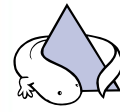


STATE MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY
KARLSRUHE
GERMANY



MUSEUM

VIVARIUM

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS

RESEARCH INSTITUTE





MUSEUM

Today, the State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe is not only a popular museum but also one of Germany's most important biodiversity research institutes.

Its first collections date back to the activities of Margravine Caroline Luise of Baden and were established 1785, in the age of Enlightenment, a time of awakening interest in nature and science.

In the face of increasing global environmental problems and their impact on nature the museum wants to raise public awareness of the fragility of our planet. In this respect it promotes the discovery and enjoyment of nature and the responsible use of natural resources.

A primary objective of the museum staff is to advance the understanding of the diversity and history of life on Earth through biological and geological research and to communicate the results of this research to a wider audience through publications, exhibitions and educational programmes.



The Museum houses exciting permanent exhibitions and regularly presents temporary shows on a wide variety of fascinating subjects.

In addition a broad range of courses and activities is offered. From guided tours to science classes for children – the museum staff are committed to sharing their knowledge and help people experience nature as part of their everyday life.



- BOTANY
- ENTOMOLOGY
- ZOOLOGY
- GEOSCIENCES

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The four scientific departments undertake basic and applied research in different parts of the world:

- taxonomy, ecology and distribution of plant parasitic microfungi
- ecology and biogeography of sphagna in Europe
- vegetation, climate and settlement history in Late Glacial and Holocene of middle Europe using a combination of chemical techniques in tandem with the classical methods of pollen and plant macrofossil-analyses
- biodiversity and ecology of ants and their interactions with other organisms
- taxonomy and systematics of Near and Middle East lepidoptera
- taxonomy and biodiversity of Neotropical spiders
- diversity and function of soil organisms
- development of sustainable agroforestry systems and regeneration of forests in the tropics
- development of biological classification systems of habitat quality
- stratigraphy and taxonomy of the Permotriassic and Cenozoic
- palaeobiogeography, evolution and biology of Mesozoic reptiles
- Cenozoic of the Upper-Rhine rift valley



VIVARIUM

One of the major attractions of the museum is the Vivarium. A colourful variety of living creatures including marine invertebrates, fishes, frogs, snakes and lizards can be seen at close quarters. The fresh and sea-water aquariums, terrariums and paludariums capture the atmosphere of their natural habitats. The Vivarium is also highly successful at breeding corals and many other species.



An exciting new permanent exhibition explains the effect of climate on ecosystems and flora and fauna. In a multimedia installation the visitors can experience the development of Earth's climate.

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS

The museum holds and manages world-class scientific collections. The curators care for more than 4 million specimens in the fields of botany, entomology, geology, palaeontology and zoology: they are the working basis for their own research. In addition, scientists from all over the world benefit from these collections and the expertise of the museum's staff.

The Museum holds valuable collections of most plant, animal and fungal groups from southern Germany, and internationally renowned collections of African birds and mammal skulls, butterflies and moths, ants, beetles and spiders from various parts of the world, as well as worldwide collections of copepod crustaceans, lichens and rust fungi. Geosciences hold important collections of minerals, palaeozoic fishes, Mesozoic reptiles and pterosaurs.

The current taxonomic and systematic expertise of the museum's curatorial staff covers lichens, European peat mosses, rust and smut fungi, oribatid mites, spiders and ants, curculionid beetles, Near and Middle East lepidoptera and vertebrate palaeontology.



Biodiversity Research at the Natural History Museum Karlsruhe

The term biodiversity describes the extraordinary variety of life on Earth – from genes and species to ecosystems and their valuable functions and services. The continuing loss of biodiversity will have a severe impact on human society and ecosystems.

Discovery, description and understanding of the world's biological diversity, and its conservation and sustainable use, are the big challenges of the 21st century. Only sound science allows to devise suitable environmental and social policies and to develop management strategies that experts can apply to complex systems.

The Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe with its collections and scientific expertise is well-qualified to participate in the “Global Call for Action”, launched by the “Convention on Biological Diversity” CBD, which is an agreement signed by 150 governments at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.



The museum also participates in the “Global Biodiversity Information Facility” network programme and provides taxonomic data for several nodes within its German subnet (www.gbif.de).

Biodiversity research activities focus mainly on regions in the world where biodiversity is both high and at the same time threatened by human activities:

- **The Black Forest (Schwarzwald) (since 1930)**
- **European Alps (since 2002)**
- **The Amazon region (since 1962)**
- **The Brazilian coastal rainforest Mata Atlântica (since 1997)**
- **Iran and Afghanistan (since 1956)**
- **Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (since 1972)**



In all these research projects the teams of the State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe work and collaborate respecting national and international regulations as well as ethical and social conditions in the host countries and commit themselves to equality in research partnership.



State Museum of Natural
History Karlsruhe

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