

Biological Survey of Canada sponsored Curation Blitz at the Canadian Museum of Nature

The second annual BSC Curation Blitz took place at the Canadian Museum of Nature's Natural Heritage Building in Gatineau, Quebec on 20 October 2008. The purpose of the event was to give people the chance to see the insect collection at the Canadian Museum of Nature, to bring entomologists together for a collegial exchange of ideas in a museum setting, and to improve the curation and identification of insect specimens in this collection.

The Canadian Museum of Nature houses a world-class Coleoptera collection with particular strengths in scarabs and weevils. This collection is strong in Neotropical and Nearctic material with reasonable coverage from other parts of the world.

Twenty entomologists attended the event, including people from as far away as Norway and Saudi Arabia. Participants were interested in a wide range of insects including bees, moths and butterflies, bark beetles, rove beetles, ladybird beetles, scarab beetles, weevils, metallic wood-boring beetles, and several others. Although the overwhelming majority of specimens in the Canadian Museum of Nature col-



David McCorquodale (Cape Breton University) and Bob Anderson (Canadian Museum of Nature) discuss the beetle holding with Sheila Colla (York University) in the foreground. (Photograph by Clayton D'Orsay)

lection are beetles, all participants found specimens of interest and many were pleasantly surprised at the size and breadth of the holdings in this collection.



Sheila Colla, a PhD student from York University, databases the Canadian Museum of Nature bumblebees while Meghan Marriott, a MSc student from Cape Breton University and the University of Prince Edward Island, examines the ladybird beetles. (Photograph by Clayton D'Orsay)

Announcement for the 2009 BSC Curation Blitz

The next BSC Curation Blitz will take place in Winnipeg in conjunction with the Entomological Society of Canada and Entomological Society of Manitoba Joint Annual Meeting from 18-22 October 2009. Insect collections in Winnipeg include those at the J.B. Wallis Museum of Entomology at the University of Manitoba, and the Manitoba Museum. If you are interested in participating, please contact David McCorquodale <David_McCorquodale@cbu.ca>.