

Collections Seminar Series

Thursday 29 March, 15.00–16.30, Flett Events Theatre

Great British Mollusca Types: a Union Database for the UK

The UK's natural history collections are distributed across the nation's National, regional and other Museums, while specialist expertise is increasingly concentrated in London. Smaller museums are vulnerable to spending cuts and may face additional local pressures. Many such museums hold type material of global importance, whether from the UK itself or from its imperial and expansionist past. Here it may risk being overlooked by the scientific community, neglected, or even lost given contemporary priorities. Several recent initiatives have sought to tackle this problem for different taxa or collection types.

We set out to digitally unite the Mollusca collections (mainly shells, but also other material) of seven Partner Museums, each lacking a specialist malacological curator. Thanks to the John Ellerman Foundation's Regional Museums and Galleries Fund, our team from Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Cardiff, and the Natural History Museum, London has been able to help research, catalogue and photograph nearly 600 primary types to unite them as never before. Today we present our online database and how it reveals the collections' context, history, and interlinkages. We discuss the British naturalists involved and some of their most critical or exquisite specimens, the issues encountered by the project, and the prospects for the database's future development.



Open to Natural History Museum staff only.

This seminar is open to all museum professionals.

Please email a.salvador@nhm.ac.uk for more information and/or to book a place.

Natural History Museum staff do not need to book.

The following staff will find the seminar most useful:

Science Group: All senior department managers and collection management staff.

Public Engagement Group: Any staff who work with and use collections or manage staff who work with collections.

Directorate and Science Directorate.

Development and Communications Group: Any staff involved in communicating about or engaging supporters with our collections.

Networking opportunity Tea and coffee will be available in the lobby area at the end of the session.

Speakers

Speakers from among the 13-strong project team of curators and malacologists will deliver segments giving their perspective. The team includes experienced marine and non-marine malacologists and includes **Jon Ablett & Andreia Salvador** (London), **Ben Rowson, Anna Holmes, Harriet Wood, Jen Gallichan, Jim Turner & Graham Oliver** (Cardiff), and curators from the partner institutions.

