



Seminario

Akira Kihara
*Science Research Center
Hosei University
Tokyo, Japan*

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Per Informazioni:
Andrea Travaglini
Sezione di Servizio e
Ricerca Tecnologica RIMAR
Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn
tel. 081 5833273/222
e-mail: andrea.travaglini@szn.it

The role of the Zoological Collection Database at Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn Napoli, as a biodiversity database.

Abstract

Since 2001, about 5700 specimens stored at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn Napoli Museum have been archived as a Zoological Collection Database (<http://szn.i.hosei.ac.jp>). Each specimen in the database contains label information, an image of the container and a 3D object movie thus allowing the virtual reproduction of its morphological outline. Also, documents related to museum activities are digitally archived in the database and linked to each specimen. This makes it possible to understand historical museum activities such as collection data, assignment of accession numbers and relabeling processes. None of this information is written on labels. The first aim of our database is to provide accessible detailed information related to the biodiversity of the zoological collection. However, it also became possible to statistically analyze the nature of the collection as well as associated museum activities. This analysis showed that specimens were acquired primarily during three active periods (1910-1914, 1930s, 1955-1970) along with more recent collection activities. Information recovered from documents indicates that specimens curated during the initial collection period (1910-1914) were closely related to initial editorial activities related to published monographs such as the Fauna and Flora of the Gulf of Naples. In addition, taxonomic concepts have changed significantly during the period of active specimen collection. By linking museum activity documents to individual specimens it is now possible to study the development of these changes, especially in the context of documented actual biological samples.