



Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN)
American Institute of Biological Sciences
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Dear Members of BCoN:

I would like to register the support of the Specify Collections Consortium for BCoN's community vision for biodiversity informatics as laid out in your 8 page report: "Extending U.S. Biodiversity Collections to Promote Research and Education".

The envisioned "Extended Specimen Network" is an insightful and extensible model for organizing the world's biodiversity information. The monumental and massive trove of information that is held in biological collections, and derived from specimens, tissues, DNA, should be the nexus for linking and mobilizing the worlds' knowledge about the biological diversity of Earth's natural systems. The deep integration and interoperability implied by the Extended Specimen concept are essential for data-intensive research and policy urgently needed now to conserve diversity in natural communities, and for supporting the prosperity of all mankind that depends on the integrity and health of their ecosystem services.

The Specify Collections Consortium is an international consortium of biological museum institutions dedicated to advancing the utilization and mobilization of specimen-derived information through the provision of software and computational services. We look forward to collaborating with your initiative. We can offer integrative museum software platforms and tools, software engineering expertise, and the attention of 500+ biological collections around the world that use Consortium software.

Sincerely,

James H. Beach

James H. Beach, Executive Director
Specify Collections Consortium
Biodiversity Institute
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