



# PARTNERING FOR IMPACT - UNDERSTANDING AUSTRALIA'S BIODIVERSITY THROUGH DATA

CSIRO National  
Research  
Collections  
Australia

## THE AUSTRALIAN BIODIVERSITY DATA MOBILISATION PROGRAM

The Australian Biodiversity Data Mobilisation Program is an innovative grant program managed by the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) designed to improve the scientific understanding of Australia's remarkable biodiversity. It supports Australian museums, biological collections, herbaria, and research teams to digitise historic physical collections making them available as a national data asset.

The annual program was launched in June 2022 and currently supports six biodiversity data projects. The next application round of the grants program is scheduled to open in March 2023.



## BIODIVERSITY AND THE ATLAS OF LIVING AUSTRALIA

Identifying and describing Australian biodiversity is increasingly important owing to the accelerated impacts of climate change, unheralded species extinctions, the increasing risk posed to native species from invasives, and society's awareness of the importance of biodiversity to human health and the provision of ecosystem services. Data about biodiversity are fundamental in supporting the science that improves our understanding, and therefore the state of Australia's unique biodiversity.

However, it is estimated that only 30% of Australia's species have been named and documented so a significant challenge confronts Australian biodiversity science.

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) is Australia's national biodiversity data infrastructure, delivering open-access biodiversity data to over 80,000 users in research, industry, and government. The ALA helps to create a more detailed picture of Australia's biodiversity for scientists, policymakers, environmental planners and land managers, industry, and the public.



North Sydney herbarium specimen (*Acacia saligna*) Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust

## CASE STUDY – QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

As part of the 2022 program, Queensland Museum digitised data from the internationally significant Cribb Australian Fish Trematode Collection into the ALA.

**This collection is based on the examination of >20,000 individual specimens across >1,000 species with extensive hard-copy documentation including field notes, drawings and spreadsheet data.**

The mobilisation of this information enables the discoverability of host, parasite and locality records for hundreds of trematode species, representing a snapshot of species distribution over time which is a valuable tool for conservation modelling.



Tasselled Wobbegong - (*Eurossorhinus dasypogon*) - CSIRO NRCA Collections

## PARTNERING TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY DATA

The 2022 program commenced with seed funding from the Atlas of Living Australia, CSIRO and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Program. Within 5 years our vision is to grow the initiative to an annual \$1 million program, making a significant impact to Australian biodiversity research.

Annual partnership options include the following:

» **Program naming rights**

**\$250K** (which will support five new biodiversity projects)

» **Major grant sponsorship** **\$50K**

» **Minor grant sponsorship** **\$20K**

Partnering with the ALA and Australia's museums and biological collections is a pivotal opportunity to make a difference to improve our understanding and management of Australia's rare and unique biodiversity.

**To learn more about the program and partnership opportunities, contact [ala@csiro.au](mailto:ala@csiro.au) or the ALA Director, Dr. Andre Zerger – [andre.zerger@csiro.au](mailto:andre.zerger@csiro.au).**

