

# Museum Department

Ian M. Wright  
Curator of Natural History  
Museum of Riverside

**Museum of Riverside Board Meeting  
Wednesday, June 26, 2024**



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## About Me



- Born and raised in Riverside
- Attended Poly High
- Undergraduate at UC Davis
- Received Master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin

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## Previous Work



- Technician with University of Texas at Austin Biodiversity Collections
- Technician and Staff Research Associate for UC Riverside's Department of Entomology
- Assistant Director, University of California's Natural Reserve System, James Reserve in San Jacinto

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## Previous Work

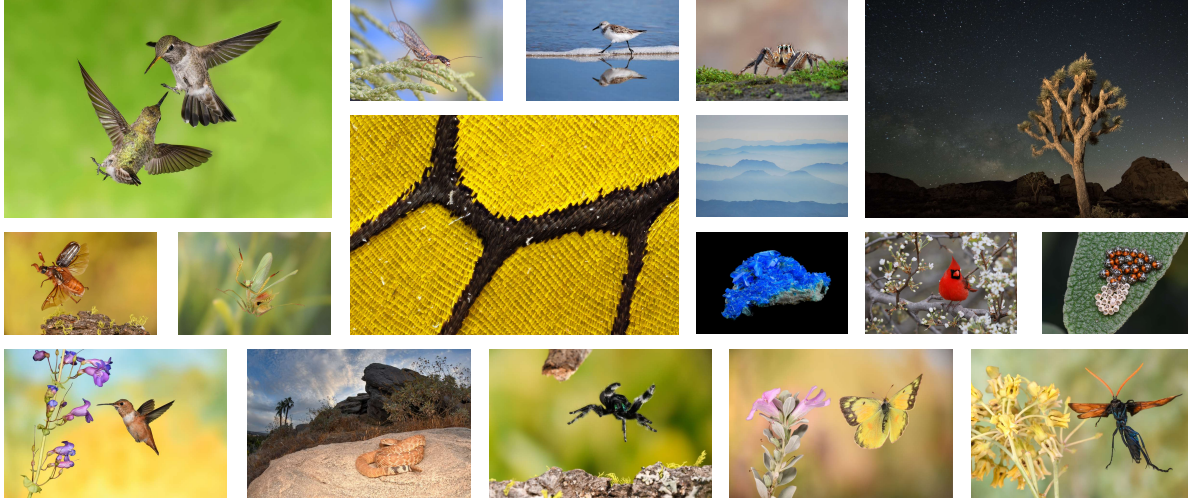


Thousands of hours of teaching experience (collegiate and K-12)

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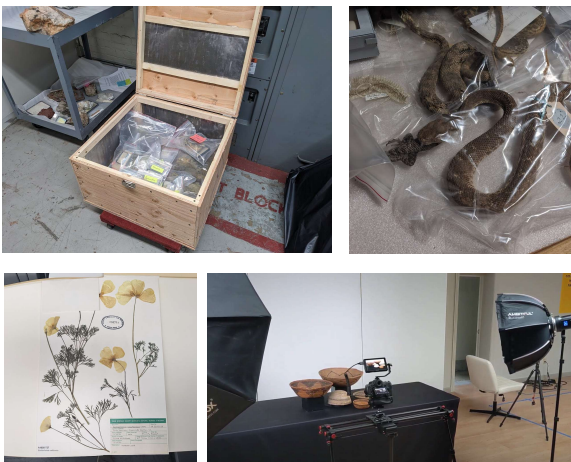
## Nature Photography



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## My Role as Curator of Natural History

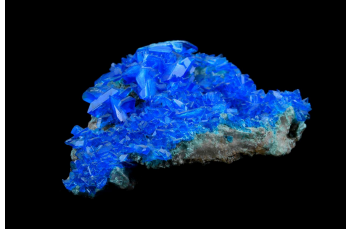


- Manage and maintain the Natural History collections, including our live collection
- Maintain (and improve) our natural history collections database and its accessibility
- Develop programs, support education, curate exhibitions, and prepare social media
- Collaborate with other scientists and researchers

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## Current Collection



Geology (about 5,000 specimens)

- Rocks
- Minerals
- Gems



Paleontology (about 3,500 specimens)

- Also known as fossils

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## Current Collection



Entomology (about 6,500 specimens)

- Insects



Malacology (about 1,000 specimens)

- Also known as seashells

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# Current Collection



Herbarium (about 10,000 specimens)

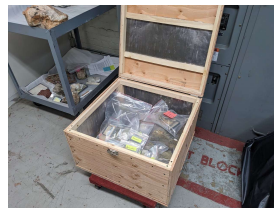
- Also known as botany

Vertebrate Zoology (about 1,000 specimens)

- Fish
- Reptiles and amphibians
- Mammals
- Birds

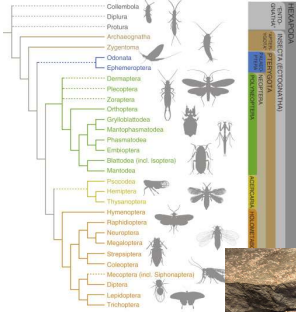


# Collections Move





## Future Collection Priorities



- Continued taxonomic reorganization
- Complete and searchable database of all holdings
- Continued care and curation of specimens

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## Future Collection Priorities



- Exhibitions using our holdings
- Targeted collecting
  - Invertebrates, fish, and herps
- Collaborate on research projects and publications

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## Future Curator Priorities



- Public lecture series
- Exhibitions and events, especially nature walks
- Master naturalist and K-12 teacher trainings
- Yearly “bioblitzes” and research projects in City parks and with local universities

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## Thank You!

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum of Riverside Board receive and file this presentation regarding the Natural History collection and the role of the Curator of Natural History