Cupboard/Jr. Scientist event on February 27th, Chris Coleman, KT Hajeian, and Jennifer Saracino presented several Pre-Columbian artifacts that incorporate bird imagery in conjunction with Kimball Garrett’s display of a diversity of Central and South American hummingbirds—along with our local species—from the Ornithology collection.

The Jr. Scientists were asked to look for the many types of animals portrayed in the Visible Vault and think about how the unique adaptations of each animal can influence the way the animal is represented. When they came to the Foyer, our great examples from both collections allowed them to immediately compare the qualities they found distinctive in the hummingbird specimens to those shown symbolically in the artifacts by the people of ancient Peru and Mexico.

Above: KT Hajeian and Chris Coleman with Pre-Columbian artifacts.
Below: Volunteer, Emmanuel Masongsong and Kimball Garrett with a display of hummingbirds.



Student Mentoring and Research



Ichthyology

Nate Bruns (left), a student from California State University Northridge, is continuing his work on the morphology and systematics of flatfishes from Baja California, including the California halibut *Paralichthys californicus* and dappled flounder *P. woolmani*. He traveled to Baja and collected both on the Pacific side and the Gulf side of the Peninsula.

Vertebrate Paleontology

Matthew Ventimeglia, a graduate student at California State University Northridge, is preparing the final text and images as he completes the description of a new species of fossil baleen whale from Orange County for his Masters Thesis. He is being supervised by Lawrence Barnes.

Rancho La Brea

Loyola Marymount University (LMU) biology undergraduate students Shea Franklin, Natalie Poulter, and Jaime Bittner began their semester working with the dire wolf collection at Rancho La Brea. They are co-supervised by LMU professor Dr. Wendy Binder and curatorial assistant Aisling Farrell. Last semester they took a comparative anatomy class and now they are gaining practical research experience in collecting morphological data and running statistical analyses. They will present their results at several undergraduate conferences throughout this semester. Shea will continue to work here next fall and write her undergraduate thesis based on her research.

At right: LMU students measuring dire wolf post cranial specimens.



Graduate student David Gold and post-doc Olaf Thalmann of UCLA visited Rancho La Brea in February to extract a bone sample from our Columbian mammoth Zed for DNA analysis (left).

In January, research associate Dr. Sue Ware (right) measured and photographed all the dire wolf sacra in our collections. An expert on paleo-pathologies, Sue is looking at the occurrence of sacralization in the 7th lumbar vertebrae in fossil and modern wolves. Its implications relate to modern wolf management and the concern about inbred populations. Thus far it appears that this malady occurred before the human management of wildlife.



Volunteers and Research Associates

Marine Biodiversity Center: New Volunteer

The MBC welcomes volunteer Janette Havens (right). Janette has been contributing her efforts toward the incorporation of the newly acquired Moss Landing Collection and helping with the curation of various polychaete and crustacean collections. Her more than 3 years of experience curating birds, reptiles, and amphibians at the UC Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology has given her a strong curation background. Janette has easily transitioned to curating our spineless specimens and is a major asset to the MBC.



Rancho La Brea

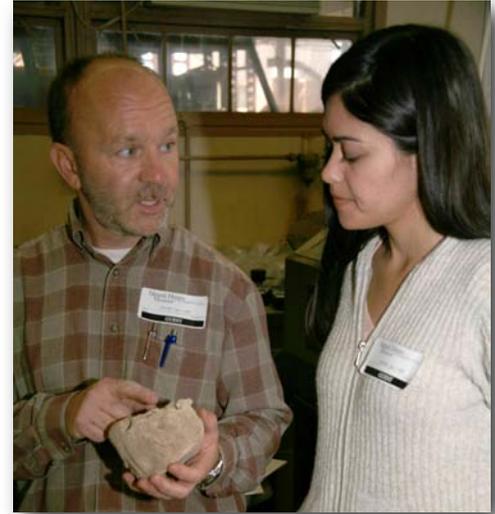
Elizabeth Majchrowicz (left) began volunteering at Rancho La Brea towards the end of 2009. Under the supervision of curatorial assistant Aisling Farrell, Liz is creating a botanical comparative collection. The bulk of the comparative collection has come from LACM Herbarium specimens that were transferred to the Page Museum in the 1980's. Once the comparative collection has been organized she will focus on the curation of the expanding paleobotany collection. Liz completed her bachelor's degree in Nature Resources, majoring in Wildlife, Watershed and Rangeland Resources, at the University of Arizona, Tucson. She has also been trained in

archaeological field and curation methods. Liz has worked for the USDA as an ecologist conducting numerous surveys on threatened plants and wildlife including native plant community mapping in southern Arizona. As well as curatorial work she also helps to maintain our Pleistocene garden in Hancock Park and has joined in on several fossil collecting expeditions.

Distinguished Visitors

Vertebrate Paleontology

On 27 January, Professor Raul Esperante (right) and his student, from the Geoscience Research Institute at Loma Linda University, visited to study fossil cetaceans in our collections. They are particularly interested in the conditions of fossil bone preservation. Here they are observing a pathologic whale vertebra from the famous Sharktooth Hill Bonebed in central California.



Malacology

Dick Squires (California State Univ. Northridge, Geological Sciences) visited Malacology on 12 January to compare fossil and Recent trochid gastropods. On 29 January he returned to use the SEM and discuss trochid systematics with Jim McLean. UCLA Museum Studies student Robin Ohern visited on 29 January to examine storage techniques utilized by Malacology. Emilia Gonzalez (ECOSUR) spent two weeks (13 February – 26 February) in Malacology examining the holdings of the gastropod family Eulimidae from Mexico. Austin Hendy (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute) spent three days (February 17 – 18 & March 1) examining the collection holdings of Caribbean bivalves and gastropods for comparison to fossil species. On 12 February Mike Vendrasco (Calif. St. Univ., Fullerton, Biological Sciences) spent a day examining chitons.



Polychaetes

The Polychaete Section was happy to welcome back Dr. Sergio Salazar-Vallejo (ECOSUR, Mexico) in February (left). Sergio is a frequent visitor who spent much of his 2004 sabbatical here & was designated an honorary curator at that time. Our large collection of flabelligerid polychaetes was the focus of his attention. In the course of revising the family he has found many new species on our shelves from areas as diverse as Antarctica, India, the Caribbean, and of course California.

Sergio was accompanied by his wife, Norma Gonzalez-Salazar, who spent the time studying eulimids in the Malacology Section. Like nearly all Polychaete visitors they stayed with Collections Manager Leslie Harris. We look forward to seeing them later this year for more fun with flabelligerids as well as lots of tasty Mexican cooking & mucho margaritas!

Herpetology

Kevin Wiseman visited the Section of Herpetology to do research on king snakes (*Lampropeltis getula*). He is interested in the feeding preferences of color morphs.

Brian Hubbs visited the Section of Herpetology to look at rattlesnakes. He also donated two books to the Section, one on rattlesnakes (*A Guide to the Rattlesnakes of the United States*) and one on kingsnakes (*Common Kingsnakes, a Natural History of Lampropeltis getula*).

History

Supervisor Molina at NHM



On January 25th, Dr. Jane Pisano and the History Department gave a behind-the-scenes tour for Supervisor Gloria Molina. The supervisor was given a hard-hat introduction to the New Museum project and was impressed with the “new look” of our exhibit halls. The day ended with a

tour of the Seaver Center where she viewed historic maps of Downtown Los Angeles and samples from History’s material culture collection.

Above, clockwise from top left: Supervisor Gloria Molina and Legislative Assistant Francisco Chabran with NHM Director and President Dr. Jane Pisano, Seaver Center Collections Manager John Cahoon, and Museum Archivist Cathy McNassor.



Recent Publications

Barnes, L. G., and R. E. Reynolds. 2009. A new species of Early Miocene allodelphinid dolphin (Cetacea, Odontoceti, Platanistoidea) from Cajon Pass, southern California, USA. In *Papers on Geology, Vertebrate Paleontology, and Biostratigraphy in Honor of Michael O. Woodburne*, ed. L. B. Albright, III. *Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin*, 65:483-507.

Brown, B.V., R.H.L. Disney, L. Elizalde, & P.J. Folgarait. 2010. New species and new records of *Apocephalus* Coquillett (Diptera: Phoridae) that parasitize ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in South America. *Sociobiology*. 55: 165-190.

Brown, B. V. & E. G. LeBrun. 2010. Ant-decapitating flies, *Apocephalus*, subgenus *Apocephalus* Coquillett (Insecta: Diptera: Phoridae), of southern Arizona. *Contributions in Science*. 519: 1-24.

The above two papers contain further new descriptions and host-parasitoid information for ant-parasitizing phorid flies, laying the groundwork for future pest ant biological control programs. They also allow the increasing number of workers on ant-phorid behavioral ecology to identify their flies, or to recognize when they have encountered further new species.

Clement, A. & **Long, J.A.** 2010. Air-breathing adaptation in a marine Devonian lungfish. *Biology Letters*, Feb. 19th, [doi://10.1098/rsbl.2009.1033](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2009.1033).

Geiger, D.L. & **McLean, J.H.** 2010. New species of Scissurellidae and Anatomidae from the Americas (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Vetigastropoda). *Zootaxa* 2356:1-35, figs. 1-24.
Eight new species are described from Hawai'i, southern Mexico, southern California, Barbados, the Bahamas, Peru, and the East Pacific Rise.

Holland, T.H., **Long, J.A.** & Snitting, D. 2010. New information on the enigmatic tetrapodomorph fish *Marsdenichthys longioccipitus* (Long 1985). *J. Vert. Paleontol.* 30 (1): 68-77.

Kampf, A. R., Colombo, F., and del Tánago, J. G. (2010) Gayite, $\text{NaMn}^{2+}\text{Fe}^{3+}_5(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a new dufrénite group mineral from the Gigante granitic pegmatite, Córdoba province, Argentina. *American Mineralogist* 95, 386-391.

Kampf, A. R., Colombo, F., Simmons, W. B., Falster, A. U., and Nizamoff, J. W. (2010) Galliskiite, $\text{Ca}_4\text{Al}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{F}_8 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a new mineral from the Gigante granitic pegmatite, Córdoba province, Argentina. *American Mineralogist* 95, 392-396.

Kampf, A. R., Rossman, G. R., Steele, I. M., Pluth, J. J., Dunning, G. E., and Walstrom, R. E. (2010) Devitoite, a new heterophyllosilicate with astrophyllite-like layers from eastern Fresno County, California. *Canadian Mineralogist* 48, 29-40.

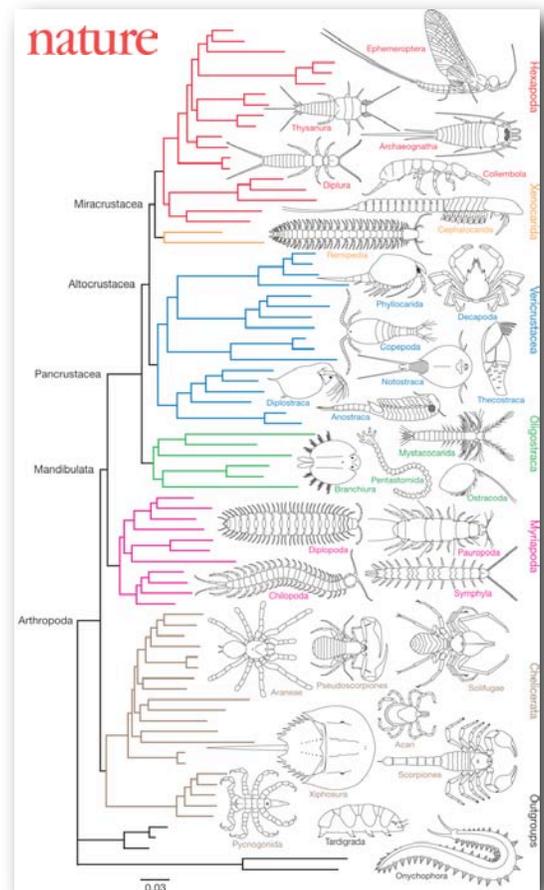
Long, J. A. & Clement, A. 2009. The postcranial anatomy of two Middle Devonian lungfishes (Osteichthyes, Dipnoi) from Mt. Howitt, Victoria. *Memoirs of Museum Victoria* 66: 2. 189-202.

Norval, G., J. Mao, C. R. Bursey, and **S. R. Goldberg.** 2009. A deformed hind limb of an invasive free-living brown anole (*Anolis sagrei* Duméril & Bibron, 1837) from Hualien City, Taiwan. *Herpetology Notes* 2: 219-221.

Regier, J. C., J. W. Shultz, A. Zwick, A. Hussey, B. Ball, **R. Wetzer, J. W. Martin,** and C. W. Cunningham. 2010. Arthropod relationships revealed by phylogenomic analysis of nuclear protein-coding sequences. *Nature* 463: 1079-1083.
The Museum's first Nature paper in four years, this well-received study was based on large amounts of nuclear sequence data brought to bear on the question of the evolutionary relationships of all arthropod groups (insects, crustaceans, spiders, scorpions, and more!) (image at right).

Salas, E. C., Berleson, W. M., Hammond D. E., **Kampf, A. R.,** Lund, S. P., and Neilson, K. H. (2010) The impact of bacterial strain on the products of dissimilatory iron reduction. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 74, 574-583.

Thompson, A. R., J. N. Baskin, **C. C. Swift,** T. R. Haglund, R. J. Nagel. 2010. Influence of habitat dynamics on the distribution and abundance of the federally threatened Santa Ana Sucker, *Catostomus santaanae*, in the Santa Ana River. *Environ Biol Fish* (in press).



Tseng, Z.J., G.T. Takeuchi, and X. Wang. 2010. Discovery of the upper dentition of *Barbourofelis whitfordi* (Nimravidae, Carnivora) and an evaluation of the genus in California. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 30 (1):244-254.

Whistler, D. P., R. H. Tedford, G. T. Takeuchi, X. Wang, Z. J. Tseng, and M. E. Perkins. 2009. Revised Miocene biostratigraphy and biochronology of the Dove Spring Formation, Mojave Desert, California. In *Papers on Geology, Vertebrate Paleontology, and Biostratigraphy in Honor of Michael O. Woodburne*, ed. L. B. Albright, III. *Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin*, 65:331-362.

Staff Departures and New Staff

Vertebrate Paleontology

Former Vertebrate Paleontology laboratory volunteer Tetsuya Seto has been added to our staff of preparators who are working on the new Age of Mammals exhibit program. Ted had proven his talents while preparing fossils in our laboratory, and he is now actively restoring missing parts of our mammal skeletons as we near completion of the exhibit.

Miscellaneous

Ornithology

In January Ornithology Collections Manager Kimball Garrett was elected to a new term on the California Bird Records Committee, a deliberative body sponsored by Western Field Ornithologists that archives and assesses the documentation of records of bird species that occur rarely or accidentally in California. With 24 prior years of service, Garrett is the second-longest serving member of the Committee. Congratulations, Kimball!

History

Curator Bill Estrada won the 2010 National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Book Award for his book *The Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Space*. Bill will receive the award at an awards luncheon in Seattle on April 9th. Congratulations, Bill!



The Research & Collections Newsletter is issued five times per year, in January, March, May, September, and November, by the Research and Collections staff of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Editor: Dr. Joel W. Martin, Curator of Crustacea and Chief of the Division of Invertebrate Studies.

Layout: N. Dean Pentcheff, Research Associate, Crustacea.

All issues of the newsletter may be found at:
<http://collections.nhm.org/newsletters>