

# The Entomology Collections of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (France)

Jean-François Voisin

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Founded in 1626 as a botanical garden and established in 1793 as a museum, the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle is one of the oldest research institutions in the world. The staff of the Entomological Laboratory includes 42 persons, 25 being research scientists. Its insect collections are the richest in the world and count 45 550 000 specimens, a little more than three quarters of them being prepared and labelled. The most represented groups are the Coleoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera and Hemiptera. There are about 270 000 types among them. The laboratory faces serious space problems, and for some groups the upper limit will be reached within a few years.

Key words: France, museum, entomology, collections.

*Jean-François Voisin, Laboratoire de Zoologie: Mammifères et Oiseaux, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, 45 rue de Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France.*