

Ottawa Collection

This is a notice to everyone conducting research on Trichoptera.

I would like to extend an invitation to visit the Canadian National Collection of Insects (CNC) here in Ottawa. We are one of the five largest collections of our kind in the World, and home to a sizeable collection of caddisflies, largely due to the efforts of Fernand Schmid. We have recently been lucky in being able to expand the amount of space allocated to the collection to allow for new acquisitions and curation, and I have updated nomenclature and organization based on the Trichoptera World Checklist

(<http://entweb.sites.clemson.edu/database/trichopt/>).

I have also compiled a taxonomic inventory of our holdings that can be provided to anyone interested, as well as an inventory of name-bearing types that will be published following the imaging of specimens and labels.

Please note that what is not indicated on the taxonomic list is the vast amount of unidentified material we have here in the collection. We have two cabinets full of pinned, unidentified Trichoptera, but we have also much more throughout the collection that was sorted to genus by Fernand himself, who was quite an energetic curator. While these specimens are from numerous localities globally, the vast majority is south Asian in distribution, resulting from Fernand's extensive collecting trips, and should prove to contain many undescribed taxa.

While there is no active research on Trichoptera taking place in Ottawa, the collection itself has quite a lot to offer and I want to make sure that it continues to be used for contemporary research. To make sure that this large collection continues to receive the attention it deserves, I would like to invite all of you to borrow material and visit the collection where I will provide space, microscopes, etc. I have been facilitating some visits and loans already, and I want to keep the momentum going. We are usually filled with students during the summer, but I can provide ample space during the other seasons.

Basic costs can be covered by a non-profit organization if you are unable to visit on your own funds, but work must be dedicated entirely to curation, which can of course be subsequently beneficial to your research. Please see details at <http://canacoll.org/>.

If anyone is interested, please contact me at the address below. I hope to hear from you soon, and given your help, we can maintain the CNC as a world-class collection of Trichoptera.

Owen

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Braueria](#)

Jahr/Year: 2018

Band/Volume: [45](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Lonsdale Owen

Artikel/Article: [Ottawa Collection 4](#)