



PRESS RELEASE - 2nd December 2013 for immediate release

A New Journal for NatSCA

The **Natural Science Collections Association (NatSCA)** is proud to announce the launch of the ***Journal of Natural Science Collections***, a brand new peer-reviewed journal for people working with natural science collections. The new journal replaces the NatSCA News (2003-2012) and its debut volume is hot off the press and making its way to NatSCA members around the World.

The new ***Journal of Natural Science Collections*** is central to NatSCA's mission to support natural science collections, the institutions that house them and the people that work with them, in order to improve collections care, understanding, accessibility and enjoyment for all. All articles are peer reviewed by external reviewers, chosen for their subject specialist knowledge to ensure quality.

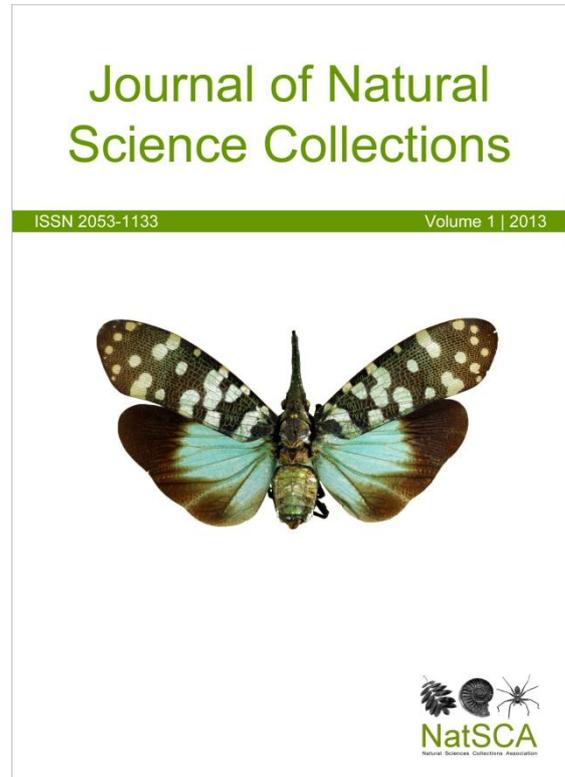
The new journal will be published annually, providing a platform for professional development within the sector and a showcase for research on natural science collections worldwide. We encourage submissions from anyone who works with, or otherwise uses, natural science collections.

The first volume includes eight articles covering advocacy, collections review, specimen conservation, visitor experiences, collections management and the application of new technology that can help improve sustainability in museums. Contributing authors represent a wide cross-section of the natural sciences collections community including staff, volunteers and freelancers working in curation, conservation and education, and representing Local Authority, University and National Museums.

Future articles will include topics which further NatSCA's mission and which help develop a deeper understanding of the value of natural science collections. Through the new journal, we hope to promote the use of collections, further develop a community of professionals, improve standards within the sector, and strengthen NatSCA's position as an advocate for the natural science collections of the UK and Ireland.

Volume 1 of the *Journal of Natural Science Collections* marks the 24th journal published by NatSCA and 10 years since the Natural Science Collection Association was formed by the merger of the Biology Curators Group and Natural Sciences Conservation Group in 2003. The journal will be provided to all NatSCA members and after one year the articles will be made freely available for all online at <http://natsca.org/pubs>.

Details of the manuscript submission process can be found at <http://natsca.org/pubs>.



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For further information, images or other requests, email press@natsca.org

To speak to a representative of NatSCA please email press@natsca.org or call 0750 759 5578.

Notes to the Editor

NatSCA is the subject specialist network for natural science collections in the UK and Ireland. A registered charity (Reg. No. 1098156), we support and act as advocates for natural science collections and the staff that work with them. NatSCA's mission is to promote and support natural science collections, the institutions that house them and the people that work with them, in order to improve collections care, understanding, accessibility and enjoyment for all.

The UK holds in the region of 600 natural science collections in museums, universities, schools and research centres in every part of the nation. Some organisations hold many millions of specimens and use cutting edge research techniques to understand major global issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss, others may hold just a few dozen specimens used to inspire children and adults to better appreciate the nature that surrounds them. Natural science collections are essential to our understanding of nature's diversity. They allow research into the changing face of life on Earth over tens, hundreds, thousands and millions of years. They provide a way for us to answer some of the biggest questions in life. Collections have a value to our society and NatSCA is here to help ensure that they are cared for and used in the best ways possible.

NatSCA formed in 2003 so this year sees the 10th anniversary of the organisation. It grew from the merger of the Natural Sciences Conservation Group (NSCG) and the Biological Curator's Group (BGC) which were established in 1995 and 1975 respectively. This means that we have an almost 40 year of history of supporting the natural sciences.

Website: <http://www.natsca.org>

Twitter: [@Nat_SCA](https://twitter.com/Nat_SCA)

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