



Media only: Liz O'Brien (202) 633-1522; obriene@si.edu

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Biodiversity Heritage Library Adds CONABIO as New Member

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), headquartered at the Smithsonian Libraries, welcomes the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, or CONABIO) as a new member and global node. As the 17th member of the BHL consortium, and the founding institution of BHL Mexico, CONABIO brings along a strong conservation and biodiversity informatics perspective and will help to expand BHL's outreach to Spanish-speaking communities.

The Mexican Commission is committed to promoting, coordinating, supporting and carrying out activities aimed at increasing awareness of Mexican biodiversity, its conservation, and sustainable use. CONABIO sponsors basic research that generates and compiles publicly-accessible information on Mexico's natural capital. As so, CONABIO has one of the largest biodiversity data sets in the world with more than 9.5 million records of specimens.

"Mexico is one of the world's megadiverse countries. CONABIO was created to provide information about and broaden people's knowledge of Mexico's vast natural landscape, making them a valuable partner in our mission to inspire discovery about biodiversity in every corner of the globe," said BHL Program Director Martin R. Kalfatovic. "We look forward to working with our colleagues in Mexico and at CONABIO to make their rich resources available to the biodiversity community through the BHL."

As a consortium member, CONABIO will contribute to BHL's growing open access collections with relevant publications produced or coordinated by the Commission. Furthermore, CONABIO will facilitate the growth of BHL Mexico by coordinating the participation of additional libraries and institutions throughout Mexico and encouraging the digitization of pertinent biodiversity literature collections.

"CONABIO is committed to expanding knowledge acquisition as well as working towards the conservation and sustainable management of Mexico's biodiversity," stated Patricia Koleff, Director of Analysis and Priorities, CONABIO.

Dr. José Sarukhán, CONABIO National Coordinator affirmed that: "From its beginnings the commission assumed the responsibility of making the results of its work accessible to all members of

society, while respecting intellectual property rights. Following this philosophy, joining BHL represents a greater opportunity for CONABIO to provide broader access to Mexico’s biodiversity knowledge contained within published literature. We believe that only with a well-informed society it is possible to develop and strengthen a culture of appreciation and valuation of Mexico’s natural capital.”

About the Biodiversity Heritage Library

BHL is a consortium of major natural history, botanical and research libraries that seek to contribute to the global “biodiversity commons” by digitizing and aggregating the resources housed within each of the participating institutions, providing free and open access to the legacy literature that underpins the work of the natural science community. For more information, visit the [Biodiversity Heritage Library website](#).

About the Smithsonian Libraries

The Smithsonian Libraries maintains a collection of more than 2 million volumes and serves as an educational resource for the Smithsonian Institution, the global research community and the public. The Libraries are located in Washington, Edgewater, Md., New York City and the Republic of Panama. For more information, visit the [Smithsonian Libraries website](#).

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