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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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The Insect Collection Managers Group [ICMG]

The Insect Collection Managers Group [ICMG] consists of exactly that, the specialist collections managers of the major insect collections in Britain and Ireland.

All insect collection-holding institutions in Britain and Ireland with a dedicated entomology post, should be represented on ICMG. In addition, the curator of the British Entomological & Natural History Society is a member, partly to link to the amateur collector community, and NatSCA is represented by an entomologist member of its committee, to provide a link to other museums with insect collections and to the curators responsible for them. It was recently decided that all active museum entomologists who are responsible for significant insect collections among a wider range of curatorial duties would be considered eligible to join the group. Anyone interested should contact Mike Fitton or Geoff Hancock at the email address below.

The aims of the group are:

- To enable the managers of the largest insect collections in Britain and Ireland to meet each other, discuss common problems, potential ways to resolve these and identify areas which might benefit from standardisation
- To set and promulgate standards of curation and documentation
- To undertake projects in these areas
- To promote cooperation between all holders of insect collections
- To promote and support outreach and training

Recent discussion has covered the latest developments in:-

- Integrated Pest Management.
- Legislation on collecting, import & export permits and to share experiences in respect to the tightening up of accession / acquisition of both old and new material by Biodiversity conventions and museum accreditation standards.
- Major acquisitions, loans, losses and thefts within their collections.
- The status and importance of voucher specimens and the distribution of specimens of recently introduced or threatening alien species between and to core museums to assist in monitoring and detection.
- Latest identification keys and checklists.
- Web-based initiatives,
- Surveys of holdings of British insects / collections spreadsheets, showing the size of holdings and where the largest and / or most important collections are located. This will be particularly useful for 'less popular' groups. The spreadsheet will be made widely available with the aim of gathering information on all insect collections.

Supplies & Suppliers

The Group identifies good quality suppliers and the performance standards discussed for cabinets, drawers, unit trays, Plastazote, collecting equipment, chemicals, pins, papers, ink, glues, environmental monitoring equipment etc. An annotated list of suppliers is held by Jeanne Robinson at Glasgow.

Training.

Another training day on basics of insect collection management for generalist natural history curators and for non-museum entomologists is planned and will be advertised through NatSCA, BENHS, RES and British Ecological Society soon.

NatSCA has agreed to host an ICMG webpage, which is yet to be designed.

The group generally meets once a year and each member institution takes it in turn to act as host. The 2007 meeting of ICMG will be held at the Central Science Laboratory, York in September.

The present chair of the group is Mike Fitton (m.fitton@nhm.ac.uk) and the secretary is Geoff Hancock (g.hancock@museum.gla.ac.uk).

The Entomology collections and other organisations represented in ICMG so far are:-
Natural History Museum, London (Mike Fitton [chair]),
Entomology Collection, Natural History Museum, London (Howard Mendel);
University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge (William Foster);
Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford (George McGavin or Darren Mann);
National Museums Liverpool (Steve Judd or Guy Knight);
Manchester Museum (Dmitri Logunov);
Central Science Laboratory, York (Chris Malumphy or Sharon Reid);
National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh (Graham Rotheray);
Glasgow Museums (Jeanne Robinson);
Hunterian Museum, Glasgow (Geoff Hancock [Secretary]);
National Museums & Galleries of Wales (Mike Wilson);
Ulster Museum (Brian Nelson or Robert Nash);
National Museum of Ireland, Dublin (Jim O'Connor);
British Entomological & Natural History Society (Peter Chandler);
NatSCA (Paul Brown).

Notice of NatSCA Annual Conference & AGM, 2008

**University of Glasgow
& at Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery**

“Effective Partnerships between museums, organisations & audiences”

Thursday 15th – Friday 16th May, 2008

Anyone wishing to present a paper on the theme please contact Maggie Reilly email:-
mreilly@museums.gla.ac.uk

*Please note that we ask speakers to submit written versions of papers for publication in
the conference issue of NatSCA News and on the website*

AGM AGENDA

1.45 - 2.30 pm Thursday 15th May 2008:

Apologies for absence
Minutes of AGM Sheffield 2007
Matters arising from Sheffield AGM minutes
Chairman's Report
Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Membership secretary's Report
Editor's Report
Natural Science Conservation Report
Election to committee
Any Other Business
Seminars
Study Trips
Date and Venue of Next Meeting.
Vote of thanks
Close