

## MISSION STATEMENT

### MUSEUM OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. Be a focus for excellence in research and education in systematic and evolutionary biology within the College of Biological Sciences and University
2. Maintain biological collections in a quality environment for the public good as mandated by the State of Ohio, and provide convenient access to these collections for qualified users
3. Be a significant resource for science education, with emphasis on systematic and evolutionary biology, within the University, community, and state of Ohio
4. Become an important public attraction for the University, community, and Central Ohio region.

## **Museum of Biological Diversity - Fact Sheet**

The Museum of Biological Diversity is part of the College of Biological Sciences at The Ohio State University. Utilizing 63,000 square feet of space, the Museum is composed of six units:

**Acarology Laboratory:** Initiated by George W. Wharton in 1951, the acarology collection is considered one of the best and most extensive tick and mite collections in the world. Over 100,000 determined and considerably more than one million undetermined specimens are included, preserved either in alcohol or on slides. The biogeographic range is worldwide and includes holotypes and paratypes for many species. The Laboratory also maintains the International Directory of Acarologists and will host the 1994 International Congress of Acarology.

**[Curatorial Staff: Drs. Donald J. Johnston and W. Cal Welbourn.]**

**Borrer Laboratory of Bioacoustics:** Nearly five decades of effort has earned the Borrer Laboratory of Bioacoustics a rating as one of the leading collections of animal sounds in the United States. The Laboratory's collection now contains more than 23,000 recordings of 757 species of birds and more than 2,000 tapes of 160 species of arthropods. Tapes of mammals (50), amphibians (40), fishes (21), and reptiles (8) are also a part of the collection. The Laboratory was named in honor of Dr. Donald J. Borrer, an entomologist and ornithologist, who was a pioneer in the field of bio-acoustics. The facility has received two NSF facility grants, an NSF research grant, and research and exploration grants from the National Geographic Society.

**[Acting Director: Sandra L. L. Gaunt.]**

**Herbarium:** The Herbarium was founded in 1891 by William A. Kellerman, the University's first botany professor. The collection represents more than 410,000 specimens, primarily of vascular plants, with emphasis on Ohio and Latin America. Cryptogamic holdings are strong in the areas of lichens, mosses, and diatoms. Active research is being conducted for the Ohio Flora Project, the Flora of Franklin County Project, the Flora of Chile Project, and systematic and evolutionary studies on the Juan Fernandez Islands. The Herbarium also houses a significant botanical library, including journals, nearly 50,000 reprints, and books from the 16th century to the present.

**[Curatorial Staff: Drs. Daniel J. Crawford, John J. Furlow, Richard M. Lowden, Ronald L. Stuckey, and Tod F. Stuessy.]**

**Insect Collection:** The Museum's Insect Collection has been ranked among the top 12 university collections in North America. Over 3.5 million cataloged specimens are present, including one of the world's largest leaf-hopper collections. Initiated by Professor Josef N. Knull in 1934, the Collection has strong holdings in the orders Coleoptera, Homoptera, Hymenoptera, Odonata, and Orthoptera. The Collection was a recent recipient of a National Science Foundation facilities grant. Ongoing research is focused on the systematics of beetles and parasitic wasps, and the development of biodiversity surveys of tropical forest insects.

**[Curatorial Staff: Drs. Norman F. Johnson and Charles A. Triplehorn.]**

**Museum of Zoology:** Research and teaching collections at the Museum of Zoology were initiated in 1874 by Albert H. Tuttle, then Chairman of Zoology and Veterinary Science. Organization and cataloging of holdings began in 1891 under David S. Kellicot. The Museum is organized into six divisions: Bivalve Mollusks, Crustaceans, Fishes, Gastropods and the General Collections, Higher Vertebrates, and Parasitic Worms. The collections of unionid mollusks and pleurocerid snails are the most extensive of their kind known. A comprehensive map library, divisional research libraries, photo and x-ray studios, and an electrophoresis laboratory complement the collections.

**[Curatorial Staff: Dr. Ted Cavender, Prof. John Condit, Dr. John Crites, Prof. Ray Jezerinac, Dr. David Stansbery, and Dr. Carol Stein.]**

**Ohio Biological Survey:** The Ohio Biological Survey was founded in 1912 to produce and disseminate biological information and to promote conservation of Ohio's biological resources. Administered by the College of Biological Sciences, the Survey is a consortium of 65 Ohio colleges, universities, museums, and other organizations. The Survey has edited and published research on the flora and fauna of Ohio throughout its history. In addition to publishing, the Survey staff are involved in organizing meetings in Ohio and providing professional and community service outreach by means of numerous lectures and educational presentations to a wide variety of audiences. The inter-institutional structure of the Survey makes it unique among biological survey organizations in other states.

**[Director: Dr. Brian J. Armitage]**