



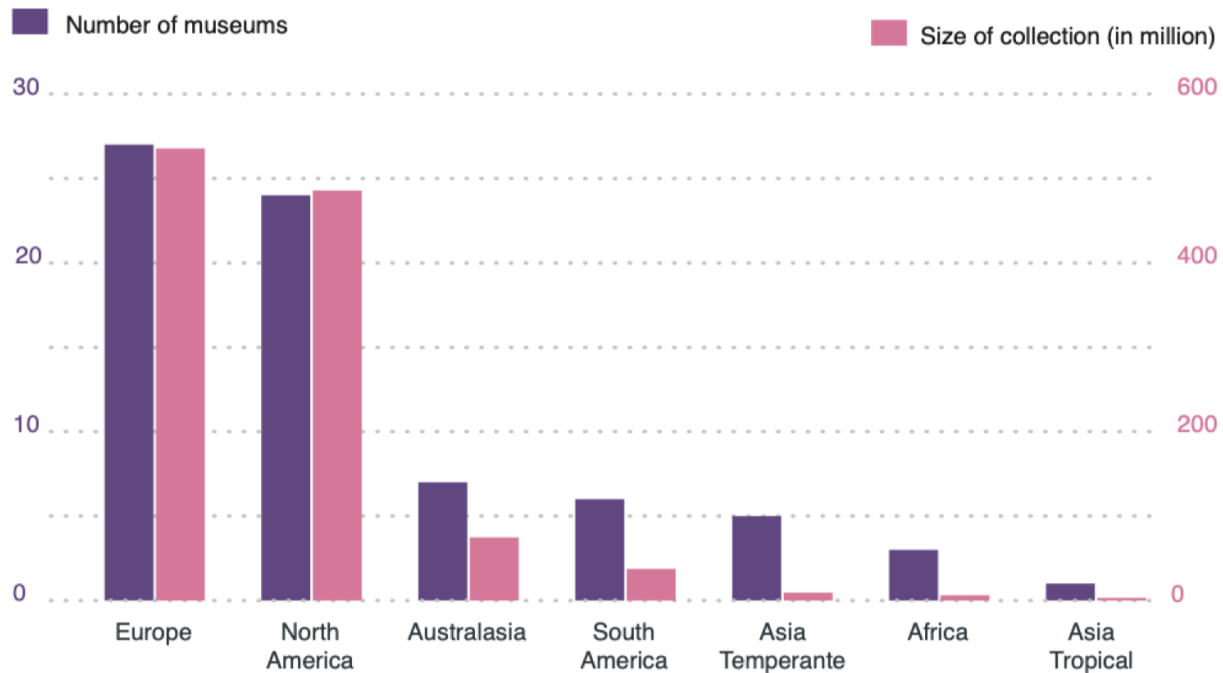
CANATHIST

KICKOFF MEETING – 2023

Inventory: state of the art

NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

- It is estimated that European Natural history (NH) collections contain up to 1 billion specimens.

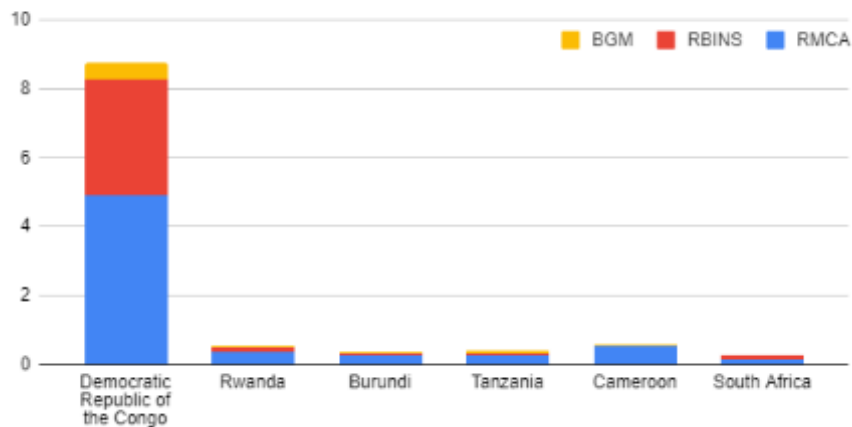


Ranked histogram of number of museums and their collection sizes, grouped by geographic region.
From Johnson *et al.*, submitted to Science, Supplementary Fig. 1.

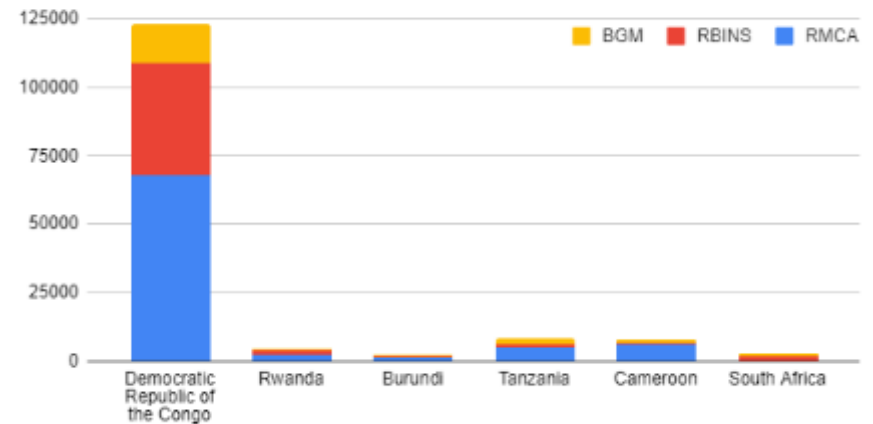
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

- The collections of the Africa Museum (RMCA), the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the federal collection of Meise Botanic Garden (MBG) :
 - estimation of about 10 million specimens
 - more than 100000 type specimens

Estimation of RMCA, RBINS and BGM collection (in millions)



Estimation of type specimens



OVERVIEW OF THE RMCA COLLECTIONS

- 10,000,000 zoological specimens
- 200,000 rock samples
- 17,000 minerals
- 8,000 musical instruments
- 120,000 ethnographic objects
- 80,000 wood samples
- 3 km of historical archives
- 170,000 photos of Rwanda, Burundi and the DR Congo of the 19th and 20th century
- 650 films on the DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi between 1940 and 1960

AFRICA museum



Cultural Anthropology and History



Earth Sciences

THE ZOOLOGICAL RMCA COLLECTION

- 10 million biological specimens that include:
 - 6 million insects
 - 1 million fish
 - 300,000 spiders
 - 200,000 amphibians
 - 150,000 birds
 - 135,000 mammals
 - 80,000 wood samples
 - 41,000 reptiles



AFRICA
museum



THE ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION BEFORE 1960

- Collection from colonial events (before 1960)
 - RMCA : 146.978 records (666.367 specimens estimated)
 - RBINS : 210.604 records (986.792 specimens estimated)

AFRICA
museum



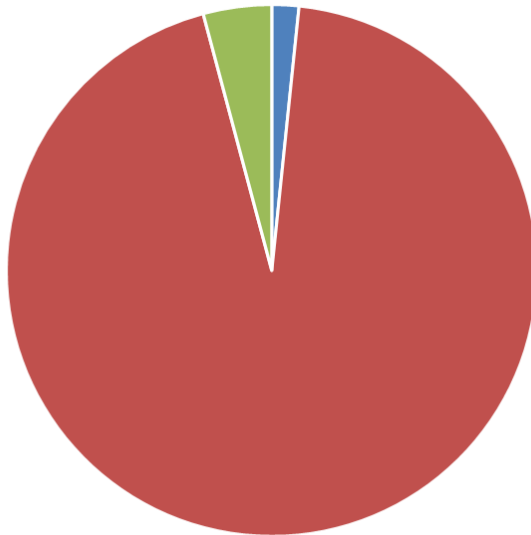
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THE ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION RMCA - BEFORE 1960

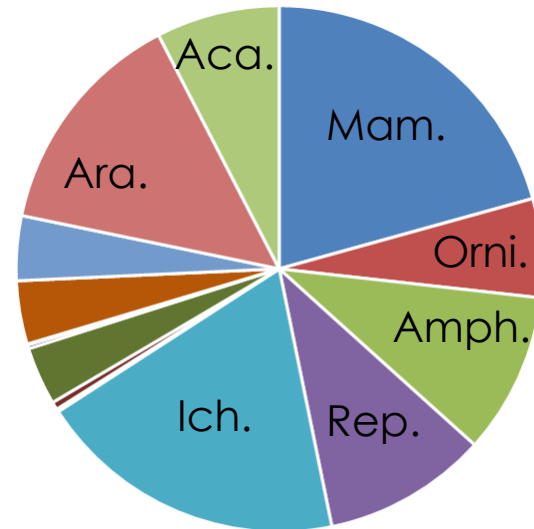
RMCA	Mammalogy	Ornithology	Amphibian	Reptilia	Ichthyology	Bryosoa	Echinodermata	Porifera	Vermes	Coelentera	Mollusca	Crustacea	Insecta	Arachnida	Acari	TOTAL
Burundi	85	75	198	186	1034	0	0	0	42	3	3	76	48	304	93	2147
RD Congo	25751	7290	12239	12491	23665	161	56	625	4446	286	82	4823	5085	17577	8701	123278
Rwanda	1250	572	534	565	274	7	0	2	180	14	1	190	69	659	1134	5451
TOTAL	27086	7937	12971	13242	24973	168	56	627	4668	303	86	5089	5202	18540	9928	130876

By country



■ Burundi ■ RD Congo ■ Rwanda

TOTAL

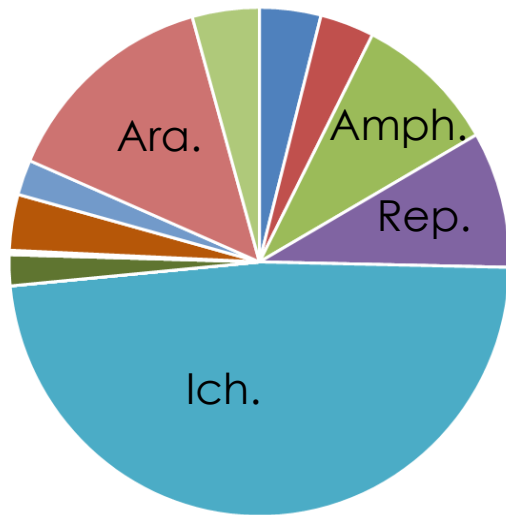


■ Mammalogy ■ Ornithology ■ Amphibian ■ Reptilia
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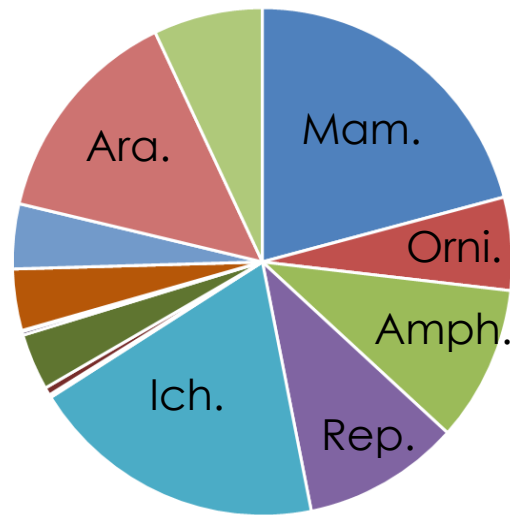
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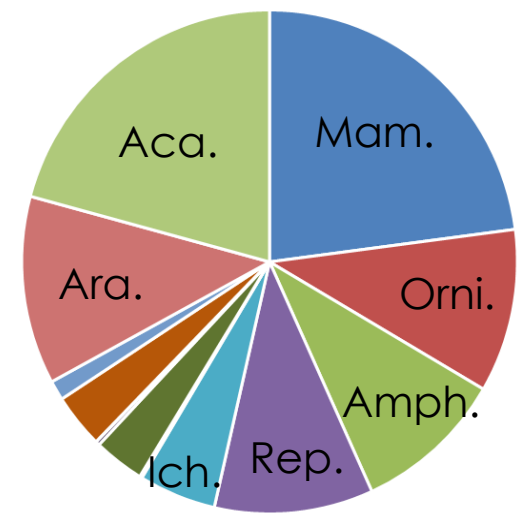
Burundi



RD Congo



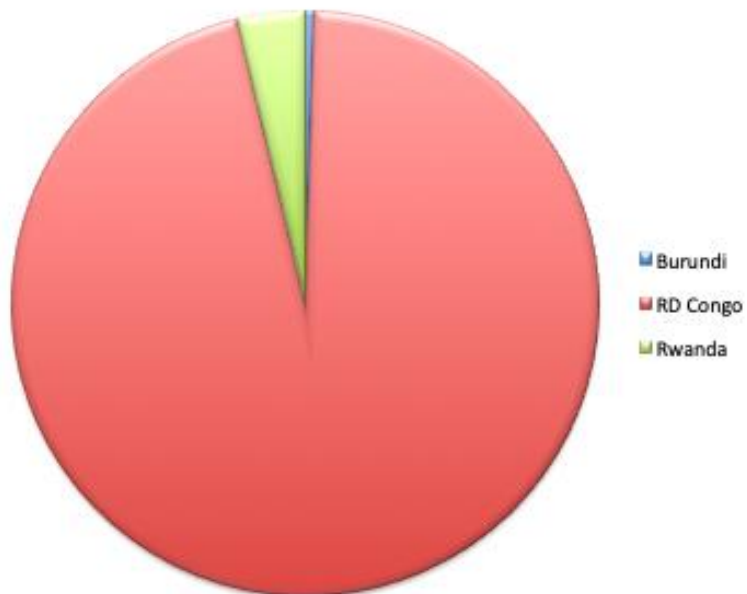
Rwanda



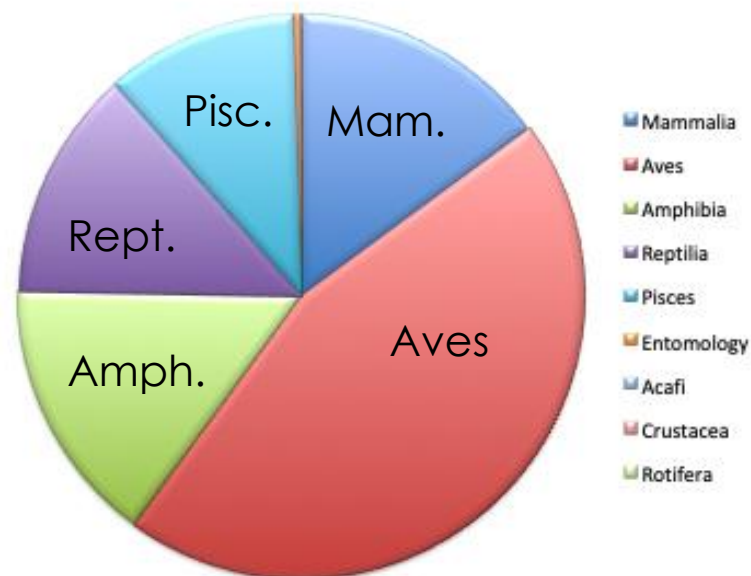
THE ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION RBINS - BEFORE 1960

RMCA	Mammalia	Aves	Amphibia	Reptilia	Pisces	Entomology	Acafi	Crustacea	Rotifera	TOTAL
Burundi	43	57	7	10	141	2	0	0	0	260
RD Congo	7565	24773	8428	7324	6027	228	16	11	2	54374
Rwanda	856	785	212	191	62	5	4	0	0	2115
TOTAL	8464	25615	8647	7525	6230	235	20	11	2	56749

By country



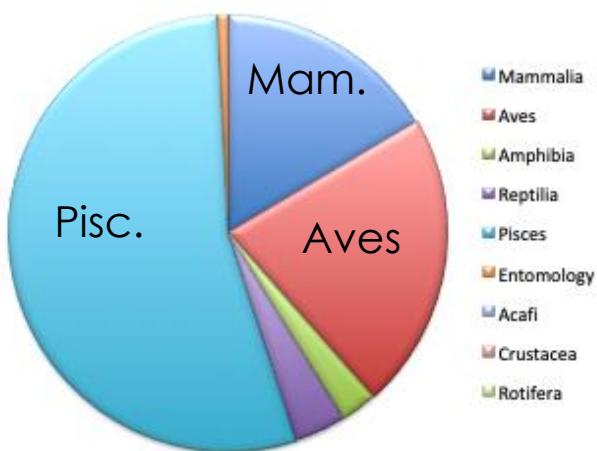
TOTAL



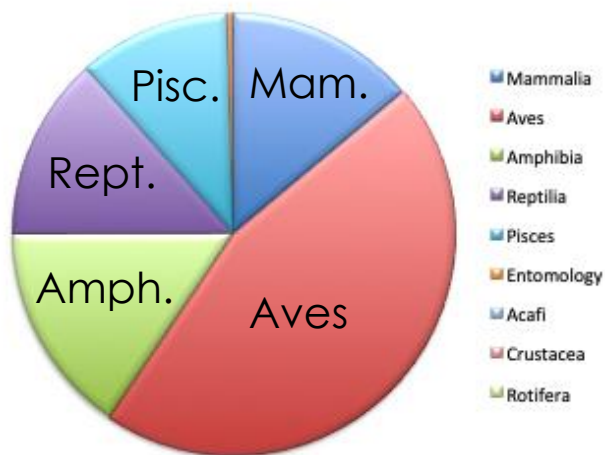
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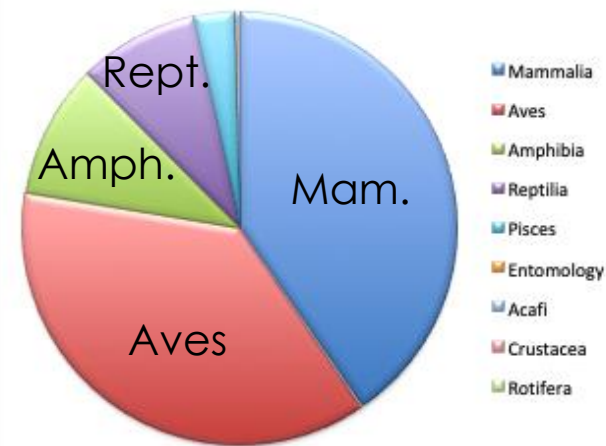
Burundi



RD Congo

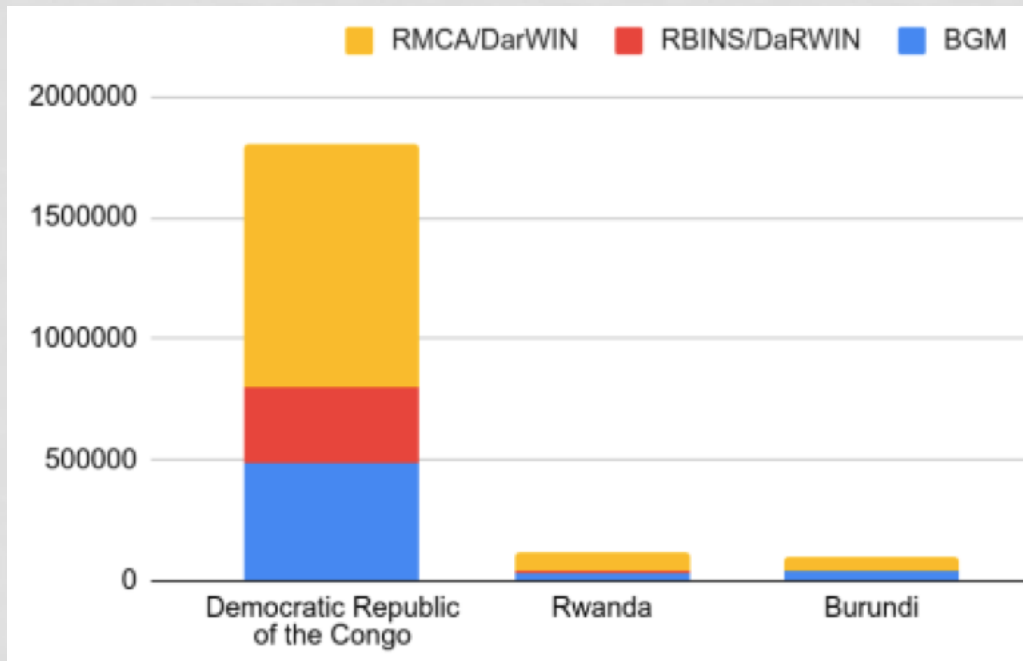


Rwanda



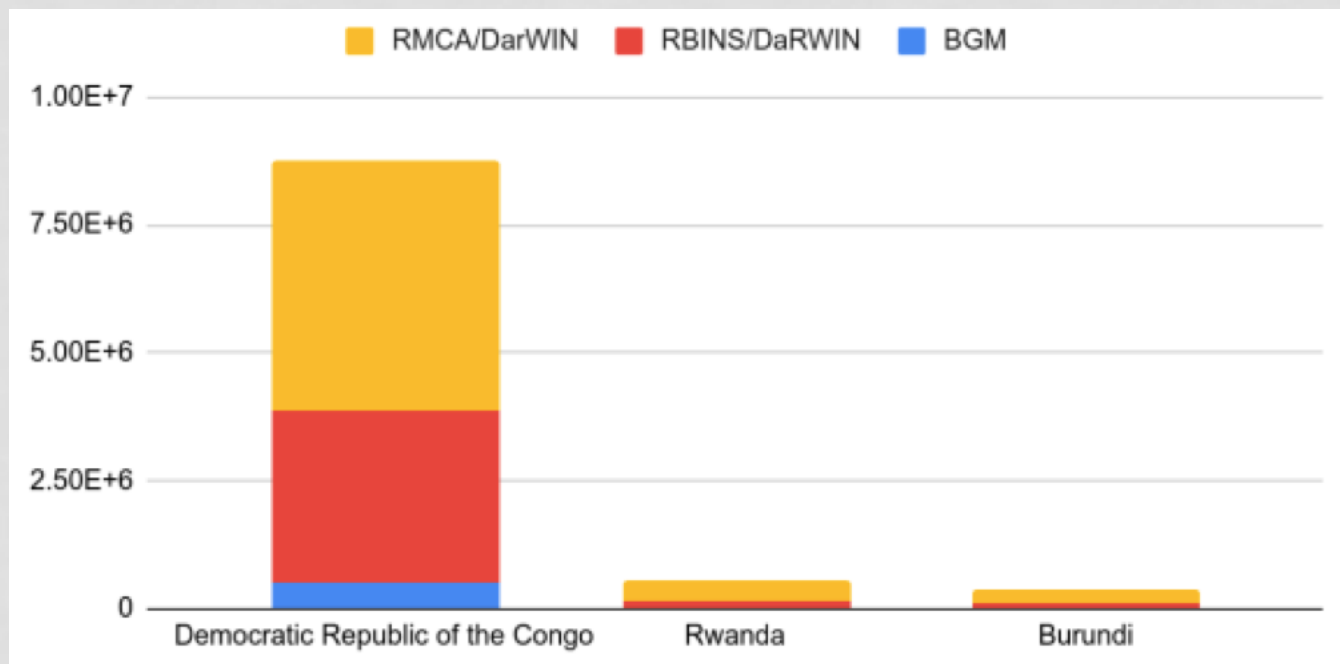
REGISTERED VS ESTIMATED

- More than 1.5 million of specimens related to Central Africa are already encoded in the Institutions collections management systems.



REGISTERED VS ESTIMATED

- The evaluation of the total number of specimens collected in DRC, Rwanda and Burundi in the Institutions is evaluated to 9 millions



COLLECTION FOR RESTITUTION

- Insect collection awaiting restitution (RMCA part)
 - From National Parks of D.R. Congo
 - 4690 boxes containing pinned insect (for most)
 - Prepared from 1961 to 1980, and ready for repatriation to African institutions, but never been completed



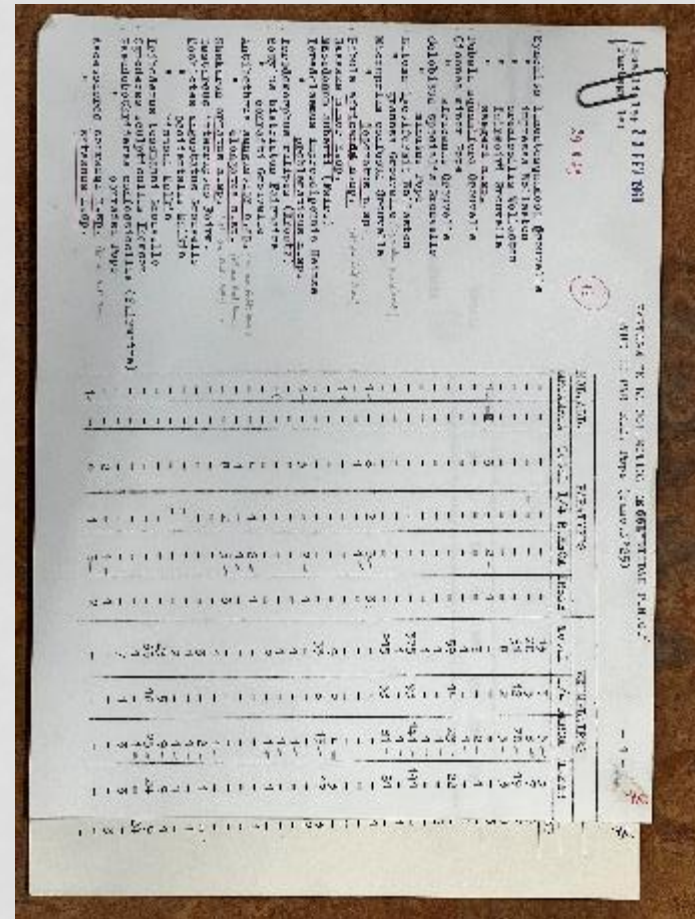
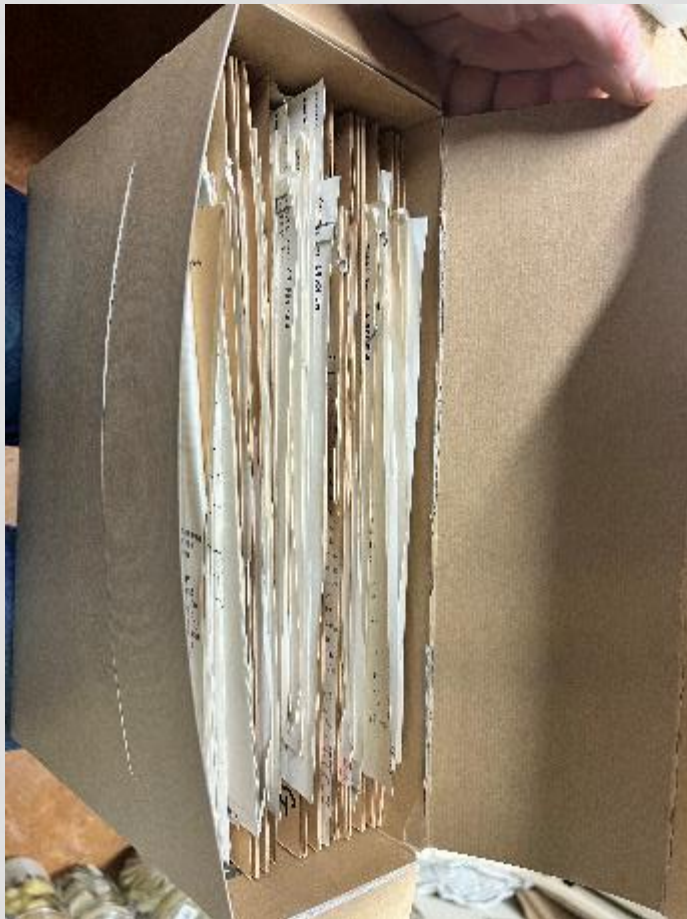
COLLECTION FOR RESTITUTION

- Insect collection awaiting restitution
 - Some boxes include reference specimens (paratypes)



COLLECTION FOR RESTITUTION

- List to be digitized



- Thank you for your attention !