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The National Collections of Natural History

Tel Aviv University

2006/2007 Scientific Report

**Submitted to the Steering Committee for the National
Collections of Natural History, the Israel Academy of
Sciences and Humanities**

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Introduction

The academic year 2006/2007 was the third in which the natural history collections at Tel Aviv University enjoyed VATAT support. The present report outlines our academic activities during this period, in brief.

The current report was wrapped up 3 months earlier than previous reports, hence it covers only 9 months of collections-based activities and is a little shorter than usual. The financial report, however, covers the entire year.

Our scientists have been extremely active in collecting, research and teaching, as have been their graduate students. Thus many thousands of specimens are collected annually, and each year we continue to absorb whole collections that were donated to us as the national repository.

Our collections are extremely dependent on VATAT support. Moreover, the work of the Steering Committee is unfortunately not yet done. If the record and research of nature in Israel are to survive, we will still need to put thought, planning, and hard work into promoting this issue.

Our report focuses only on academic achievements made with the use of the natural history collections at TAU during the academic year 2006/2007. This use ranges from biogeographic collections-based research, to use as comparative materials in zooarcheological research. In some studies it was the taxidermist who provided support for scientific research. In many others the chief contribution was taxonomic identifications carried out by the curators and collections managers, who regularly support much basic and applied research. Loss of this crucial expertise in Israel has been delayed thanks to the Aliya; if we do not use this delay to develop a new generation of taxonomists, systematists, and biogeographers, we will lose our knowledge of Israeli fauna and flora. We hope that VATAT's new Bikura post-doctoral fellowships will help salvage this field of research in Israel, but in a university that has shrunk dramatically over the past few years, maintaining collections-based research

will be a formidable challenge that should be met with ongoing special support for this research infrastructure and this scientific field.

Naturally, the focus of the report is on activities carried out within Tel Aviv University. Many colleagues from other universities within and without Israel use the collections for research and teaching, but we did not necessarily manage to receive all relevant materials from all of them in time for this report.

Progress at the natural history collections

Natural history collections are dynamic archives that record biodiversity. As such, they grow annually by new collecting activities and by incorporating smaller private or institutional collections. The collecting activities comprise focused collecting expeditions as well as by the products of numerous field studies carried out by scientists and their graduate students. Moreover, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority rangers collect vertebrate carcasses for the collections. Collecting, incorporating the collections, preserving and digitizing them, as well as managing the collections, the data, and the network of collectors and colleagues, is a formidable job that falls upon the shoulders of the curators, and, even more so, on those of the collections managers, technical assistants, and taxidermist. We are fortunate to have a group of active, knowledgeable, and dedicated technical staff members, who do their best, in the nearly impossible physical conditions and under-staffing, to preserve and expand this priceless record of biodiversity, and to help promote scientific biodiversity research. Their work is highly specialized, their knowledge priceless; almost all have academic degrees, most have either a PhD or an MSc, and all are the crucial backbone of the national collections of natural history at Tel Aviv University.

Our overworked collections managers have also produced this report, and we are particularly grateful to the work of Dr. Revital Ben-David-Zaslow in compiling it. Here they also report a little about the behind-the-scenes of managing the collections: collections news, collecting trips and expeditions, and new collections are reported here in a nutshell.

Collections news – A word from our collection managers

Throughout the past year the staff members of the TAU Natural History Collections have continued their day-to-day activities. As in previous years, we have put much effort into advancing our goals. We continue to collect and preserve new scientific materials, rescue and incorporate important private and historical collections, maintain the existing collections, ship scientific material and data to those requesting them, and assist graduate students, academic courses, and “Nature Campus” activities.

A document to assist the policy on biodiversity in Israel is being prepared by Prof. U. Safriel and S. Ashkenazi from the Hebrew University for the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The report is based on data of the Natural History Collections of Israel. The TAU Natural History Collections comprise over 135,000 computerized items (not including about 2,000,000 insects that are not yet digitized). About 78% of these items were collected in Israel and the surrounding areas. About 25,000 species are represented in our collection, of which over 60% were collected in Israel and the surrounding areas.

As noted in our previous report, one of our main goals has been to overcome the damage resulting from a 3-year outbreak of mold. Due to this outbreak, most of the jars, shelves, covers and walls became covered with mold. We have almost completed individually cleaning every jar and shelf of the collections and replacing all plastic covers. The work is demanding and tiring, but essential in order to save the collections from irreparable damage.

During the academic year 2006/2007 we received and incorporated many specimens from various taxonomic groups, collected worldwide by the collection curators and staff, students, rangers from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, and others.

Part of the dry vertebrate collection was moved to the new specimen cabinets purchased with the support of VATAT funds. Some 250 new specimens have been preserved and added to the mammal collection and about 25 to the bird collection. These include specimens collected by rangers from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and transferred to Tel Aviv University where they are labeled and preserved by a professional taxidermist. They are then either incorporated into the appropriate scientific collection or transferred to the teaching collection of "Nature Campus".

As we reported previously (see the 2004/2005 Annual Report), the amphibian collection is now active again and digitized data are available. About 20 new specimens have been added to it. This might seem a small number but they are all from new collections made this year, in comparison to the previous year during which no new collections were made.

We routinely go through the collections, clean the jars, replace the labels and digitize the data. This year we started to work on the fish collection. To date more than 1,000 items belonging to 55 families have been handled. In addition, about 120 new records were added to the fish collection.

The collections made by Prof. Bella Galil at various stations in the Mediterranean (see below: Collection trips) have been sorted, preserved, and digitized for future research and identification. The material includes fishes, crustaceans, mollusks and other invertebrates. Other than those collection trips, there are almost no new data available on the macro-fauna of the Mediterranean, especially of deep-water. These data constituted the basis for a unique collaboration on invasive species of crustaceans among researchers from Israel, Tunis and Libya. The results were published by the British journal *JMBA2 Biodiversity Records* (see below: Publications).

The collections made by Prof. Yehuda Benayahu have also been processed. They contain soft corals, sea anemones, sponges, tunicates, nudibranchs, and

other invertebrates. As a routine procedure, tissue samples for molecular analysis were taken from most of the soft coral specimens and preserved. Almost 600 new specimens of soft corals were added this year.

The stony coral collection was cleaned and a special effort was made to absorb the collection of the Dr. Jacob Dafni (see the 2003/2004 Annual Report). Some 200 items, collected mostly from the northern part of Elat during the years 2002-2003, and partly in the 1980s, have been catalogued. This collection constitutes one of the most important private collections related to the Red Sea. Each coral has its collection details and photographs taken after cleaning. The collection gives us an opportunity to study the unique fauna of the disturbed coral reefs of Elat.

Everyday work on the insect collection includes the absorption and integration of donated collections; labeling and sorting of specimens from collecting trips; identification of and research on select groups (including over 25 shipments of scientific specimens to specialists, mostly overseas, during 2006); and preservation activities, such as renewal of naphthalene. Special treatment is required in cases of damage caused by mold and pests. As in the past years, we have continued digitizing this collection. Newly-caught insects are immediately given a catalog number and digitized. During the current year about 5,000 new insects were added to the collection. Prof. Dan Gerling collected groups of whiteflies from his collecting trip to Ethiopia and Uganda. These include some *Aleurolobus* species as well as material that is still being identified. A new species of Tetraleurodes was discovered on wild sugar cane (*Saccharis avenae*) in Israel. It is probably new to science. Vladimir Chikatunov performed a huge work of identification on a beetle collection from pitfall traps and malaise traps from various projects and areas (southern Arava and southern Jordan, Mt. Carmel, Nizzanim, Adullam, Avedat and Lehavim, the coastal plain, Nahal Shaharut, the Jordan Valley and others). There is a close working relationship between the "Plant Protection and Inspection Services" (PPIS, Ministry of

Agriculture) and the insect and arthropod staff. As in previous years, the collection staff made identifications work and guided the PPIS members. Vasiliy Kravchenko traveled to the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, which maintains probably the best collection of Noctuidae (Lepidoptera) in Europe. A number of deserticolous species of Israeli Noctuidae were identified and a joint publication on a new species of the genus *Odontelia* from the Arava valley was prepared. Kravchenko also traveled to Ethiopia to take part in a project of the Ambo Plant Protection Research Center (PPRC) and Ethio-Russian Biological Expedition (JERBE) – the biodiversity of Lepidoptera in Ethiopia.

We have also started to work on the isopod and other terrestrial invertebrate collection of Prof. Michael R. Warburg. It was started in 1960 and contains thousands of items, collected from various places in Israel and abroad. We have already absorbed all the insects and other arthropods, and are now in the process of sorting the isopods and studying the taxonomy of the group. Each isopod specimen is supplied with full collection data and in part identified to species level. This collection gives us an opportunity to study the unique fauna of the Isopods of Israel.

We continue our fruitful cooperation with Tel Aviv University students collecting samples in the field. Collections made by students are immediately digitized in order to facilitate the easy transfer of specimens to the museum in the near future. Cooperation between students and the collections staff is excellent. We give the students support in all fields including preservation, identification, labeling and cataloguing. Tirza Stern has developed a unique data base for this purpose and continues to work with the students, adjusting it to their specific needs. The students of Prof. Avital Gasith have already transferred to the National Collections more than 4,000 items (1,000 from this year alone), consisting of freshwater invertebrates caught in various rivers in Israel. The students of Prof. Tamar Dayan have transferred to the museum a

very large collection of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and arthropods caught in pitfall traps. The vertebrates among them have been preserved, identified, digitized and labeled; the invertebrates have been preserved and sorted for future identification. An additional collaboration is being conducted with the laboratory of Dr. Yael Mandelik from the Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences. The research engages with biodiversity and ecosystem services in the arid agro-natural landscape of the Arava Rift Valley, across the Jordanian-Israeli border. Focusing on the pollinator guild, specifically bees, and the pollination services they provide to crops and wild plants. They collect wild and managed bees (*Bombus* and honey bees), using netting and pan traps (plates filled with soapy water). The museum staff are directing their research, teaching them how to identify the insects and how to conduct a collection. All the Hymenoptera in this research are properly labeled and have a museum catalog number. At the end of the study the items will be transferred to our collections.

Progress Report for the Mollusc Collection 2006-2007

Henk K. Mienis and Revital Ben-David-Zaslow

During the past academic year we continued the revision and incorporation of the collection of the late Kalman Hertz (received in 2006) into the general mollusk collection. At the same time similar samples present in the former private collections of Derk A. Visker (received in the early 70's) and Haim (Vittal) Treves (received in 1999) were revised and transferred to the systematically arranged general collection. The identifications were carried out by Henk Mienis, while Revital Ben-David Zaslow took care of the computerization of the material. At the moment 38,617 samples representing 4774 taxa in the mollusk collection have been completely digitized.

New acquisitions

New material continued to arrive in the collection. All the samples were immediately identified and prepared for permanent storage in the collection. Dr. Michael Fainzilber of the Weizmann Institute donated the first two boxes of his extensive private collection of world-wide marine mollusks to the Museum. Among the mollusks confiscated by Itai Siplovich of the Irael Nature and National Parks Protection Authority from fishermen operating illegally in the Akhziv-Rosh HaNiqra area were some fine specimens of the squid *Sepioteuthis lessoniana*. They form the first preserved specimens of this Lessepsian migrant, caught along the Mediterranean coast of Israel, in the collection.

During the academic year 2006/2007 new material has been received from the following persons:

Name	Brief description of the material
M. Fainzilber	Marine mollusks world-wide
B. Galil	Marine mollusks from the Eastern-Mediterranean
P. Gephart	Land- and freshwater mollusks (recent and fossil) from Hawaii
M. Keppens	Land- and freshwater mollusks from Belgium and marine mollusks world-wide
H.H. Kool	Nassariidae type material from Reunion
H.K. Mienis	Land-, freshwater- and marine mollusks mainly from Israel, the Netherlands and world-wide
P. Mifsud	Marine mollusks from Malta
Sh. Moran	Land- and freshwater mollusks intercepted by inspectors of the Plant Protection and Inspection Services, Ministry of Agriculture
A. Oktener	Freshwater mollusks from Turkey
T. Oren	Land snails from Israel
R. Ortal	Freshwater mollusks from Italy

D. Rotem	Land snails from Israel
E. Sheffer	Marine mollusks from the Mediterranean coast of Israel
Y. Sinai	Land snails from Israel
B.S. Singer	Arcoidea from the Red Sea
I. Siplovich	Marine mollusks from the Akhziv-Rosh HaNiqlra Nature Reserve and National Park
M.R. Warburg	Land snails from Israel

Type material

Two paratypes of *Nassarius jeanmartini* Kool & Dekker, 2006 described from Réunion Island were received from Mr. Hugo H. Kool (the Netherlands).

Material sent on loan

All the samples belonging to the gastropod families Ovulidae and Eratoidae have been sent on loan to Dirk Fehse (Germany) and Josef Grego (Slovakia) in support of their revision of these families on a world-wide scope.

Fossil specimens of the family Rostellariidae from the collections of H. Bytinski-Salz and D.A. Visker have been sent on loan for identification to A. Burger (the Netherlands), a specialist of this group of Strombid gastropods.

Mollusc conservation

In the winter of 2005/6 some 250 living snails of the Pagoda snail *Xerocrassa davidiana picardi*, a highly endangered land snail, were released on a kurkar outcrop in the Botanical Garden of the Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv. These snails had been collected on the so-called "Givat HaAntennot" in Givatayim, the last remaining locality of this endemic species in Israel (see the Annual report for 2005/2006 pp. 30-31).

A check of the kurkar outcrop in the Botanical Garden, during several rainy days in January, February and March 2007, turned into a rather disappointing event. We failed to locate a single live specimen! On the other hand, only one

empty shell was found at a distances of about 5 meters from the spot where the snails had been released. We have no idea what has happened with the other 249 specimens.

In our opinion it is still too early to call our effort to establish a better protected colony of the Pagoda snail in the Botanical Garden a complete failure. An effort by Uri Bar-Ze'ev, one of the initiators of the project, to collect additional living specimens on the hill in Givatayim for further release in the Botanical Garden remained unsuccessful too. In spite of the fact that he looked for these snails on a rainy day, only a single live specimen was observed.

In the winter of 2007/2008 we will carry out another evaluation of both sites in Givatayim and the Botanical Garden of the University in Ramat Aviv.

Progress Report for the Fungi Collection 2006/2007

Project: Biodiversity and Conservation of Higher Basidiomycetes in Israel

Dr. Silvia Blumenfeld

During this year we have focused on the research topics listed below

Study of biodiversity of higher basidiomycetes in Israel

Toxic Mushrooms. Toxic mushrooms are of great interest not only from the taxonomic point of view, but also for public safety and health. Using the material in the collection we have identified the types of toxins in the local species and their mode of action.

Herbarium collection. During this year we also worked on ecological features of the wood-rotting fungi from the mushroom collection at TAU. New samples were taken from the irrigated plots in the Botanical Garden of Tel Aviv University. From the following field trips: Carmel (Bet Oren), Upper Galilee (Baram Forest), Golan (Masada), Negev (Yotvata) and Binyamina (Park

Hanadiv), we collected 58 mushrooms species belonging to six families of Aphyllophorales, now been added to the TAU mushroom collection. We also took samples of wood rots in order to establish the type of rot (white fibrous rot or brown cubical rot) that the mushrooms cause, using chemotaxonomical tests, employing the methodology that I developed in the past.

Collaboration and Consultation services

- We have assisted Dr. Shoshana Ashkenazi, Department of Evolution, Systematics & Ecology, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in the identification of fossil fungi at her archeological research site in the Upper Jordan Valley. The identifications were further corroborated by Prof. Thomas N. Taylor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Kansas University, USA, who is a world authority on fungal paleobotany.
- We have collaborated with Prof. Yoav Waisel of the Department of Plant Sciences, TAU, in a study of soil fungi in an experimental plot at Yotvata. The experiment comprised three genotypes of Tamarix and one species of Acacia, irrigated with salt water and with treated sewage water.
- Identifications have been carried out of several species of soil fungi of the following genera – Alternaria, Aspergillus, Cladosporium, Penicillium, and Phoma. Marked differences were found in the concentration of fungal spores between the different plants and the two irrigation treatments.
- A joint project has been started with Dr. Marcelo Sternberg of the Department of Plant Sciences, TAU, to develop a method for evaluating pine wood chip decomposition by fungi. The aim of the project is to assess the recycling of material in planted forests, where cut down trees are shredded into small wood chips that are then spread over the ground.

This is especially important in the reclamation of burnt forests that have had to be cut down.

- Identifications of several species of fungi have been carried out at the request of visitors to the Botanical Gardens and members of the Faculty of Life Sciences.

Fungal culture collection

Last year we affiliated the collection to the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC), and to the World Directory of Collections of Culture of Microorganisms (WDCM), which holds the world database of microorganisms. At present we have records of 216 species and 38 genera.

Wood-rotting fungi

We have continued screening enzymes of the wood-rotting fungi, using the familiar culture methods in mycology. According to the TAU fungal database (3812 specimens) there are records of 87 species of wood-rotting fungi belonging to 50 genera. New strains of 18 species were incorporated into the TAU fungal culture collection. For each species we have made a detailed cultural study that will serve as a basis for comparative identifications in the future.

Medicinal mushrooms

During this year we completed a background study on medicinal mushrooms. On the basis of this work we plan to present a patent application for a novel process to obtain pharmaceutically-active fractions from certain fungi strains in our collection.

Collecting trips and expeditions

A dynamic archive, our natural history collections grow annually through donations, research projects, and collecting trips and expeditions. Many research projects add numerous specimens to our collections; other collections benefit from focused collecting trips. Here we report some of the new collecting activities of our scientists.

Benthic biodiversity surveys off the Mediterranean coast of Israel

Bella S. Galil

In 2007 eight campaigns have been conducted off the Mediterranean coast of Israel to sample the benthic biota. Bella Galil, Mel Cooper, Limor shoval, Sima Usvyatzov, and Guy Paz participated in the cruises that took place aboard the R/V Shikmona and Etziona of the National Oceanographic Institute, IOLR. The surveys were conducted as part of baseline studies or monitoring surveys (off **Palmahim**, 05.2007, 37m depth, box core and trawl samples; 05.2007, 60-64 m depth, box core and trawl samples; off **Ashdod**, 05.2007, 12 m depth, box core samples; 05.2007, 12 m depth, box core samples; off the coastal streams, 08.2007, 7-15 m depth, grab samples). The macrofaunal samples – several hundred specimens – include rare records to the Israeli coast.

The material is sent for safekeeping in the Zoological Museum, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Collecting trips of the Entomology

Ariel-Leib-Leonid Friedman

During the year 2007, upon the request of the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority, three field samplings were performed. These samplings are a part of a research effort, designed to aid in planning the outline of the Separation Wall. The samplings took place in three separate nature reserves, amidst which the wall is planned to go through: Nahal Perat Nature Reserve (Wadi Qilt) by Kefar

Adumim (27.02.2007), Ya'ar Rehan Nature Reserve by Um-El-Fahem (10.04.2007) and Nahal Qana Nature Reserve in the western Shomeron area (9.07.2007).

In the framework of these samplings, we collected and recorded several rare species of Diptera, Homoptera, Formicidae and Coleoptera. One species of Curculionidae, (*Chiloneus* sp.), found on the southern slope in the lower part of Nahal Perat, may be a new species to Israel and perhaps a new record for science.

New collections

The Paleontological Collection of Dr. Yael Chalifa (1940-2006)

Henk K. Mienis

In the spring of 2007 the National Collections of Natural History received a small but interesting collection of about 120 paleontological objects and a large number of books from the legacy of the late Dr. Yael Chalifa. The material was donated to the Tel Aviv University by Dr. Chalifa's husband Mr. Avraham Chalifa (Jerusalem).

The paleontological collection contains a variety of fossil plants and animals (mainly fishes, mollusks, brachiopods and insects) from Israel (among others from HaMakhtesh HaGadol, Makhtesh Ramon and Nahal Tavor), Canada, Brazil and several European countries.

Yael was born as Yael Ben-Shem in Tel Aviv in 1940. Following her marriage to Avraham Chalifa, a building engineer, they moved to Jerusalem, where they raised a family of three daughters and two sons. Only after her youngest child had started kindergarten did Yael begin her studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Both her M.Sc. thesis (1980) on "The anatomy, systematic position and evolutionary level of *Pachyamia latimaxillaris* n. gen, n. sp. (Holostei, Amiidae), from the Lower Cenomanian of Ein-Yabrud (Ramallah area)", and her Ph.D. dissertation (1986) on "The systematic position, phylogeny and ecological relationships of the Enchodontiformes n. order, from the Lower Cenomanian of Ein-Yabrud (Ramallah)", were carried out under the supervision of Prof. Eitan Tchernov. Yael also received much help for her M.Sc. thesis from Prof. Georg Haas.

Her post-doctoral studies were carried out at the University of Alberta, Canada, under the supervision of Prof. Mark Wilson, a noted paleontologist. Upon her return to Jerusalem, Yael had to cope with the deep disappointment of not

receiving a promised position in the paleontological collections of the Hebrew University.

In spite of her excellent studies on the Cretaceous fish fauna of Ein Yabrud, published in such highly esteemed scientific journals as *Paleontology*, *Journal of Paleontology* and *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* her grant proposals for further research received little funding.

Yael was thus forced to look in other directions in order to apply of her expertise in paleontology. Eventually she organized a series of lectures on geology and paleontology including field trips for the Avshalom Institute in Tel Aviv. Sadly, all her efforts were cut short when she was struck down by illness. By the time she was diagnosed with cancer, it was already too late. Yael died in the night on 8 January 2006.

With the death of Yael we have lost our foremost specialist in the field of fossil fish taxonomy in Israel. Her nine publications, containing descriptions of five new genera and eight new species, and her paleontological collection and library, now housed in the National Collections of Natural History at Tel Aviv University, will form a permanent tribute to a far too underrated scientist.

Publications (in chronological order)

01. Chalifa, Y. & Tchernov, E., 1982. *Pachyamia latimaxillaris*, new genus and species (Actinopterygii: Amiidae), from the Cenomanian of Jerusalem. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 2 (3): 204-285.
02. Chalifa, Y., 1985. *Saurorhamphus judeaensis* (Salmoniformes: Enchodontidae), a new longirostrine fish from the Cretaceous (Cenomanian) of Ein-Yabrud, near Jerusalem. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 5 (3): 181-193.
03. Raab, M. & Chalifa, Y., 1987. A new Enchodontid fish genus from the Upper Cenomanian of Jerusalem, Israel. *Palaeontology*, 30 (4): 717-731.
04. Chalifa, Y., 1989. New species of *Enchodus* (Pisces: Enchodontoidei) from the Lower-Cenomanian of Ein-Yabrud, Israel. *Journal of Paleontology*, 63 (3): 356-364.

05. Chalifa, Y., 1989. Yabrudichthys and Serrilepis, two new genera of Enchodontoids (Teleostei) from Lower Cenomanian beds of 'Ein-Yabrūd, Israel. Israel Journal of Zoology, 36: 11-38.
06. Chalifa, Y., 1989. Two new species of Longirostrine fishes from the Early Cenomanian (Late Cretaceous) of Ein-Yabrud, Israel, with comments on the phylogeny of the Dercetidae. Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 9 (3): 314-328.
07. Wilson, M.V.H. & Chalifa, Y., 1989. Fossil marine Actinopterygian fishes from the Kaskapau Formation (Upper Cretaceous: Turonian) near Watino, Alberta. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, 26: 2604-2620.
08. Chalifa, Y. & Lewy, Z., 1991. Early Maastrichtian marine Teleosts from the Northern Negev, Israel. Israel Journal of Earth Sciences, 40: 91-106.
09. Chalifa, Y., 1996. New species of Enchodus (Aulopiformis: Enchodontidae) from the Northern Negev, Israel, with comments on evolutionary trends in the Enchodontoidei. In G. Arratia & G. Viohl (Eds.): Mesozoic Fishes I – Systematics and Paleoecology, 349-367. Verlag Dr. Friedrich Pfeil, München.

New Taxa (in chronological order)

- Pachyamia* Chalifa & Tchernov, 1982
Pachyamia latimaxillaris Chalifa & Tchernov, 1982
Saurorhamphus judeaensis Chalifa, 1985
Parenchodus Raab & Chalifa, 1987
Parenchodus longipterygius Raab & Chalifa, 1987
Enchodus brevis Chalifa, 1989
Yabrudichthys Chalifa, 1989
Yabrudichthys striatus Chalifa, 1989
Serrilepis Chalifa, 1989
Serrilepis longidens Chalifa, 1989
Rhynchodercetis gracilis Chalifa, 1989
Dercetoides Chalifa, 1989
Dercetoides venator Chalifa, 1989
Enchodus zinensis Chalifa, 1996

Fellowships and grants

Support for collections-based research is provided by fellowships and grants. Here we list the fellowships and grants of faculty members of Tel Aviv University who are affiliated with the collections. Needless to say, the many colleagues from other research institutions in Israel and abroad also receive fellowships and grants that hinge, at least in part, on work in the natural history collections. These data, however, are not available to us.

While these fellowships and grants and others cannot support collections maintenance, they are very important for collection development since they provide the funds for active collecting, which are otherwise unavailable in the State of Israel. We do our best to help scientists use the collections and to promote collections-based biodiversity research.

- 2001- Tobias Landau Foundation. Research project: Colonization of artificial reefs in Elat (Red Sea) (Y. Benayahu). -20% allocated for collections-based research.
- 2002- On-going grant from the Nature and Parks Authority to "rescue" insects on the Golan and Hermon (V. Chikatunov and A. Freidberg).
- 2004-2007 Grant from the Israel Scientific Foundation. Exploitation and hunting patterns of Mountain Gazelle (*Gazella gazelle*) and Persian Fallow Deer (*Dama mesopotamica*) during the Late Pleistocene - Early Holocene of the Southern Levant: Testing the hypothesis of cultural control (3 year grant; ca. \$30,000 per annum (G. Bar-Oz and T. Dayan [C.I.]).
- 2004-2007 USAID-CDR, Research Project: Scientifically based framework for conserving and monitoring the Eritrean coral-reefs (Y. Benayahu).
- 2005-2006 Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority (P.I). For developing booklet and lesson plans on nature and antiquities conservation for Israel Defense Forces. (20,000 NIS ca. \$4,400) (Y. Gavrieli).

- 2005-2007 Grant from the USDA (and other donators) to develop the Parasitica collection (D. Gerling).
- 2005-2007 International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) (\$100,000) (E. Geffen and G. Roemer).
- 2005-2007 Porter School of Environmental Studies in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of the Environment: Artificial Marine Structures (AMS): Multifunctional Tool for Research and Environmental Management in the Mediterranean and Red Sea (MED- RED) (Y. Benayahu, Y. Loya and A. Abelson) -20% allocated for collections-based research.
- 2005-2007 Resolving the higher-level phylogeny of rodents using nuclear genes and SINEs retrotransposons. The United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation (start-up grant program) (\$30,000 per year) (D. Huchon and R.W. DeBry).
- 2005-2008 GLOWA Jordan River research grant: Modeling the impact of global climate change on terrestrial biodiversity in the Jordan River Basin: Testing planning scenarios and climate change scenarios (3 year grant; ca. EURO 35,000 per annum) (T. Dayan, P.I. of subproject).
- 2005-2009 The Israel Science Foundation (488/05); 4 years. Vocalization as an indicator of individual quality in the rock *hyrax* (\$180,000) (O. Mokady, E. Geffen and M. Kam).
- 2006 Ministry of Environment (P.I.). For developing an interpretation kit on Biodiversity for teachers. (35,000 NIS ca. \$7,800) (Y. Gavrieli).
- 2006 Ministry of Environment (P.I.). For developing learning resources for the public on issues of Sustainable Development on the Internet. (15,000 NIS ca. \$3,300) (Y. Gavrieli).
- 2006-2007 Government Advertising Agency – Lapam (P.I). For developing Nature's Resources on the Web (150,000 NIS ca. \$35,000) (Y. Gavrieli).
- 2006-2007 Has habitat fragmentation and rainpools geographic distance caused genetic variation among populations of the Syrian spadefoot toad *Pelobates syriacus syriacus* in Israel? Israel Nature Reserve and Parks Authorities. 80,000 NIS (S. Gafny and A. Freidman).

- 2006-2007 Mekorot. Bio-management of water quality in reservoir (M. Goren).
- 2006-2007 The effect of aquatic recreation activity on macroinvertebrate and fish assemblage in water bodies of the Hula Valley. Israel Nature Reserve and Parks Authorities. 80,000 NIS (S. Gafny and M. Goren).
- 2006-2008 Bridging the Rift Foundation research grant. Biodiversity in human-dominated landscapes in the Arava Rift Valley \$50,000 (T. Dayan and Y. Mandelik).
- 2006-2008 German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development grant: Patterns of biodiversity in natural and cultural landscapes: a model Mediterranean forest ecosystem (3 year grant; total sum EURO 158,000) (T. Dayan and T. Assmann).
- 2006-2009 Israel Science Foundation research grant. Animal bones, ancient populations, and site formation processes: A test case of Dor, a coastal Levantine site (3 year grant; 225,000 NIS [ca. \$50,000] per annum) (T. Dayan and G. Bar-Oz C.I.)
- 2006- 2010 Sponge (Metazoa: Porifera) phylogenetics using novel molecular markers. The Israel Science Foundation (NIS 270,000 per year). (D. Huchon).
- 2007 Nature Reserves Authority. The Feasibility assessment of restoration of the endangered loach- *Nemacheilus dori* (M. Goren).
- 2007 Nature Reserves Authority. The impact of tourism on aquatic biota (M. Goren).
- 2007 Ministry for Environmental Protection research grant ("The impact of the little fire ant *Wasmannia auropunctata* on arthropod biodiversity in Israel") (1 year grant; 93,000 NIS [ca. \$22,000]) (T. Dayan and A. Hefetz).
- 2007 Charles And Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation (P.I). For developing natural History Museum On-Line. (\$66,000 ca. 278,000 NIS) (Y. Gavrieli).
- 2007 Grant from the Bath Sheba de Rothschild Foundation to bring two visiting scientists (Peter Kareiva and William Sutherland) to Israel (\$8000) (T. Dayan and Zvi Ben-Avraham).

Graduate students

Much active scientific research is carried out by graduate students. Here we list the graduate students of faculty members affiliated with the National Collections of Natural History at Tel Aviv University who have used the collections for their research. We list also a few graduate students from other institutions of higher education, but names and affiliations of many others from Israel and abroad are unknown to us.

PhD students

- 1999- Liora Glass (E. Geffen and T. Dayan)
The ecology of jungle cats in natural and anthropogenic habitats in Israel.
- 2002- Hadass Schteinitz (Y. Yom-Tov and T. Dayan)
Estimating the effect of global warming on the distribution of Israeli animals.
- 2003- Andrey Aaronov (M. Goren)
Ecology of fishes in Mediterranean rocky habitats.
- 2003- B. Bahaa (I. HersHKovitz)
Macro and microstructure of the annulus fibrosus.
- 2003- Noa Shenkar (Y. Loya)
Bioactivity of Mediterranean and Red sea tunicates.
- 2003- Merav Weinstein (T. Dayan and A. Hefetz)
Invasive ants of Israel.
- 2004-2007 Efrat Gavish (Y. Lubin, Ben Gurion University)
Description of new spiders species from the family Linyphiidae.
- 2004- G. Dar (I. HersHKovitz)
Spondyloarthropathy.
- 2004- Liat Gahanama (A. Freidberg)
A revision of the *Schistopterum* clade of Schistopterini.
- 2004- Constantin Grach (A. Freidberg)
Ecology and biology of costal dune insects.

- 2005- Motti Charter (Y. Leshem)
- 2005- Yaron Krotman (M. Goren)
Fish biodiversity and ecology in oasis habitats in the Dead Sea Valley.
- 2005- Tal Levanony (T. Dayan)
Patterns of biodiversity in natural and cultural landscapes: a model Mediterranean forest ecosystem.
- 2005- Ofir Levy (T. Dayan and N. Kronfeld-Schor)
Modeling climate effects on temporally-partitioned rocky desert rodents: from basic principles to community structure.
- 2005- R. Sarig (I. Hershkovitz)
Interproximal wear.
- 2005- Amy Shlesinger (Y. Loya)
Predator-prey interactions between nudibranchs and their sea-anemone prey.
- 2005- Orit Skutelsky (T. Dayan and E. Feitelson)
Biodiversity conservation in biosphere reserves of Israel: the switch from a market led to conservation oriented agriculture.
- 2005- Assaf Zevoluni (Y. Loya)
Coral community dynamics in bleached and non-bleached coral reefs (Zanzibar vs. Elat).
- 2006- Eran Levin (Y. Yom-Tov and N. Kornfeld).
Ecophysiology of free-tailed bats.
- 2006- Lidar Sapir (T. Dayan and G. Bar-Oz, University of Haifa).
Animal bones, ancient populations, and site formation processes: A test case of Dor, a coastal Levantine site.
- 2007- Y. Aluma (M. Ilan)
Environment impact on sponge-fungi association.
- 2007- Amir Shitenberg (D. Huchon and M. Ilan)
Phylogeny and evolution of demosponges.

MSc students

- 2003-2006 Inbal Ginsburg (Y. Benayahu)
Farming of soft coral for reef rehabilitation purposes.
- 2003-2006 Amir Gur (M. Ilan)
Iron deposition in sponges.
- 2003- 2007 Larisa Lerner (A. Freidberg)
Studies of *Carpomyia* (Tephritidae).
- 2003- Shunit Gal (D. Gerling)
Variations within a species - *Bemisia tabaci* (due to parasitic bacteria).
- 2004-2006 Shani Inbar (D. Huchon)
Identification of new nuclear markers to solve sponge phylogeny.
- 2004-2006 Ariella Gotlieb (T. Dayan)
Ecological restoration of the Ze'elim wadi bed, near the Dead Sea.
- 2004-2007 Ido Sella (Y. Benayahu)
Cultivation of the soft coral *Sarcophyton glaucum*.
- 2004-2007 Amir Shitenberg (M. Goren)
Geographical variation in selected cichlid fish.
- 2004-2007 Yael Zaldam (Y. Benayahu)
Colonization of fixed and floating artificial marine structures at Elat (Red Sea).
- 2004-2007 Dror Zurel (Y. Benayahu)
Specificity of algal symbionts in horizontally acquired system.
- 2004- Haim Biala (V. Soroker, The Agricultural Research Organization of Israel)
Ants associated with banana aphids.
- 2004- Michal Meir (A. Freidberg and M. Sternberg)
Flower color variation in the thistle, *Syllibum marianum*.
- 2004- Adi Ramot (E. Groner and P. Bar, Ben Gurion University)
- 2004- Shachar Samra (A. Freidberg and D. Gerling)
Biology and taxonomy of selected Parasitica (Hymenoptera).

- 2004- Daniel Yashunski (M. Goren)
Succession of fish community in planted corals in Elat.
- 2005- 2007 Ophir Shneor (Y. Yom-Tov and D. Huchon).
Migration waves of a *Sylvia* warbler (*Sylvia atricapilla*).
- 2005- J. Abass (I. Hershkovitz)
Ligamentum flavum and spinal stenosis.
- 2005- Kfir Gaier (M. Goren)
The impact of grazing fish on invertebrate communities in eastern Mediterranean.
- 2005- Gali Gingold (Y. Yom-Tov and E. Geffen)
The effect of dogs on gazelles in the Golan Heights.
- 2005- Michal Grosovich (Y. Benayahu)
Habitat partitioning of three azooxanthellate soft corals in Elat (northern Red Sea).
- 2005- Nimrod Lazarus (Y. Loya)
Induction of metamorphosis in nudibranch larvae.
- 2005- Mustaga Mahagna (D. Gerling)
Identity of the whitefly *Aleurolobus marlatti* in Israel and its relationship with *A. niloticus*.
- 2005- Osnat Maor (M. Goren)
Reproductive biology the cyprinid fish *Garra rufa* in the Jordan River basin.
- 2005- H. May (I. Hershkovitz)
Hyperostosis Frontalis Interna.
- 2005- Erez Maza (T. Dayan)
Climate and land-use patterns in biodiversity.
- 2005- Oren Shelef (E. Groner and M. Shachak, Ben Gurion University)
- 2005- Tamir Shelhav (E. Groner and M. Shachak, Ben Gurion University)
- 2005- Ina Stierberg (T. Dayan)
Climatic gradients in biodiversity.

- 2005- Rafi Yaabetz (Y. Loya)
Reproductive cycle of a nudibranch.
- 2005- Kineret Yoktan (Y. Yom-Tov)
Phylogeography of the orange-tufted Sunbird *Nectarinia osea*.
- 2006- Frida Belinky (D. Huchon and A. Lotem)
Metazoan phylogeny and its implications for genome evolution.
- 2006- Z. Kochva (M. Ilan)
Sponge associated bacteria and their role in production of natural products.
- 2006- Shay Rotich (T. Dayan)
The effect of artificial illumination on a rocky desert rodent community.
- 2006- Bat Sheva Rotman (M. Goren)
The biology the balitorid fish *Nemacheilus jordanicus* in the Jordan River basin.
- 2006- Karin Tamar (T. Dayan).
Archeozoology of Tel Bet Shemesh.
- 2006- G. Tirosh (M. Ilan)
Sponge community in the Israeli Mediterranean coast.
- 2006- Michal Weis (Y. Benayahu)
Bivalves as colonizers of artificial marine structures at Eilat (Red Sea).
- 2007- Hagit Alphantary (M. Goren and Prof. Henig)
Analysis of decision making process in the case of Kishon River

Post-docs

- 2004-2007 Noam Leader (Y. Yom-Tov)
- 2006-2007 Yael Mandelik (T. Dayan)
- 2006 P. Sauleu (M. Ilan)

Visiting scientists at the National Collections

The attached list includes visitors from institutions **other than** Tel Aviv University who came personally to use the natural history collections of Tel Aviv University in the past academic year. Much use is made of the collections by additional scientists who did not visit them in person. Some scientists get identification services for their research projects and others have lists of specimens and locations mailed to them for various types of research. Moreover, during this period numerous parcels containing scientific materials were mailed abroad for researchers in their home institutions.

Date	Name	Institute	Country	Taxonomic group
2006-2007	Y. Nagar	Israel Antiquity Authority	Israel	Anthropology
2006-2007	M. Meir	Tel Aviv University	Israel	Entomology
2006-2007	T. Ram	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Israel	Entomology
2006 Oct	Z. Brosh	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds
2006 Oct	I. Shapira	University of Haifa	Israel	Entomology
2006 Dec	Z. Brosh	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds
2006 Dec	O. Hazofe	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Israel	Birds
2007 Jan	C. Arad	University of Haifa	Israel	Molluscs
2007 Jan	E. Sheffer	IOLR - Haifa	Israel	Molluscs
2007 Jan	Z. Brosh	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds
2006 Dec	Oded	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Israel	Birds
2007 Jan	O. Paz		Israel	Mammals
2007 Jan	A. Oren	Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences	Israel	Mammals
2007 Jan	S. Vaisberg	Open University	Israel	Mammals

Date	Name	Institute	Country	Taxonomic group
2007 Jan	C. Dimentman	Hebrew University	Israel	Entomology
2007 Jan	B. Feldmann	Munster	Germany	Entomology
2007 Jan	W. Starke	Warendorf	Germany	Entomology
2007 Jan	T. Assmann	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Chemistry, University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Jan	I. De-Groote	University Collage London Department of Anthropology	England	Anthropology
2007 Jan-Jul	R. Sarig	Tel Aviv University	Israel	Anthropology
2007 Jan, Feb, Apr	L. Taovman	Tel Aviv University	Israel	Anthropology
2007 Feb	Z. Brosh	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds
2007 Feb	A. Haber	University of Chicago	USA	Mammals
2007 Feb	M. Wakgari	Haramaya University	Ethiopia	Entomology
2007 Feb	A. Ogunfunmilayo	Plant Quarantine Service	Nigeria	Entomology
2007 Feb	F. Bocquentin	CNRS University of Bordeaux	France	Anthropology
2007 Feb	G.O. Asier	University of Burgos Burgos	Spain	Anthropology
2007 Mar	A group of artists		Israel	All Colections
2007 Mar	O. Hazofe	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Israel	Birds
2007 Mar	Z. Brosh	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds
2007 Mar	D. Knigshtein	I.M.S.	Israel	Molluscs
2007 Mar	A. Haber	University of Chicago	USA	Mammals
2007 Mar	G. Hartman	Harward University	USA	Mammals
2007 Mar	O. Sela	University of Haifa	Israel	Mammals
2007 Mar	J. Wasche	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	K. J. Ripake	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology

Date	Name	Institute	Country	Taxonomic group
2007 Mar	K. Stumpf	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	K. Koch	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	N. Anchens	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	T. Wriedt	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	J. Busch	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	J. Buse	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	T. Assmann	University of Luneburg	Germany	Entomology
2007 Mar	P. Cerreti	University of Rome	Italy	Entomology
2007 Mar	D. Whitmore	Cntro Nazionale per la Biodiversita Forestale	Italy	Entomology
2007 Apr	Z. Brosh	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds
2007 Apr	E. Spanier	Hebrew University	Israel	Crustaceans
2007 Apr	N. Weil	Hebrew University	Israel	Molluscs
2007 Apr	M. Ashkenazi	Tel aviv University	Israel	Anthropology
2007 Apr	I. Klain	Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center	Israel	Anthropology
2007 May	A. Oren	Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences	Israel	Mammals
2007 May	E. Spanier	Hebrew University	Israel	Crustaceans
2007 May	A. Kurzawska	Poland Academy of Sciences	Poland	Molluscs
2007 May	U. Galili	Israel Antiquity Authority	Israel	Molluscs
2007 Jun	A. Oren	Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences	Israel	Mammals
2007 Jun	A. Kurzawska	Poland Academy of Sciences	Poland	Molluscs
2007 Jun	E. J. Donahayi		Israel	Entomology
2007 Jun	R. Pinhasi	School of Human & Life Sciences, Roehampton University, London	England	Anthropology

Date	Name	Institute	Country	Taxonomic group
2007 Jul	A group of artists		Israel	All Collections
2007 Jul	S. Conдеми	CNRS University of Bordeaux	France	Anthropology
2007 Jul	L. Eavens-Johnson	University of Iowa, Iowa City	USA	Anthropology
2007 Aug	A. Kurzawska	Poland Academy of Sciences	Poland	Molluscs
2007 Aug	Z. Brosh	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds
2007 Aug	H. Frank	Israeli Air Force	Israel	Birds

Support for academic and other courses

The natural history collections are university-based and, as such, their role is also to promote higher education. Some courses are TAU courses, several of which are our compulsory first and second year courses, taught to hundreds of students; however, other universities (Technion, University of Haifa, Open University) use our facilities for their specialized courses, as does the Avshalom Institute. Many Nature Campus activities also take place using the collections for varied audiences.

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Faunistics of Mammals (academic course)	Y. Yom-Tov	Tel Aviv University	Mammals, Taxidermist and Museum Class
Insects the Flagship of Biodiversity (academic course)	A. Freidberg and D. Simon	Tel Aviv University	Entomology
Faunistica (academic course)	Z. Arad	Technion	Birds, Mammals and Museum Class
Vertebrates Anatomy (academic course)	D. Eilam, M. Ovadia and U. Oron	Tel Aviv University	Reptilia, Mammals and Taxidermist
Animal Behavior	I. Golani	Tel Aviv University	Mammals and Museum Class
Introduction to Animal Kingdom: Invertebrates and Vertebrates (academic course)	M. Ovadia and A. Gasith	Tel Aviv University	Mammals and Entomology
The Invertebrates: Comparative Functional Biology (academic course)	M. Ilan, Y. Benayahu and A. Abelson	Tel Aviv University	Invertebrates, Entomology and Histology
Osteology And Anthropology (academic course)	I. Hershkovitz	Tel Aviv University	Anthropology

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Physical Anthropology (academic course)	Y. Rak	Tel Aviv University	Anthropology
Human Evolution: fossil evidences (academic course)	Y. Rak	Tel Aviv University	Anthropology
Chapters in Human Evolution (academic course)	Y. Rak	Tel Aviv University	Anthropology
Ichthyology (academic course)	M. Goren	Tel Aviv University	Fishes and Museum Class
Biology and Systematic of Marine Invertebrates: (academic course)	Y. Benayahu	Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences	Invertebrates
Bird Fauna (academic course)	N. Leader	Open University	Birds and Museum Class
Guiding Students	D. Bar-Yosef	University of Haifa	Molluscs
Guiding Students	G. Bar-Oz	University of Haifa	Mammals and Museum Class
Bird-Watching	T. Shariv	Avshalom Institute	Birds and Museum Class
Bird-Watching		Israeli Air Force	Birds and Museum Class
Various seminars	Elat District	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Mammals, Birds and Museum Class
Various seminars	Nature Campus	Tel Aviv University	Mammals, Birds, Entomology and Museum Class
Guided tours to schoolchildren	Nature Campus	Tel Aviv University	Mammals, Birds, Entomology and Museum Class

Support for various individuals and organizations

The TAU natural history collections function as a national collection, by providing services to the scientific committee, as well as to other organizations and, to the best of our abilities under currently constrained conditions, also to the general public. Here we list **a sample** of the services provided by the collections in the past academic year. We apologize that the list is not full, but in the current conditions of under-staffing we are unable to dedicate the human-power to monitor and record all such activities.

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Taxonomic guidance (learning the procedure)	V. Sepliarsky	PPIS of the ministry of Agriculture	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification		Plant Protection and Inspection Services	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification		Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification		Tel Aviv Municipality	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	A. Gasith	Tel Aviv University	Entomology and Invertebrates
Taxonomy Identification	E. Nevo & T. Pavlicek	University of Haifa	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	M. Finkel	University of Haifa	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	E. Groner	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	I. Hoffman	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	I. Renan	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	O. Shelef	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	Habtab	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Entomology

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Taxonomy Identification	U. Shanas	Oranim Academic College	Entomology
Taxonomy Identification	E. van dan Brink	Israel Antiquity Authority	Molluscs
Taxonomy Identification	U. Galili	Israel Antiquity Authority	Molluscs
Taxonomy Identification	T. Oron	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Molluscs
Taxonomy Identification	S. Moran	Plant Protection and Inspection Services	Molluscs
Taxonomy Identification	E. Sheffer	IOLR - Haifa	Molluscs
Taxonomy Identification	D. Knigshtein	I.M.S.	Molluscs
Taxonomy Identification	North Distric	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Fishes
Taxonomy Identification	I. Zohar	Tel Aviv University	Fishes
Taxidermist services	D. Eilam	Tel Aviv University	Birds, Mammals and Taxidermist
Taxidermist services	A. Lotem	Tel Aviv University	Birds and Taxidermist
Taxidermist services	Y. Leshem	Tel Aviv University	Birds and Taxidermist
Taxidermist services	Nature Campus	Tel Aviv University	Mammals, Birds and Taxidermist
Taxidermist services	O. Hazofe	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Birds and Taxidermist
Electronic Data	S. Ashkenazi U. Safriel	Hebrew University	All collections
Electronic Data	G. Fridman		Aves
Electronic Data	G. Hartman	Harvard university	Mammals
Electronic Data	A. Haber	University of Chicago	Mammals
Electronic Data	M. Meir	Tel Aviv University	Entomology
Electronic Data	Alessandro	Tel Aviv University	Entomology

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Electronic Data	L. Gahanama	USA	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	X. Turon	University of Barcelona, Spain	Invertebrates: Tunicates
Shipment of Specimens	B. S. Galil	New York	Invertebrates: Echinodermata
Shipment of Specimens	C. S. McFadden	Department of Biology, Harvey Mudd College, Claremon	Invertebrates: Soft Corals
Shipment of Specimens	S. Tambutt	Centre scientifique de Monaco	Invertebrates: Soft Corals
Shipment of Specimens	M. H. Schleyer	Oceanographic Research Institute, South African	Invertebrates: Soft Corals
Shipment of Specimens	L. van Ofwegen	National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, Netherlands	Invertebrates: Soft Corals
Shipment of Specimens	R. van Soest	Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam	Invertebrates: Sponges
Shipment of Specimens	N. Maughan	Université de Provence, France	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	B.D. Valentine	Sarasota, Florida	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	C. Schmid-Egger	Staatssammlung München, Germany	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	Ho-Yeon Han	Yonsei University, Korea	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	B. Feldmann	Muenster, Germany	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	W. Starke	Warendorf, Germany	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	M. Gates	Smithsonian Institution, USA	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	T. Assman	University of Lueneburg, Germany	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	R. Beenen	Nieuwegein, The Netherlands	Entomology

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Shipment of Specimens	M. Barclay	The Natural History Museum, England	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	G. Broad	The Natural History Museum, England	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	D. Quicke	Imperial College London, England	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	M. Ünal	Abant izzet Baysal Üniversitesi, Turkey	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	K. Rognes	University of Stavanger, Norway	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	M. De Meyer	Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	M. Petridis	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	M. Gates	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, USA	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	J. Pelletier	Monnaie, France	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	A. Velázquez de Castro	Valencia, Spain	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	V. A. Korneyev	Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, Ukraine	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	G. Evans	Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, USA	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	C.-C. Ko	National Taiwan University, Taiwan	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	G. Nardi	Centro Nazionale per lo Studio e la Conservazione della Biodiversità Forestale, Marmiolo, Italy	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	P. Cerretti	Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy	Entomology

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Shipment of Specimens	D. Whitmore	Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	B.R. Stuckenberg	Natal Museum, South Africa	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	J. Stary	Palacky University, Czech Republic	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	L. Davis	Gainesville, Florida	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	M. Kadej	Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, Wrocław, Poland	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	B. Kolics	Pannon University, Hungary	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	A. A. Legalov	Siberian Zoological Museum, Novosibirsk, Russia	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	H. D. López Hernández	de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	L. Gültekin	Atatürk University, Erzurum, Turkey	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	A. Draber-Mońko	Museum and Institute of Zoology PAS, Poland	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	I. Winkler	University of Maryland, MD USA	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	A. Campanaro	University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome Italy	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	T. Dikow	American Museum of Natural History, New York	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	H.-Y. Han	Yonsei University, Korea	Entomology
Shipment of Specimens	Curator of the fish collection	Fish Section, National Science Museum, Japan	Fishes

Purpose	Name	Institute	Taxonomic group
Shipment of Specimens	R. Winterbottom	Department of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada	Fishes
Shipment of Specimens	S. L. Jewett	Division of fish, Smithsonian Institution, Washington	Fishes
Shipment of Specimens	S. Durna	Cumhuriyet University, Science and Literature Faculty, Turkey	Fishes

Publications

The national collections of natural history are an important research infrastructure, used by scientists within and without the university. Approximately a decade ago we compiled the list of publications based on our natural history collections, and arrived at over 1200 publication produced by over 550 scientists. This list was incomplete, for technical reasons related to reconstructing this record, and since it did not include the sizable list of publications based upon the anthropological collections. Our current list of the 2006/2007 publications, alas, is also incomplete; it includes all publications of TAU members affiliated with the collections, and under-represents publications of individuals from other institutions, since our follow up is far from complete.

Refereed articles

1. Aartsen, J.J. van and Goud, J. 2006. Indo-Pacific migrants into the Mediterranean. 3. *Atys angustatus* Smith, 1872 (Gastropoda, Opisthobranchia). Basteria 70(1-3):29-31.
2. Aartsen, J.J. van and Goud, J. 2006. Indo-Pacific migrants into the Mediterranean. 6. *Syrnola lentix* (A. Adams, 1863) (Gastropoda, Pyramidellidae). Basteria 70(4-6):164-166.
3. Aartsen, J.J. van and Goud, J. 2006. The Ungulinidae (Bivalvia, Lucinoidea) of the Red Sea. Basteria 70(1-3):41-52.
4. Aartsen, J.J. van and Hori, S. 2006. Indo-Pacific migrants into the Mediterranean. 2. *Monotigma lauta* (A. Adams, 1853) and *Leucotina natalensis* Smith, 1910 (Gastropoda, Pyramidellidae). Basteria 70(1-3):1-6.
5. Aartsen, J.J. van, 2006. Indo-Pacific migrants into the Mediterranean. 4. *Cerithidium diplax* (Watson, 1886) and *Cerithidium perparvulum* (Watson, 1886) (Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda). Basteria 70(1-3):33-39.
6. Ahyong, S.T. and Galil, B.S. 2006. Polychelidae from the southern and western Pacific (Decapoda, Polychelida). Zoosystema 28(3):757-767.
7. Bar-Zeev, U. and Mienis, H.K. 2007. A record of *Rumina decollate* from a second area in China (Gastropoda, Subulinidae). Tentacle 15:10-11.
8. Bogi, C. and Galil, B.S. 2006 Nuovi ritrovamenti lungo le coste Israeliane. Notizario S.I.M 24(5-8):16-18.

9. Bogi, C. and Galil, B.S. 2007. First record of *Theora (Endopleura) lubrica* Gould, 1861 (Mollusca: bivalvia: Semelidae) from a Levantine port. *Aquatic Invasions* 2(1): 77-79.
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- 2006 Comparative skeletal features between Homo Floresiensis and patients with Laron Syndrome. XVI Paleopathology Association European Meeting, Santorini, Greece (Hershkovitz, I., Kornreich, L. and Laron, Z.).
- 2006 Determining sacral inclination with Computed Tomography: A new method. The Israel Radiological Association Conference (Peled, N., Gaspar, T., Peleg, S., Dar, G., Masharawi, Y., Steinberg, N. and Hershkovitz, I.).
- 2006 Facet and interfacet shape and orientation in spondylolysis: a skeletal study. The SSE Annual Meeting EuroSpine; Istanbul, Turkey (Masharawi, Y., Dar, G., Peleg, S., Steinberg, N., Medleg, B., Ezra, D., Alperovitch-Najenson, D. and Hershkovitz, I.).
- 2006 Muscle atrophy and low back pain: A CT study. The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) meeting (Alperovitch-Nejenson, D., Peled, N., Masharawi, Y., Robinson, D., Kalichman, L., Steinberg, N. and Hershkovitz, I.).
- 2006 Sacroiliac joint fusion: clinical implications. The Israel Radiological Association Conference (Peled, N., Gaspar, T., Dar, G., Peleg, S., Masharawi, Y., Steinberg, N. and Hershkovitz, I.).
- 2006 The shape of the neural arch as a causative factor in the isthmic spodylosis: characterization and biomechanical implications. Physical Therapy in Sport-International Conference; Birmingham, UK (Masharawi, Y., Alperovitch-Najenson, D., Dar, G., Peleg, S., Steinberg, N., Salame, K. and Hershkovitz, I.).

- 2006 43th meeting of the Zoological Society of Israel. Raanana, (Israel). The complete mt genome of *Negombata magnifica*: Implications on metazoan phylogeny. (Belinky, F., Rot, C., Ilan, M. and Huchon, D.).
- 2006 International Society for Reef Studies, European Meeting, Breman Germany. Characterization of symbiotic algal cells in a vertical system: Red Sea soft corals (D. Zurel and Y. Benayahu).
- 2006 The 25th Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel. 14.8.2007, Hebrew University, Rehovot, Faculty of Agriculture. Noctuidae (Lepidoptera) – pests of Israel (Poster) (Seplyarsky, V., Kravchenko, V. and Müller, G.).
- 2006 The 25th Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel. 14.8.2007, Hebrew University, Rehovot, Faculty of Agriculture. Deserticolous moths of Israel (Poster) (Seplyarsky, V., Kravchenko, V. and Müller, G.).
- 2006 The 43rd Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel, 1st December Raanana. Restocking of the extinct fish *Acanthobrama telavivensis* as a test case for the possibility to save endangered species (Goren, M. E. Elron, B. Libes, Y. Krotman and Y. Gueta).
- 2007 CIESM Workshop n 32, Lisboa, Portugal, 21-24 February 2007, Co-organizer, Impact of mariculture on Mediterranean coastal ecosystems (B.S. Galil).
- 2007 38th CIESM Congress, Istanbul, April, 2007. Co-organizer, Co-chair, Living Resources and Marine Ecosystems session (B.S. Galil).
- 2007 27th Annual Meeting of the Department of Eretz Yisrael Studies and Archeology, Bar-Ilan University (invited to chair a session on conservation in Israel – present and future) (T. Dayan).
- 2007 35th Annual Meeting of the Israel Society for Ecology and Environmental Quality Studies (ISEEQS), Rehovot, Israel (invited to chair a session on invasive species) (T. Dayan).
- 2007 Biodiversity in the eastern Mediterranean: present and future. The XII European Congress of Ichthyology (ECI XII). 9–13 September. Cavtat (Dubrovnik), Croatia. (Key note. Abstract) (Goren,M.).
- 2007 Do endeared species doomed to become extinct? The XII European Congress of Ichthyology (ECI XII). 9–13 September. Cavtat (Dubrovnik), Croatia. (Abstract) (Goren,M.).
- 2007 Evolution 2007. Christchurch, (New Zealand).DNA sequencing and SINE insertions support *Laonastes* as a “living fossil”. (Huchon, D., Chevret, P.,

Jordan, U., Kilpatrick, W.C., Ranwez, V., Jenkins, P.D., Brosius, J. and Schmitz, J.).

2007 Museum & the Web, San Francisco, USA (Y.Gavrieli).

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Public programs - Nature Campus

Nature Campus continued in its activities to advance communication of science about the natural history and living environment of Israel to children, teachers, nature guides, and the general public. In some programs, natural history collections play a key role, while in other programs artifacts such as skulls, bones, nests, eggs, live insects and stuffed animals are integrated into the learning experience.

Programs based on the natural history collections:

Public programs:

- **Guided Tours.** The program offers a two hour activity at the I. Meier Segals Garden for Zoological Research or the Botanic Gardens. During 2006/2007, the Gardens played host to 5200 visitors comprised of groups of schoolchildren ages 6-18, teachers, nature guides, students from other institutions of higher education, and other organized groups.
- **Science Days.** The program offers a three to four-hour activity for classes at the Natural History Collections (the "Museum Class") as well as at the Gardens. Most of the activity at the collections is based on the collection's artifacts. The themes that are covered are diverse and include, among others, Marine Biology, Nature Conservation, Biodiversity, Reproduction in Nature, Plants and Their Environment, Predators and Prey, Evolution of Man, Adaptation, and Ecology of Temporary Winter Pools. The number of participants in these programs was 2300 children.
- **Urban Nature.** Inner city children are estranged from nature and usually do not see the rich living world that surrounds them – in the schoolyard, in city parks and even inside their schools and homes. In this semester-long program, classes meet weekly to study various issues, for example the insects, birds and plants in the school environs, the interaction between

them, and ecosystem they comprise. We also bring the children to the University for activities at the Zoological and Botanic Gardens. During 2006/2007 the program operated in cooperation with the Price-Brodie Initiative. 250 children from the community of Yafo participated in this semester long program.

- Science Camps. Science camps were being held during the Hannukah, Passover and summer school vacations. The camp, a 5 days program, offers a scientific exploration of the biosphere for primary school children. Each day is focused on a major phenomenon or process in the living world, for example the food web, behavior and communication, and adaptation. This year we were not allowed to market the program to TAU staff by TAU e-mail network, our main audience and avenue of marketing. Therefore, only 116 children participated
- Professional Development and Training Days. Diverse training programs offer conservation biology enrichment for teachers and environmental organizations staff. The professional training program is tailored according to the participants' requirements. This year 210 professionals, including teachers, participated in our in-service training programs.

Overall, participation in Nature Campus programs grew 13% compared to 2005/2006.

On-Line resources

Since the Collections capacity for public visitation is much limited, we put special effort in developing Nature Campus website – www.campusteva.tau.ac.il – which outreaches to the public, and offers, in a language understandable to all, the wealth of scientific research based on the Natural History Collections (Learning resources section).

- Zoo On-Line is a joint project with TAU I. Meier Segals Garden for Zoological Research. 6-8 cameras are continuously broadcasting from the Zoo. The pictures are accompanied with information, updated by Nature Campus webmaster, on the Zoo inhabitants. The project is supported by Israel Electric Company and Moked Amon Security Company.

Earthweb: our changing world. An online primer. During 2007 we have launched a new website – www.earthweb.tau.ac.il . The website – an online primer, offers information in Hebrew about the Earth systems, ecosystem services and highlight from status reports worldwide. The website was developed with the kind support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation Additional to being an open website it will also serve in the coming year as a foundation for youth competitions on sustainable development (developed with the Ministries of Education and of Environmental Protection).

Collections budget

הוצאות שכר

סך העלות	מספר משרות	
4,146,649	16.5	סה"כ אוצרים
1,830,482	3.5	אוצרים (1)
854,400	2	אוצרים - עמיתי מחקר
0	5	אוצרים בגמלאות
1,043,901	5	מדענים עולים
417,866	1	אוצרים נלווים (2)
0		אחר
2,457,456	12	סגל טכני (4)
15,800		הוצאות שכר אחרות (מחשוב)
6,619,905	28.5	סה"כ הוצאות שכר

הוצאות שאינן שכר

35,463	הוצאות אחסון
53,570	הוצאות שימור
53,601	הוצאות תיעוד וקטלוג
148,914	הוצאות לשיפור מצב האוספים (3)
291,548	סה"כ הוצאות שאינן שכר

6,911,453	סה"כ הוצאות לפני הוצאות מנהל ומשק
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1,382,291	הוצאות מנהל ומשק (20%)
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8,293,743	סה"כ הוצאות
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מקורות מימון

1,340,096	השתתפות ות"ת:
601,096	השתתפות ות"ת - קמ"ע
739,000	השתתפות ות"ת
5,695,777	השתתפות מוסד:
2,542,302	השתתפות המוסד בהוצאות שכר האוצרים
1,479,637	השתתפות המוסד בהוצאות שכר הסגל הטכני
291,548	השתתפות המוסד בהוצאות שאינן שכר
1,382,291	השתתפות המוסד - הוצאות כלליות
1,257,870	הכנסות מגופים ציבוריים:
993,619	מענקי מחקר
264,251	משרד הקליטה
8,293,743	סה"כ הכנסות
0	עודף (גרעון)

- (1) שכר האוצרים מהווה 50% ממשרתם של אנשי הסגל הבכיר הפעילים במוסד ושהנם בעלי אחריות ישירה על אוספים ספציפיים.
- (2) שכר האוצרים הנילווים מהווה 20% ממשרתם של הפעילים במוסד.
- (3) הוצאות לשיפור מצב האוספים כוללות השלמת אוספים וטיפול במערך האיחסון.
- (4) לא כולל הוצאות והכנסות בגין קמפוס טבע
- לא נלקחה בחישוב הוצאה בסך כ-\$6M הנדרשת למחשוב אוסף אנטומולוגי והעלאת קואורדינטות על נתוני אוספים.

מחירי ספטמבר 2007 עלויות חיצוניות

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Museum staff

Tamar Dayan	Department of Zoology	Director
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Curators (TAU faculty members)

Yoram Yom-Tov	Department of Zoology	Higher Vertebrates
Yehuda Benayahu	Department of Zoology	Invertebrates
Amnon Freidberg	Department of Zoology	Entomology
Yehoshua Kugler (emeritus)	Department of Zoology	Entomology
Menachem Goren	Department of Zoology	Fishes
Lev Fishelson (emeritus)	Department of Zoology	Fishes
Dorothee Huchon	Department of Zoology	Molecular Systematics
Baruch Arensburg (emeritus)	Department of Anatomy & Anthropology	Physical Anthropology
Yoel Rak	Department of Anatomy & Anthropology	Physical Anthropology
Israel Hershkovitz	Department of Anatomy & Anthropology	Physical Anthropology
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Margalith Galun (emeritus)	Department of Plant Sciences	Lichens
Jacob Garty	Department of Plant Sciences	Lichens
Ya'akov Lipkin (emeritus)	Department of Plant Sciences	Algae

Curators (TAU faculty members; new immigrants in various absorption schemes)

Silvia Blumenfeld	Department of Plant Sciences	Fungi
Vladimir Chikatunov	Department of Zoology	Coleoptera
Vassily Kravchenko	Department of Zoology	Lepidoptera
Sergei Zonstein	Department of Zoology	Arachnidae
Andy Lehrer (emeritus)	Department of Zoology	Diptera
Yuri Katz (emeritus)	Department of Zoology	Paleontology
Olga Orlov-Labkovsky	Department of Zoology	Micropaleontology

Associate curators (faculty members)

Yossi Loya	Department of Zoology	Stony Corals
Micha Ilan	Department of Zoology	Sponges
Dan Gerling	Department of Zoology	Hymenoptera
Abraham Hefetz	Department of Zoology	Entomology
Bella S. Galil	Israel Oceanographic & Limnological Research - Haifa	Crustaceans
Danny Simon	Department of Zoology	Formicidae
Ilan Yarom	Hazeva Research & Development	Diptera
Eli Geffen	Department of Zoology	Molecular Systematics
Ofer Mokady	Department of Zoology	Molecular Systematics
Elazar Kochva (emeritus)	Department of Zoology	Herpetology

Technical assistants (assistant curators, collection managers, technicians, taxidermist)

Ann Belinsky	Department of Zoology
Revital Ben-David-Zaslow, PhD	Department of Zoology
Avigail Ben-Dov	Department of Zoology
Vered Eshed, PhD	Department of Anatomy & Anthropology
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Anat Feldman	Content Development
Shiri Shnieor	Public Programs Coordinator