

SHARE:



[Join Our Email List](#)



BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2021



The [Biodiversity Heritage Library \(BHL\)](#) improves research methodology by collaboratively making biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community.

SUPPORT BHL



Acknowledgment of Harmful Content

Acknowledging Harm, Rethinking Collections

On October 13, 2021, BHL released an [**Acknowledgment of Harmful Content**](#) to recognize deep prejudices within some of the pages of its collection. BHL joins recent global outcries against racial and environmental injustice. We are assessing our role as a digital library and the responsibility we have to question our neutrality and address harm without reducing access.

[**Learn More >>**](#)

Museum für Naturkunde Explores Maria Sibylla Merian's Legacy and Editions of Her *Metamorphosis*

Maria Sibylla Merian was a trailblazing artist and naturalist of the 17th and 18th centuries. Museum für Naturkunde Berlin conducted a student research



project to explore Merian's legacy and examine the provenance of and ultimately support the digitization of two editions in their collection of her work on Suriname insects.

[Learn More >>](#)



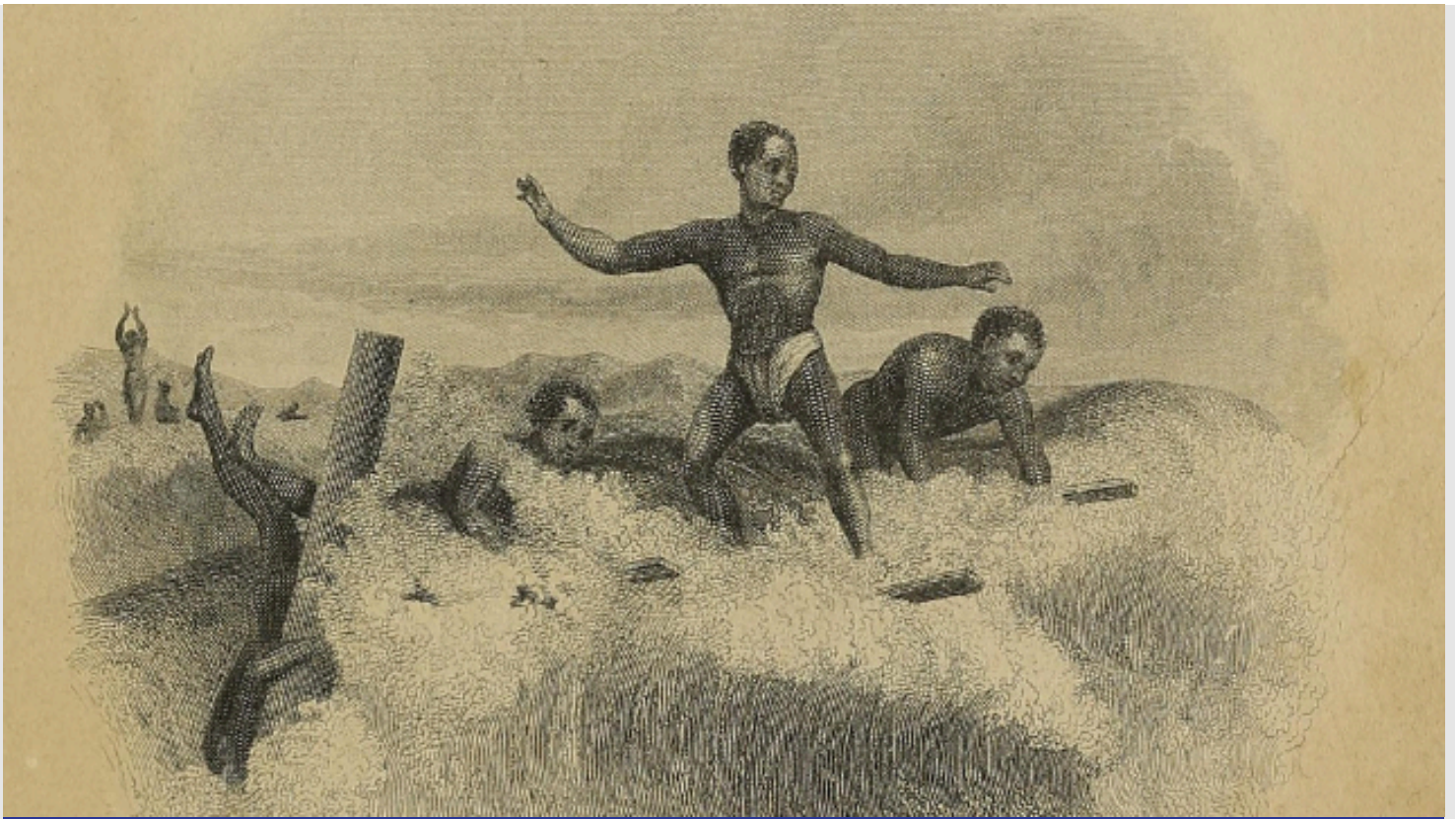
"Before I found the BHL resources, I was only able to find a single paper from 2020 that was able to offer anything close to my research."

Gavin Campbell
PhD candidate
University of West Indies, Jamaica

Backswimmers vs. Mosquitos: BHL Informs Research on Controlling Yellow Fever Mosquito Populations

The effects of climate change are expected to increase the potential range of *Aedes aegypti*, known as the yellow fever mosquito. Gavin Campbell, a PhD candidate at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, is studying natural population control methods. BHL has been critical to his research.

[Learn More >>](#)



A Digitization Journey, a Knowledge Journey: Personal and Professional Insights From My Work on *Polynesian Researches*

William Ellis' *Polynesian Researches* (v.4, 1853) records his time in Hawai'i while serving under the infamous American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Such ethnographic literature reflects the legacy and impact of colonialism on Indigenous people and knowledge systems. For Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Smithsonian Libraries and Archives Conservation Technician Keala Richard shared personal and professional insights from her work with *Polynesian Researches* for BHL.

[Learn More >>](#)

The Magic of the Magicicada

In the summer of 2021, the eastern region of North America experienced the emergence of trillions of Magicicada (periodical cicadas) in Brood X, which had been living underground for 17 years. Learn more about Brood X through



books in BHL and observations from BHL Program Director, Martin Kalfatovic.

[The Magic of the Magicicada: Exploring Brood X Through Books in BHL](#)

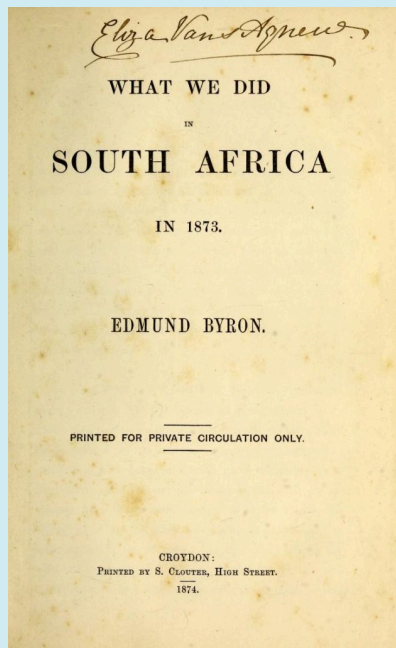
[Farewell to Brood X \(2021\) — See You in 2038!](#)



Supporting the Biodiversity Community: BHL Engages in Global Biodiversity Projects

The Biodiversity Heritage Library thrives on international partnerships and collaborative projects. In the fall of 2021, representatives from BHL participated in a number of planning meetings and conferences in support of global biodiversity projects. Meetings included the BiCIKL hackathon, GBIF Governing Board Meeting, and TDWG 2021 virtual conference.

[Learn More >>](#)



Chronicling the History of the Former Squires of Coulsdon: Rare Book Digitization Informs Research on the Byron Family

Only six copies of Edmund Byron's privately-printed journal, *What we did in South Africa in 1873*, are known to exist in libraries. Smithsonian Libraries and Archives has made their copy freely available in BHL. Online access to Byron's journal was indispensable for Dr. Nigel Elliott, as he researched Byron's travel as part of his book on the Byron family.

[Learn More >>](#)



**“BHL is a Game Changer for Scholars”:
BHL Empowers Research on Landscape Gardening History**

Natural history literature can be a rich source of information for tracking the introduction of native plants into new regions for landscape gardening. Professor Mark Laird found BHL to be an essential resource for his historical gardening research, particularly through the pandemic-related lockdowns of the past year. Laird discovered BHL while researching his latest book on English gardening.

[Learn More >>](#)



Discovering the Carnivorous Plants of BHL

Carnivorous plants have adapted the ability to derive nutrients from trapping and consuming insects, often to compensate for the nutrient-poor soil in which they have adapted to grow. John Schaefer, the Digital Plant Humanities Intern for Dumbarton Oaks, explores the cultural history of these fascinating plants and highlights select titles in BHL's Carnivorous Plants collection.

[Learn More >>](#)

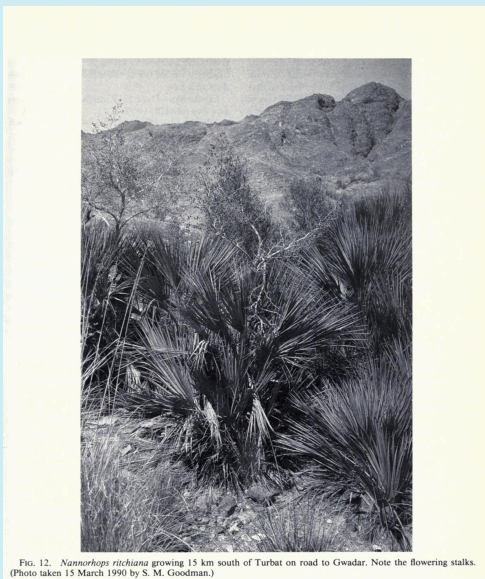


FIG. 12. *Nannorrhops ritchiana* growing 15 km south of Turbat on road to Gwadar. Note the flowering stalks. (Photo taken 15 March 1990 by S. M. Goodman.)

Plant Trade and Medicinal Plants in Asia

Plants species in Asia are valued for the timber trade, medicinal purposes, and some simply for their rarity. Learn more about the conservation of tropical forests, ethnobotany in Asia, and wild plants in trade through select titles in BHL.

[Learn More >>](#)



Inspiring Discovery through Free Access to Biodiversity Knowledge.

BHL makes it easier than ever for you to access the information you need to study and explore life on Earth...for free, anytime, anywhere.



59+ Million Pages
of Biodiversity
Literature Online.
[EXPLORE >>](#)



Tools and Services
to Transform
Research.
[EXPLORE >>](#)



300,000+
Illustrations on
Flickr.
[EXPLORE >>](#)



Many Opportunities
to Get Involved
with BHL.
[EXPLORE >>](#)

Stay Connected with BHL



SUPPORT BHL

www.biodiversitylibrary.org

169,000+ Titles | 273,000+ Volumes | 59+ Million Pages

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST