



Museu Nacional
de História Natural

Natural History collections and Biodiversity

Organized by: Centro de Biologia Ambiental (<http://cba.fc.ul.pt/>) and Museu Nacional de História Natural (<http://www.mnhn.ul.pt/>)

Teachers: Maria Judite Alves (coordinator), Cristiane Bastos-Silveira, Ana Isabel Correia, César Garcia, José Pedro Granadeiro, Paulo Marques (researchers in Museu Nacional de História Natural-CBA)

Calendar: 11-14 Oct 2010

Duration: 24 hours

Schedule: Intensive regime during along five days, from 14h-18/19h, everyday.

Introduction: Natural history museums are privileged spaces for seminal research on different subjects of biological sciences such as biodiversity, evolution, ecology, biogeography and taxonomy. This crucial role is due to the fact that they represent biological diversity repositories becoming huge libraries of information on Earth living organisms. On the other hand, the long term sampling through various decades renders to natural history collections an historic perspective that allows reconstructing an ecological memory, sometimes secular, of natural objects, patterns and processes. This aspect gains particular relevance nowadays because of the increasing rate of species extinctions and biodiversity decrease. This module will show the straight connection between biodiversity and natural history collections.

Objectives

- To demonstrate the importance of natural history collections for the study of biodiversity.
- To show new tools and approaches to extract and disseminate biodiversity data from natural history collections
- To increase awareness of young researchers for the scientific and culture value of Natural History Museums.

General Plan:

1. Introduction to natural history collections;
2. New collections of natural history;
3. Technological tools used in natural history collections.
4. Documentation and digitalization of biodiversity data.
5. Collection management policies.
6. The Museums of Natural History in Portugal and the study of biodiversity.
7. Case-studies
8. Interaction with researchers and curators of the Museu Nacional de História Natural (MNHN)

Location: The course will be held at MNHN.

N° (min, max) students: 10-16

Minimum formation: 'Licenciatura' (bachelor) degree in Biology or related areas

Fee: free for PhD students in the Doctoral programme in Biology (FCUL) or Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution (UL; UP); 100 euros for master and bachelor students in FCUL; 200 euros for others

Deadline for applications: Sep 15, 2010

Candidates should send a short CV and a motivation letter to Maria Judite Alves at the following email address: mjalves@fc.ul.pt

