

**Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis TCN
Quarterly Progress Report¹
February – April 2019**



Progress in Digitization Efforts: Figure 1 shows progress over time for the MAM Project by changes in the number of both specimens entered into workflow and completely digitized specimens (= imaged + transcribed + georeferenced) against the number of specimens promised to NSF for the project. The current numbers for progress of digitization efforts by specimen category for each herbarium are shown in Table 1 and Figure 2. MOAR is still finishing up the process of reviewing all the images and transcriptions for SIM to improve the quality, hence the continued swings in counts per processing status category from this institution.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards: See MAM meeting/symposium/workshop summary under Other Progress.

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology: Nothing to report.

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts: MOAR created a training video (<https://youtu.be/qkbnrsAq-bo>) for how to do volunteer transcription of herbarium specimens in the crowd sourcing module in Symbiota. (A special thanks to technician Michelle Mancini for all her hard work on creating it!) The video has already been of use in course-related student transcription efforts and technician training for various MAM collaborators. PH trained five new student co-operatives for the work session (April to September 2019) on the MAM Project. Also see MAM meeting/symposium/workshop summary under Other Progress.

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations: At the MAM events on 30 March (see summary under Other Progress for more details), invited speakers and workshop organizers included Patrick Sweeney and Emily Meineke, both of whom were involved in the New England Vascular Plants TCN, Matthew Von Konrat, the organizer of the highly successful community science outreach initiative Microplants, as well as Richard Alomar of the Department of Landscape Architecture of Rutgers and Rutgers undergraduate student Ameen Lofti.

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability: See MAM meeting/symposium/workshop summary under Other Progress.

Share and Identify Education and Outreach Activities: Lead PI Skema from MOAR gave a talk entitled “Studying the flora of the Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis... one plant specimen at a time” at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, PA on Sunday 24 February 2019 to an audience of about 50 people. Staff at CHRB conducted herbarium tours for Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences faculty and staff and the Hunderton County Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners group has expressed an interest in helping CHRB with transcription and are currently looking into ways to grant credit for such work within their program. Also see MAM meeting/symposium/workshop summary under Other Progress.

¹ Throughout this report, herbaria are referred to by their Index Herbariorum acronyms, which correspond to institutional names as follows: BALT = Towson University, CHRB = Rutgers University, CM = Carnegie Museum, DOV = Delaware State University, HUDC = Howard University, MARY = University of Maryland, MCA = Muhlenberg College, MOAR = Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, NY = New York Botanical Garden, PAC = Pennsylvania State University, PH = The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, SIM = Staten Island Museum, TAWES = Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Other Progress: MAM hosted its last official in-person event at Rutgers University on 29-30 March 2019, including a business meeting, student research poster session, research symposium and workshops. Participants numbered about 60 for the events, with roughly 40 members of the public and 20 MAM collaborators in attendance. Please see <https://www.idigbio.org/content/plants-city-mam-project-explores-virtual-herbaria-and-their-uses> for a summary of the events. A big thanks to Myla Aronson, Megan King and Lena Struwe at CHRB for hosting and organizing this successful series of events!

Figure 1. Progress over time for MAM Project.

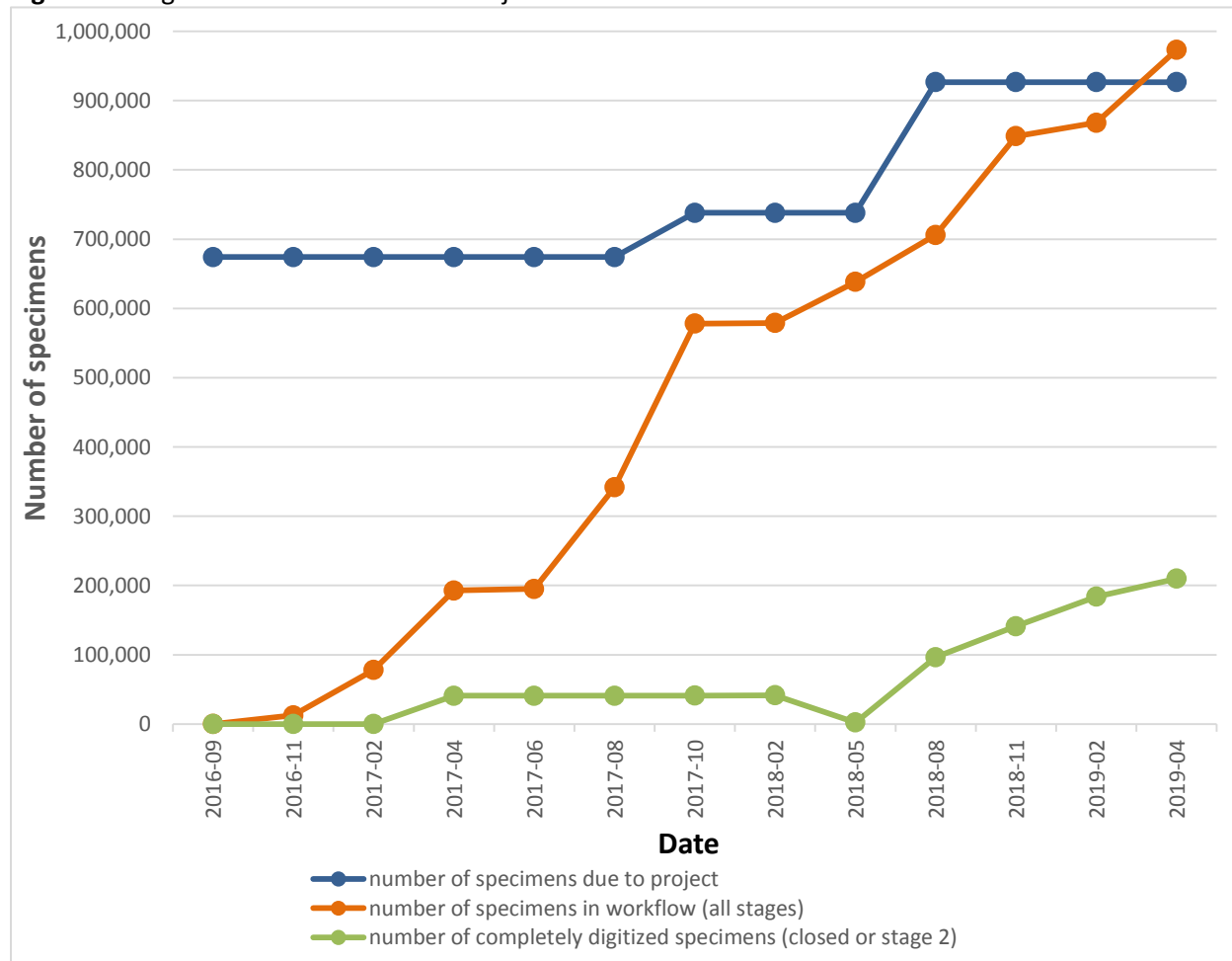


Table 1. Digitization of specimens by stage of completion and herbarium for MAM TCN.

Specimen Stage	Herbarium													Totals
	BALT	CHRB	CM	DOV	HUDC	MARY	MCA	MOAR	NY*	PAC	PH	SIM	TAWES	
# specimens imaged ¹	13,656	17,455	3,200	14,708	100	0	0	0	0	4,921	9,126	0	0	63,166
# specimens as above and uploaded to Symbiota along with skeletal data; transcription/review may be in progress ²	2,619	20,869	0	25,753	2,862	5,109	0	26	149,761	14,752	276,791	2,989	1,006	502,537
# specimens as above + completely transcribed and transcription reviewed ³	0	10,276	5,915	10,550	2,063	8,239	0	183	58,423	100	76,318	16,620	2,448	191,135
# specimens as above + georeferenced ⁴	0	0	22,122	782	2	31,560	51,009	20,236	81,995	0	1,272	4	113	209,095
# specimens that need special attention, e.g. go back to sheet ⁵	241	0	12	0	41	124	2	635	0	0	299	4,469	754	6,577
# specimens imaged, uploaded, transcribed BUT not able to be georeferenced ⁶	0	0	0	0	10	102	52	41	0	0	6	477	10	698
Totals	16,516	48,600	31,249	51,793	5,078	45,134	51,063	21,121	290,179	19,773	363,812	24,559	4,331	973,208

*NY only uploads to the MAM Portal periodically, after georeferencing is complete.

Processing Status in the MAM Portal: ¹ No stage, not in Symbiota yet; ² Unprocessed + Expert Required + Pending Review; ³ Stage 1; ⁴ Stage 2; ⁵ Stage 3; ⁶ Closed

Figure 2. Percentage of specimens by stage of completion and herbarium for MAM TCN. With this presentation of digitization progress, the final goal for each institution is to have a mostly green column above the X axis (could potentially have orange up to roughly 10%). Specimens not yet in workflow are set as negative numbers.

