

# Natural History Museum Collections

This molt from a spider crab was found in an Aquarium tank and accessioned as part of the collection.

**Museum staff collect and identify all plants and animals found in Bermuda; which are then listed in the Biodiversity database.**



## Project Objectives

The Natural History Museum is dedicated to:

- the collection and accessioning of Bermuda's plants and animals;
- providing a record of all endemic & native species that occur in Bermuda, organisms that arrived accidentally, geological samples and fossils;
- support collaborations with other institutions and visiting researchers.

## Summary

The **Natural Collections** are the compiled record of marine and terrestrial life in Bermuda. They are incomplete and there is a constant need to collect or acquire representative specimens of all plant and animal life in order to improve our understanding of the biological diversity that exists in Bermuda.

The Collections are a tool to measure changes in Bermuda's natural world. The Museum staff and other researchers investigate all of Bermuda's terrestrial and marine habitats to catalogue the occurrence of different species. If an unusual organism is found then the Museum staff will use the Collections to determine if it had been recorded from Bermuda previously or if it is a new record. If a new record is determined then it is important to assess if it arrived naturally or was transported by human means.



Off course and unlucky a **Wood Duck** and a **Bridled Tern** found dead in Bermuda (2011). Both were added to the collection.

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Preserved fishes

The Collections are divided into dry and wet specimens. For example, all Bermuda's terrestrial plants and marine algae are pressed and dried as herbarium specimens that will last for centuries in the climate controlled collections room. Geological specimens, fossils, corals and shells are also preserved in dry conditions. Many soft-bodied marine animals such as worms, anemones and fishes are preserved in alcohol.



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA  
**Ministry of Public Works**  
Department of Conservation Services