

given the revolution in the concept of species originating in the early 1940s. The Modern Synthesis made clear that collections are not mere depositories of stamplike typological entities, but information tools that document the variation of species throughout their distribution. Moreover, specimens carry a history in themselves. How, where, by whom, and in which circumstances the specimens were gathered are recorded in catalogues, notebooks, field diaries, and other sources of information that are vital components of natural history collections.

Table 12.1 lists the major public collections of ants by country. Sources for this information include Arnett and Arnett (1990), Arnett et al. (1986, 1993), Gaedike (1995), Heppner and Lamas (1982), Horn and Kahle (1935a, 1935b), Horn et al. (1990), Hudson and Nichols (1975), Rohlfien (1979), Sachtleben (1961), Entomological Society of Canada (1978), Watt (1979), and Williams (1978). In the following discussion, the four-letter acronyms are based upon those of Arnett et al. (1993), but some additions were necessary. The format follows those authors' rules for the construction of new acronyms and avoids the use of acronyms already employed for other institutions.

Stored in newly renovated rooms, the ant collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZC) of Harvard University houses perhaps the richest assemblage of ant types in the world. Here are stored the famous collections of William L. Brown Jr., William M. Wheeler, and Edward O. Wilson, as well as parts of the William Mann and Marion R. Smith collections. The extensive Berlese collections recently made by Robert Anderson and Stewart Peck have been deposited in the MCZC. It also contains the Bruno Finzi collection and recent material collected by Gary Alpert, Stefan Cover, and Philip Ward. Parts of the Wheeler collection were divided between the MCZC and the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City, and parts of the Mann and

Smith collections were divided between the MCZC and the Smithsonian Institution (USNM) in Washington, D.C.

The Natural History Museum in London (BMNH) holds important Asian and African collections (although some New Guinea [Maffin Bay] material collected by Kenneth Ross is in the California Academy of Sciences [CASC]) and most types of the species described by Horace Donisthorpe and more recently by Barry Bolton. Frederick Smith's collections were divided between the BMNH (most of the Neotropical material) and the Hope Entomological Collections of the University Museum, Oxford (OXUM) (Asian collections), which also holds Charles Thomas Bingham's and W. Cecil Crawley's Asian ants. The Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" (MCSN) in Genoa has, among other smaller collections, that of Carlo Emery, which has been organized according to the *Genera Insectorum* by Carlo Menozzi. The Museum d'Histoire Naturelle (MHNG) in Geneva has the Auguste Forel collection, preserving the organization Forel preferred. It also houses collections of leaf litter ants from Southeast Asia, Sri Lanka, India, Australia, New Zealand, West Africa, and Chile. The Naturhistorisches Museum (NHMB) in Basel has parts of the Forel and Felix Santschi collections, along with more recent material, studied in part by Cesare Baroni Urbani.

The Heinrich Kutter and Daniel Cherix collections are in the Musée Zoologique (MZLS), which also houses important Afrotropical and Middle Eastern collections. At the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) in Paris is deposited the collection that has been known as the "old collection" (ancienne collection), with specimens studied by Pierre André Latreille and reorganized in part by Carlo Menozzi, as well as material collected more recently, including the Maltese ant fauna, studied by the curator, Dr. Janine Casewitz-Weulersse.