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Program and Abstracts

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Bailey-Matthews
National Shell Museum
& Aquarium

“Mobilizing Millions of Mollusks of the Eastern Seaboard”: Digitization activities at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium**

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"Mobilizing Millions of Mollusks of the Eastern Seaboard" (ESB) is a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation that improves our knowledge of mollusks from the East and Gulf coasts of the US. The four-year project is making taxonomically vetted, and completely georeferenced occurrence data for 535,000 specimen lots representing 4.5 million specimens available online on the iDigBio, GBIF, and OBIS data aggregators. The ESB region includes 18 states, nearly 6,000 km from Maine to Texas. In the ESB project, 17 major US collections, containing 85% of molluscan holdings from the ESB in all US molluscan collections, are collaborating. The ESB project improves reliability of and access to molluscan collection data for examining changes in distribution, morphology, population size, and genetic variation within and across species. The Museum collection had been digitized (cataloged electronically) at the start of the project (including 21,283 ESB lots); accordingly, the main goals of the project were cleaning data (improving the taxonomy, locality, dates, collecting data) and adding geolocation (geographic coordinates) to these lots. In addition, since the beginning of the project, we digitized an additional 3,897 ESB newly acquired lots consisting of 14,500 specimens. Other achievements are cleaning and standardizing collection metadata for 12,730 lots, adding geolocation data for 23,952 lots and photographing 320 lots. Currently, the total number of ESB lots is 25,180, of which 24,201 have geolocation data.

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