

UC Santa Barbara

Educational Materials

Title

Natural History Collections at The Vernon and Mary Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration

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UC SANTA BARBARA

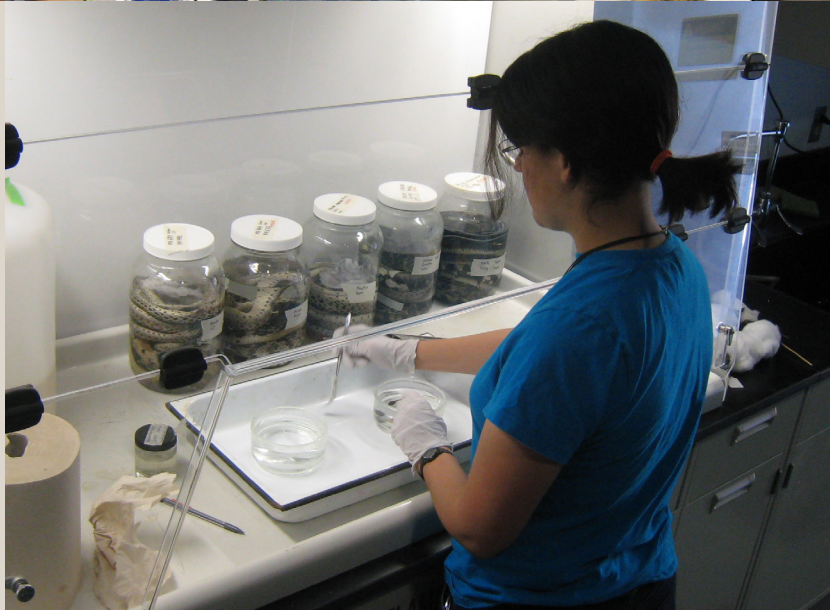
Natural History Collections

The Vernon and Mary Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration

A celebrated natural history collection engaging researchers, students, and the Santa Barbara community in understanding California's rich biodiversity and natural heritage



Since 2005, The Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration has been fulfilling the UC Santa Barbara's mission of research, education, and outreach through the acquisition, preservation, and availability of its natural history collections. The UCSB Natural History Collections provide valuable data for scientists and inspire passion for understanding biodiversity.



The UCSB Natural History Collections support mentoring and training for collection curators and student-driven research projects. Our digitization efforts make specimen images and information freely available online to a global audience.

Student Research

Specimens of the UCSB Natural History Collections provide the physical and digital biodiversity data that enable the scientific community to conduct inquiry in a variety of disciplines, including taxonomy, ecology, and climate change. The Collections offer ample opportunities for UCSB students to gain research experience in the lab and in the field. Curators have mentored and trained undergraduates in student-driven projects and research in many areas, such as bee and salamander conservation, the impacts of climate change on plants, biodiversity data science, insect evolution, and the diversity of microscopic fungi.

“A lot of people know what he [Vernon Cheadle] did for the campus as chief administrator, but a lot of people don’t know Cheadle the botanist. Cheadle Hall may highlight his administrative work, but CCBER symbolizes his life’s work and his love of botany.”

Dr. William “Bill” Cheadle

Chair of CCBER Director’s Council and son of the late Vernon and Mary Cheadle

Curation Internships

An integral part of managing the natural history specimens is the involvement of UCSB student interns and community volunteers. Staff provide training to those interested in working in a natural history museum setting and taking part in all aspects of specimen curation, including field collecting, mounting, and digitizing. Many of our students are inspired to pursue advanced degrees.

K-12 Education

UCSB Natural History Collections staff support K-12 programming that serve local schools. In collaboration with CCBER’s Kids in Nature program, the Collections developed a Junior Scientist program where elementary school students work with UCSB undergraduates in citizen science research projects about native plants, native bees and invasive species.

Community Outreach

The UCSB Natural History Collections fill a growing public desire for understanding and the interpretation of natural history. Our workshops are open to the public and focus on diversity and identification of organisms, such as native bees, seaweeds, grasses, shrubs, and insects. The Collections also support the efforts of local and regional planners seeking to reduce the loss of biodiversity and preparing for resilience in the face of a changing climate.



The UCSB Natural History Collections are our shared natural heritage!

The Cheadle Center sustains the preservation of the UCSB Natural History Collections in perpetuity and the public trust. We promote student and community involvement in the care and management of the collections to document our natural heritage and to promote specimen-based research, education, and outreach.

Located on the biologically inspiring UC Santa Barbara campus, The Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration is located at Harder South, Building 578.

- Conserving over half a million specimens!
- Housing the UCSB Herbarium and the UCSB Vertebrate and Invertebrate Zoology collections (plus many more...)
- Supporting UCSB classes, K-12 outreach programs, and public workshops
- Directing student research and museum curation internships
- Offering ecology, organismal biology and natural history seminars



To get involved or learn more about the UCSB Natural History Collections, please visit our website: ccber.ucsb.edu/collections

For questions, please contact:

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The UCSB Natural History Collections are supported in part by the generosity of community donors. To learn how you can help support the collections, please visit our giving site or contact Matt Fratus:

giving.ucsb.edu/to/natural-history-collections

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