



Department of Biology

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Saint Anselm College Natural History Collections.

Scope of Collections

STAC-NHC maintains three major groups of specimens (in order of importance):

- Representative specimens from each major taxonomic group for teaching biological diversity in the department.
- Specimens relevant to other departments, e.g. charismatic organisms for biological illustration, scientific instruments for history of science
- Specimens that illustrate local biodiversity

Specimens include living animals and plants, taxidermy mounts and skins, wet- and dry- preserved animals, bird eggs, pressed botanical specimens, and a growing number of digital resources (CT scans and 3D printer files).

Physical specimens of animals are cataloged through Arctos as STAC-TEACH and STAC-BIO.

Categories of collections

The NHC is organized into two categories, independent of physical location:

- A. Educational collection [STAC-TEACH]: These are specimens that are routinely used for courses and are organized according to the needs of that educational experience. These are held separately, and material should not be removed from them without the approval of the curator and the faculty responsible for the course. This is akin to having a course reserve at the library, but the time of “loan” is left to the instructor and curator to decide.
- B. Taxonomic collection [STAC-BIO]. This is the general collection of specimens that support our mission but do not have a dedicated role in a course. These are kept as a reservoir for changing course needs or student projects or external loans (local artists, etc.). It is cataloged taxonomically, but its arrangement is first by preservation type and size and then taxonomically within those areas.

Loan Policies

Requests should be made in writing (email is fine) to the director, Professor Brian Penney (bpenney@anselm.edu)

Saint Anselm College faculty wishing to use specimens from the collection should contact the appropriate curator, who will provide the faculty with the appropriate resources.

STAC-TEACH. Collections are not loaned outside of Saint Anselm College.

STAC-BIO. Collections will be loaned to outside entities after initial cataloging.

(updated 14 April, 2025)