

AMBCAT – Digital Amber Catalogue



AMBCAT aims to centralise and make accessible high-resolution digital scans of amber fossils, which provide a unique window into ancient ecosystems, offering insights into extinct organisms through remarkable preservation of both external and internal structures. The project will do so by fostering collaboration among researchers and advancing scientific research on a global scale.



Challenge

Conventional imaging tools often fail to capture critical details of amber fossils, whereas the scattered and redundant imaging efforts across various institutions can lead to wasted resources and missed opportunities for collaboration, hindering comprehensive scientific analysis.

Solution

Physical amber fossils data will be centrally stored and archived and made openly available. A data catalogue will aggregate and provide all relevant metadata for the digitalised objects together with the imaging protocols. AMBCAT will also provide access to the actual image data, and to online visualisation tools in a browser-based application.

Scientific Impact

AMBCAT will result in building and strengthening collaboration networks in Europe- and worldwide and lead to synergies, avoiding that a same sample is loaned or scanned/analysed several times by different research groups, and contributing to a usage of scan data for different purposes.

Partners

Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, DESY, Museum of Nature - Zoology, LIB, ZFMK-LIB, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, OUMNH, CSIC-CMCNB, Estación Biológica de Doñana - CSIC, Senckenberg Institut & Naturmuseum Frankfurt, Phyletisches Museum - Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Biocenter - Faculty of Biology - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

<https://www.oscars-project.eu/projects/ambcat-digital-amber-catalogue>