

Online specimens at MNHN

Stable HTTP URIs for Specimens Workshop – Edinburgh 2013

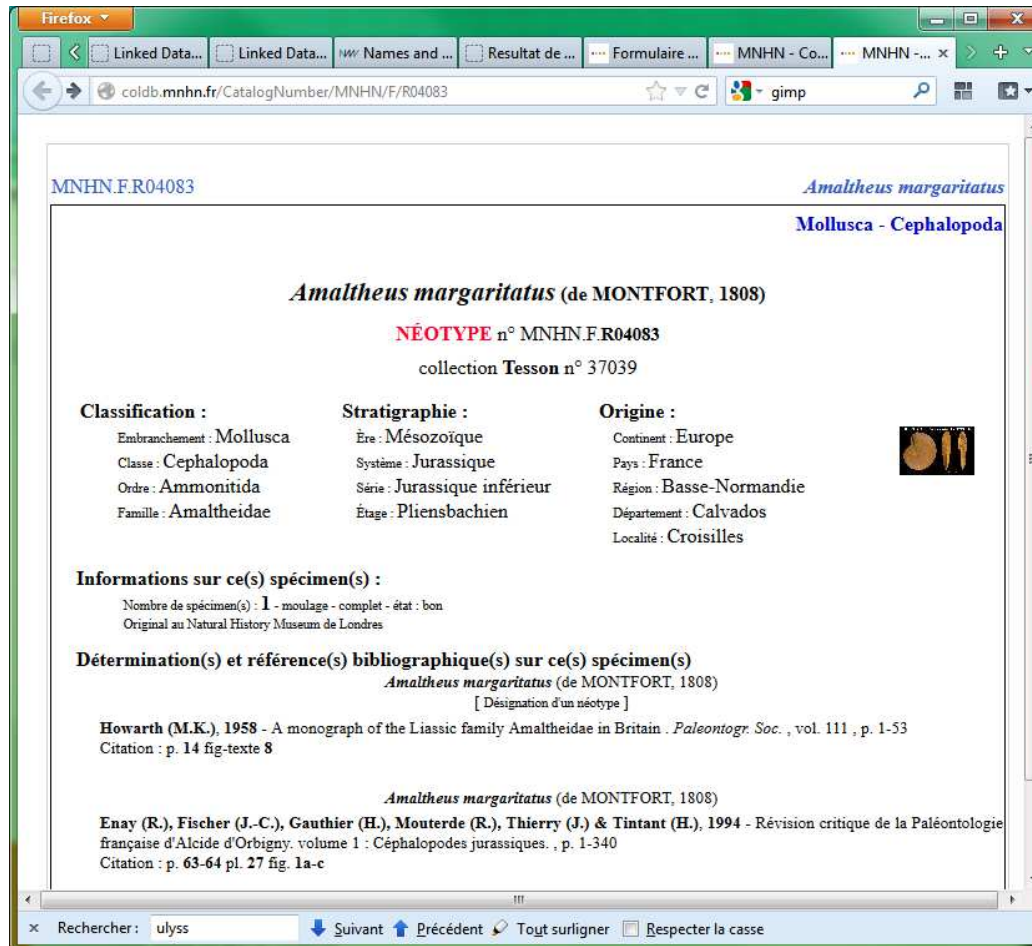
Specimens and specimen pages

- ▶ **Very diverse collections**
 - ▶ Botany, Zoology but also Geology, Anthropology & Living collections
- ▶ **For an estimation of 60 millions specimens**
 - ▶ 8.1 millions specimens databased
 - ▶ 6.9 millions specimen pages
 - ▶ <6 millions specimen images + other medias
 - ▶ 0,37 million specimen pages for types
- ▶ **Hosting specimen pages for other institutions**
 - ▶ 150 000 specimen pages from 25 institutions



Example of specimen page

- ▶ <http://colddb.mnhn.fr/CatalogNumber/MNHN/F/R04083>



The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window displaying a specimen page. The address bar shows the URL colddb.mnhn.fr/CatalogNumber/MNHN/F/R04083. The page content includes the specimen number MNHN.F.R04083 and the species name *Amaltheus margaritatus* (de MONTFORT, 1808). It is identified as a neotype (NÉOTYPE n° MNHN.F.R04083) from the Tesson collection (n° 37039). The classification is Mollusca - Cephalopoda. The stratigraphy is Jurassic (Mésozoïque), and the origin is France (Basse-Normandie, Calvados, Croisilles). The page also provides information on the specimen (moulage - complet - état : bon) and bibliographic references, including Howarth (1958) and Enay et al. (1994).

MNHN.F.R04083 *Amaltheus margaritatus*
Mollusca - Cephalopoda

***Amaltheus margaritatus* (de MONTFORT, 1808)**
NÉOTYPE n° MNHN.F.R04083
collection Tesson n° 37039

Classification :	Stratigraphie :	Origine :
Embranchement : Mollusca	Ère : Mésozoïque	Continent : Europe
Classe : Cephalopoda	Système : Jurassique	Pays : France
Ordre : Ammonitida	Série : Jurassique inférieur	Région : Basse-Normandie
Famille : Amaltheidae	Étage : Pliensbachien	Département : Calvados
		Localité : Croisilles

Informations sur ce(s) spécimen(s) :
Nombre de spécimen(s) : 1 - moulage - complet - état : bon
Original au Natural History Museum de Londres

Détermination(s) et référence(s) bibliographique(s) sur ce(s) spécimen(s)
Amaltheus margaritatus (de MONTFORT, 1808)
[Désignation d'un néotype]

Howarth (M.K.), 1958 - A monograph of the Liassic family Amaltheidae in Britain. *Paleontogr. Soc.*, vol. 111, p. 1-53
Citation : p. 14 fig-texte 8

Amaltheus margaritatus (de MONTFORT, 1808)


Enay (R.), Fischer (J.-C.), Gauthier (H.), Mouterde (R.), Thierry (J.) & Tintant (H.), 1994 - Révision critique de la Paléontologie française d'Alcide d'Orbigny. volume 1 : Céphalopodes jurassiques. , p. 1-340
Citation : p. 63-64 pl. 27 fig. 1a-c




Example of specimen page (2)

- ▶ <http://coldb.mnhn.fr/CatalogNumber/MNHN/MPU/MPU000019>


Sonnerat/BryoMyco


UNIVERSITÉ MONTPELLIER II





UNIVERSITÉ MONTPELLIER II
Herbier
(MPU)


CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Cerastium geniculatum Br.-Bl. (TYPE)
J. Br.-Bl.

Spécimen disponible dans JSTOR 

MAROC (Code ISO : MA)
E. de Rabat.
Note écologique : En soc. de Koniga lybica, Ammochloa involucrata.
Phénologie : F1
Braun-Blanquet, J. s.n.
31/3/1921

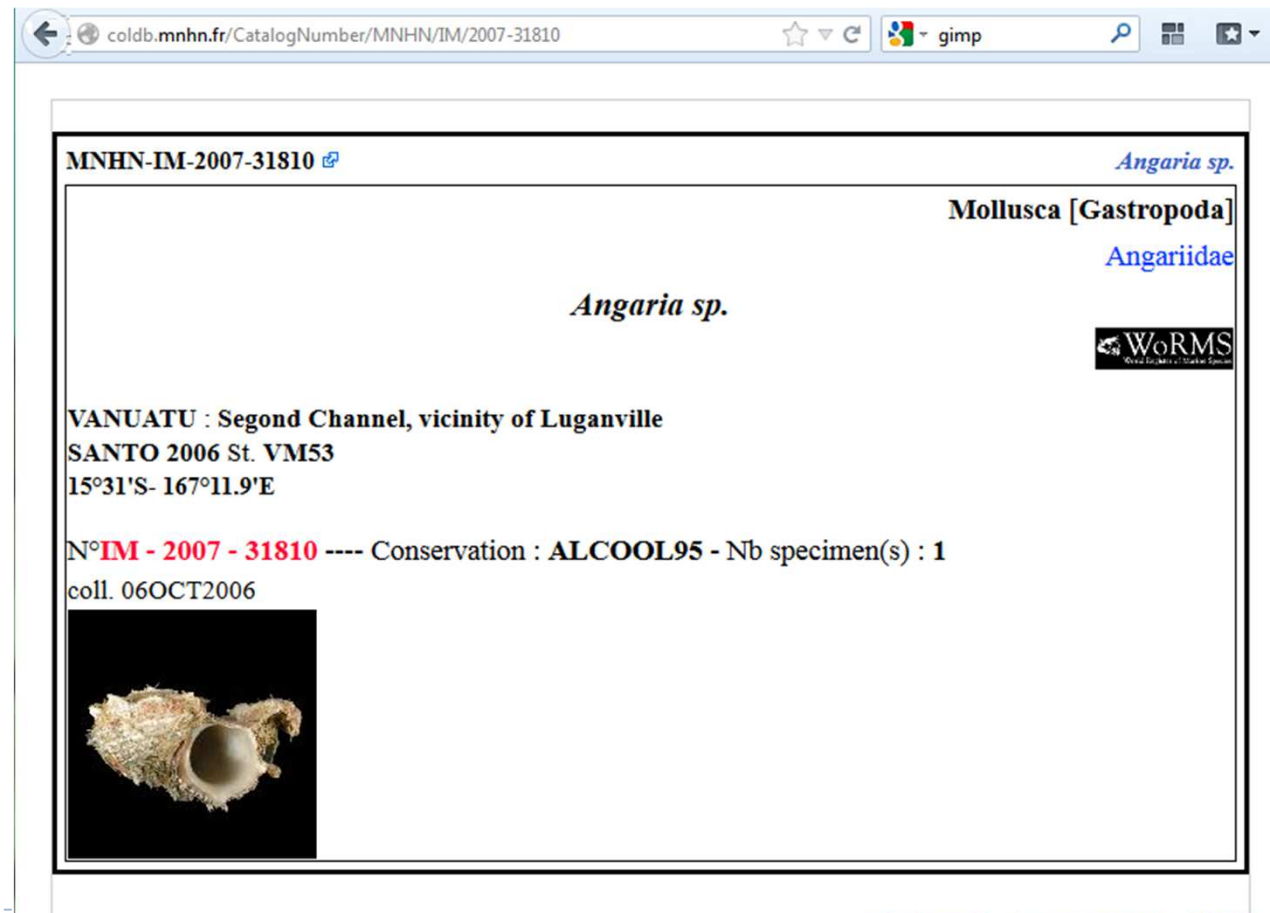
Voir ce nom dans l'IPNI : 
dans Tropicos : 
dans JSTOR : 
dans l'herbier de Strasbourg : 

MPU000019



Example of specimen page (3)

- ▶ <http://coldb.mnhn.fr/CatalogNumber/MNHN/IM/2007-31810>



MNHN-IM-2007-31810 [↗](#) *Angaria sp.*

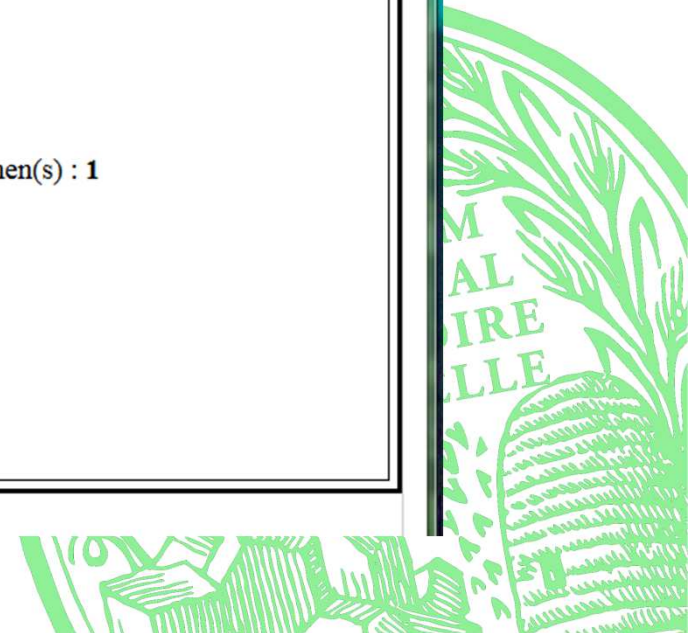

Mollusca [Gastropoda]
Angariidae

Angaria sp.

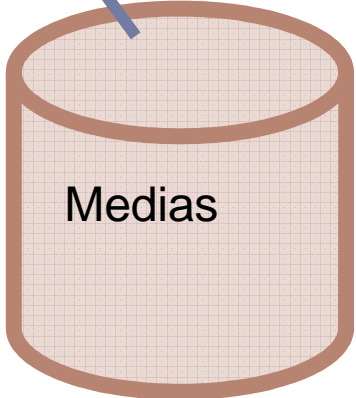
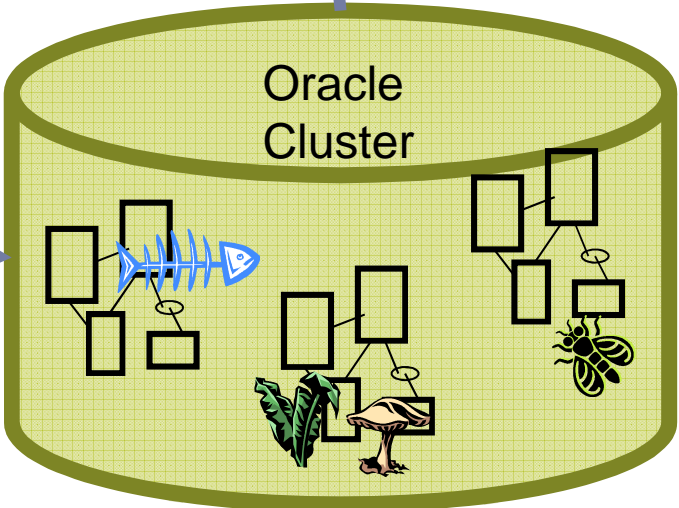
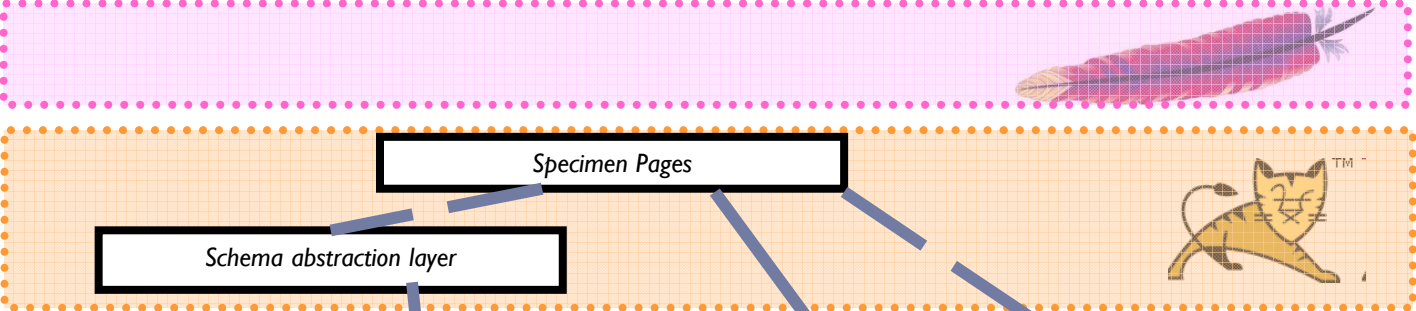
WoRMS
World Register of Marine Species

VANUATU : Segond Channel, vicinity of Luganville
SANTO 2006 St. VM53
15°31'S- 167°11.9'E

N°**IM - 2007 - 31810** ---- Conservation : **ALCOOL95** - Nb specimen(s) : 1
coll. 06OCT2006



Serving specimen pages



Link to specimen pages

- ▶ Mnhn websites
- ▶ WEB
- ▶ Electronic and paper publications



The not-very-cool URL

▶ <http://coldb.mnhn.fr/CatalogNumber/MNHN/F/R04083>

Ugly But well known

MixedCase !!



Not every institution have acronyms

Fine but UPPERCASE



No clear indication than the resource is a specimen



Soon : new version of specimen pages

- ▶ One search engine for all scientific resources
- ▶ Common look and layout for all collections
- ▶ Link to « name pages » and « campaign pages »
- ▶ Large images in Carroussel instead of thumbnails



A new supposed-to-be-cool URL ?

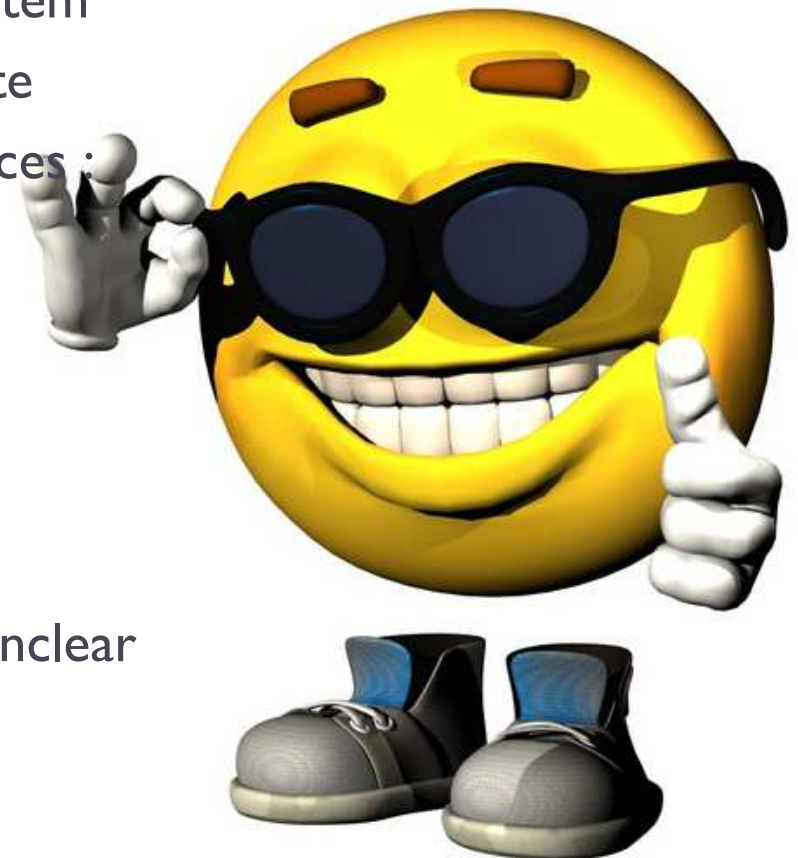
<http://science.mnhn.fr/institution/mnhn/collection/ec/item/ec986>

▶ Pros

- ▶ Lower case
- ▶ Show that the resource is a collection item
- ▶ Coherent with our new RESTful website
- ▶ Same domain as other scientific resources :
 - ▶ Publication
 - ▶ Taxon pages

▶ Cons

- ▶ Verbose
- ▶ Mnhn appears twice
- ▶ Acronyms for hosted institutions still unclear



What if & other issues



Edinburgh 2013 Workshop

Perennity of URI for hosted institutions ?

- ▶ If tomorrow Université Montpellier 2 wants to host a page for [MPU00019](#) we have to redirect to that page



HTTP 3xx



- ▶ Headache if no simple rewriting scheme
- ▶ Subdomain alternative :
 - ▶ coldb.univ-montp2.fr as an alias for our server



Multiple URIs for a collection item

- ▶ Appears in several catalogs with different numbers
 - ▶ <http://coldb.mnhn.fr/CatalogNumber/MNHN/ZM/AC-A2774>
 - ▶ A2774 preferred to III-527
 - ▶ Unique URI
- ▶ Number assigned to a set of specimens or to different parts of an individual
 - ▶ Examples :
 - ▶ Skeleton/bones
 - ▶ New type discovered in a box
 - ▶ Different collections for shell/body
 - ▶ Multiple URIs



What about « hidden » specimens ?

▶ Examples :

- ▶ New « fresh » specimens from an expensive expedition
- ▶ Endangered species

▶ How to handle ?

- ▶ An URI without URL
- ▶ HTTP 4xx error
- ▶ A catalog number only page



Any questions ?

- ▶ **Berenger Dulac**
 - ▶ dulac@mnhn.fr
- ▶ **Simon Chagnoux**
 - ▶ chagnoux@mnhn.fr



▶ Edinburgh 2013 Workshop

