

NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS – SCIENTIFIC TREASURES

SUMMARY

Natural history materials were collected almost from the very foundation of the Museum of Slavonia in 1877, and the first large collection of sea snails and shells was donated in 1898 by Emerich Hild, a military officer from Zadar. Natural history materials were kept in different museum departments until 1994, when the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia established the Natural History Department, when the organized and systematic collection of materials and their professional and scientific processing began. Today, this Department of the Museum houses priceless collections that are important primary sources from which we can explore the history of the development of collecting and natural history in the area of Slavonia and Croatia, the story of taxonomic science and the inexhaustible human desire to understand life on Earth, the greatest scientific challenge of our time. Natural history collections are a critical infrastructure for educational and scientific innovation and interdisciplinary research in predicting the Earth's uncertain future.

Keywords: natural history collections, Museum of Slavonia, biological-scientific research, innovation incubators, educational innovations