Homogenisation of data: how to bring together historical and recent collection data
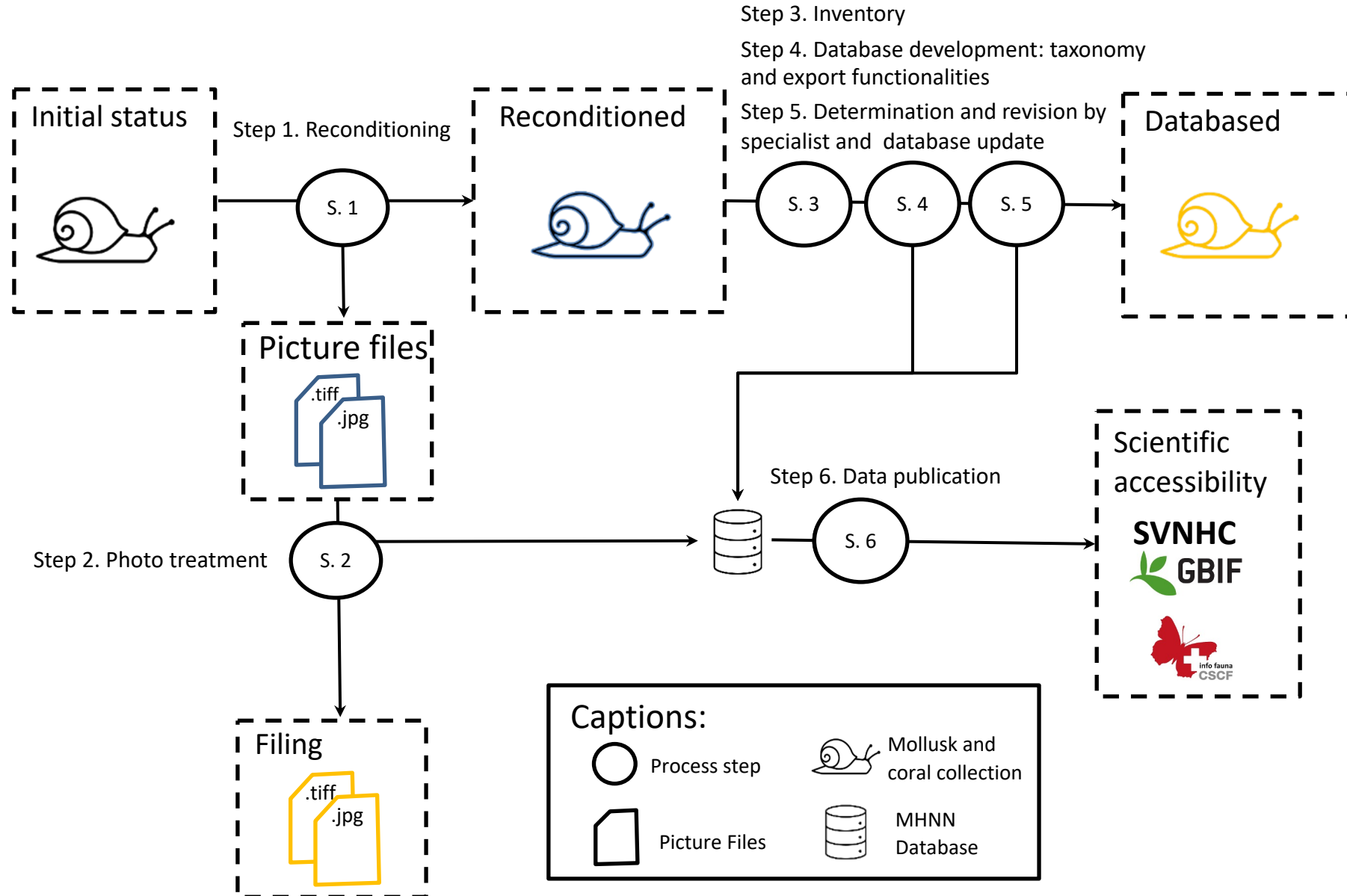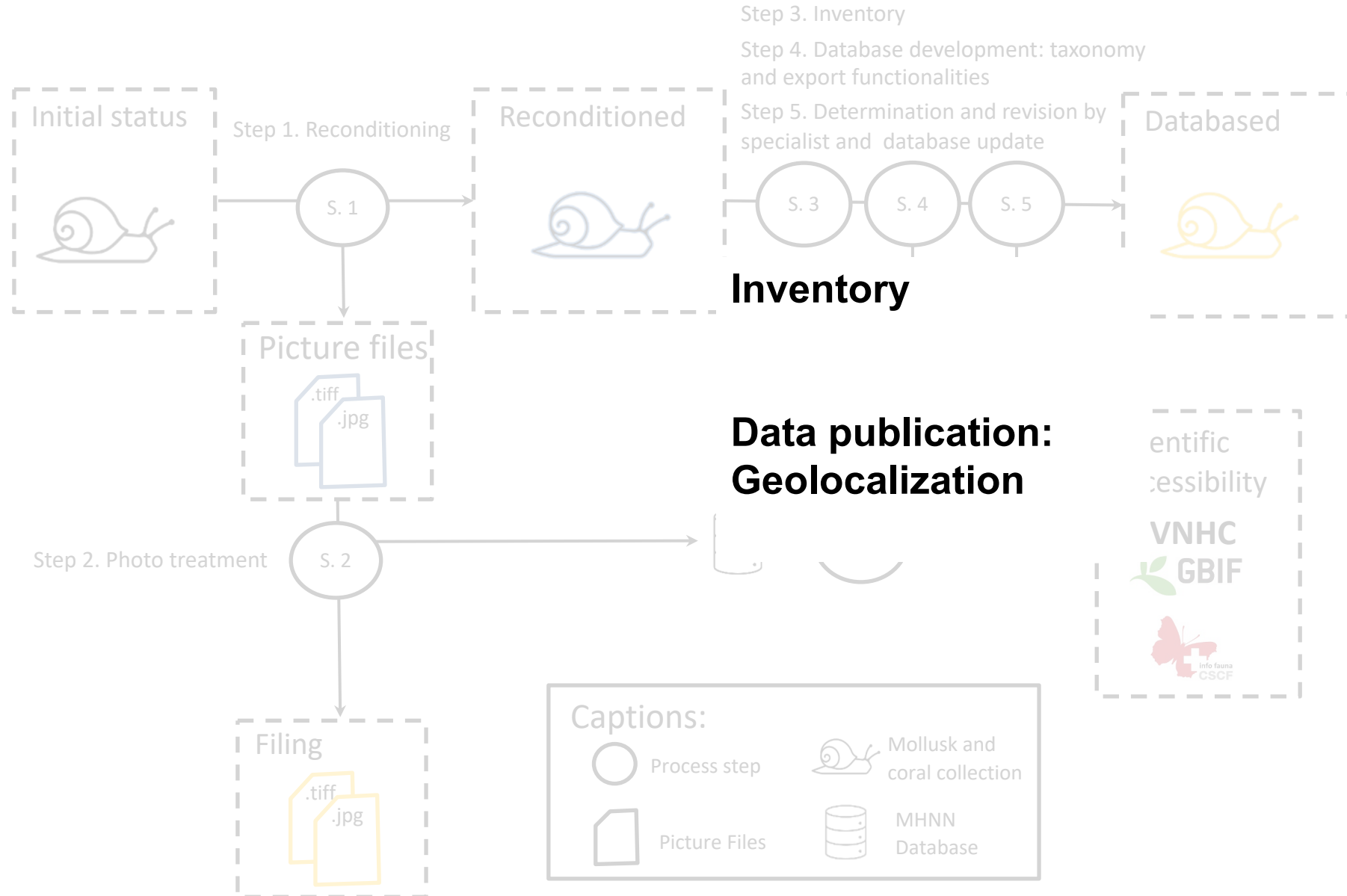
Celia Bueno, Curator vertebrate and mollusk collection

MUSÉUM
D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE
NEUCHATEL

Mollusk and coral collection:
About preventive conservation, databasing, revision and data sharing

Mollusk and coral collection:
About preventive conservation, databasing, revision and data sharing

Step 3. Inventory

Step 4. Database development: taxonomy and export functionalities

Step 5. Determination and revision by specialist and database update

Initial status

Step 1. Reconditioning

S. 1

Reconditioned

S. 3   S. 4   S. 5

Databased

Inventory

Picture files

.tiff
.jpg

**Data publication:
Geolocalization**

entific
:essibility

VNHC
GBIF

Step 2. Photo treatment

S. 2

Info fauna
CSCF

Filing

.tiff
.jpg

Captions:

◯ Process step

🐌 Mollusk and coral collection

◻ Picture Files

🗄 MHNN Database

Before starting the project

|	Historic	Recent
Time period	1750-1950	1950-2023
Size	22'000 lot	13'000 lot
Databased	0,1 %	20 %
Revision	2 %	60 %

Objective march 2024
- 100% Databased
- 100% CH and main collection revised

Current status

	Historic part 1: 11'000 lot	Historic part 2: 11'000 lot	Recent : 13'000 lot
Conditioned	100%	25%	100%
Photographed	100%	25%	-
Digitalisation	100%	...	...
Data normalisation to be Databased	...	...	

Inventory: The challenges we face
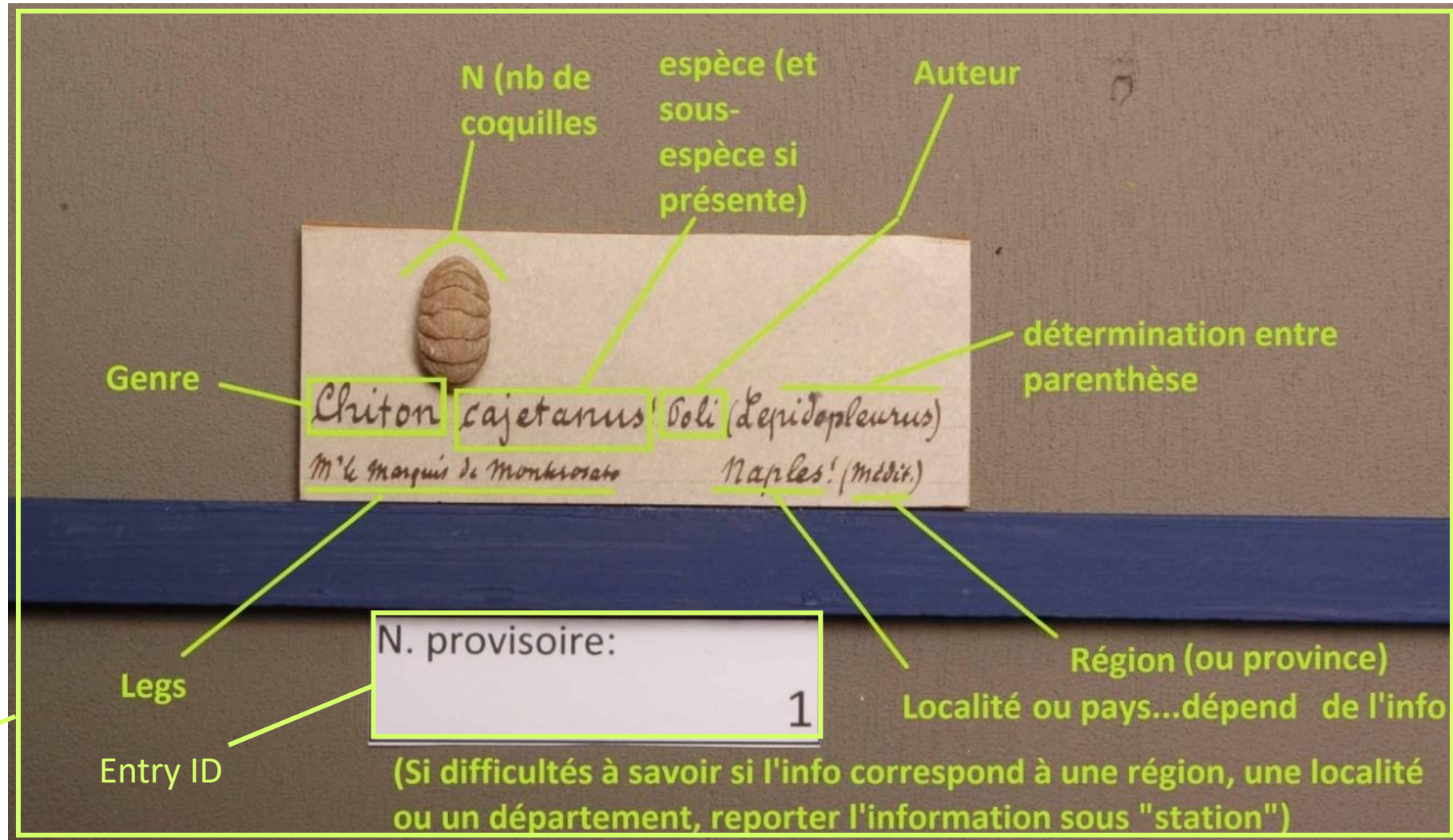
Inventory: The challenges we face

Identification	Specimen	Collector	Location
- Last identification - Revision - Other identification	- Number - Juvenile or adult - Entry Id - Image Id	- Name(s) - Purchase, Echange	- City - Sea/Ocean

--> Almost each concept can be ambiguous

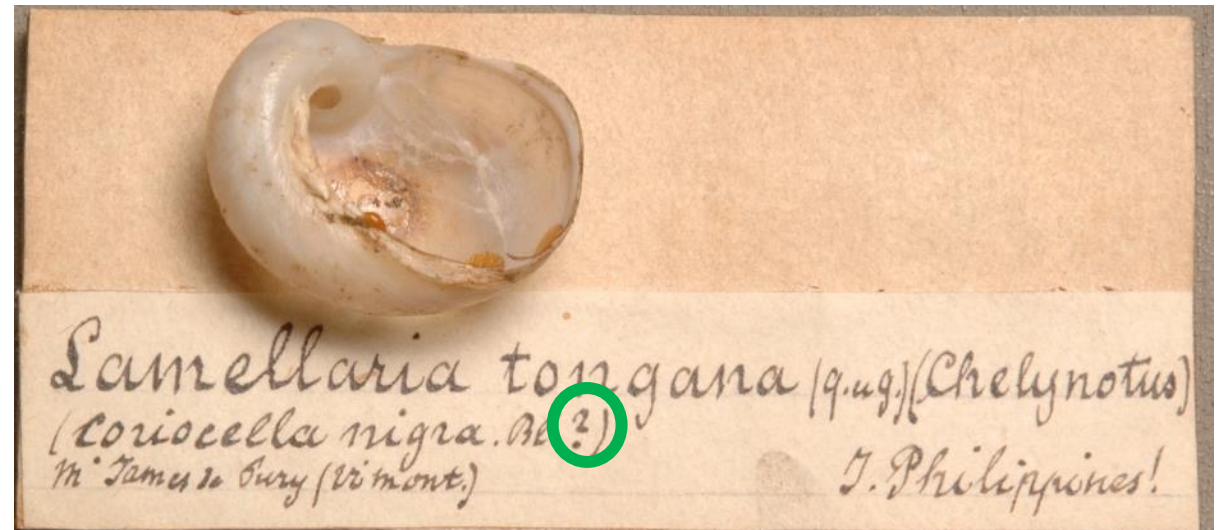%Doubt x Many specimens x Many people = Non homogenous data

Inventory: Need for standards

- Understanding hand writing and the use of punctuation

In the inventory:
only the "?" linked with the identification of the specimen is registered

Inventory: Need for standards

- Number of specimens

In the inventory:

Nb=1
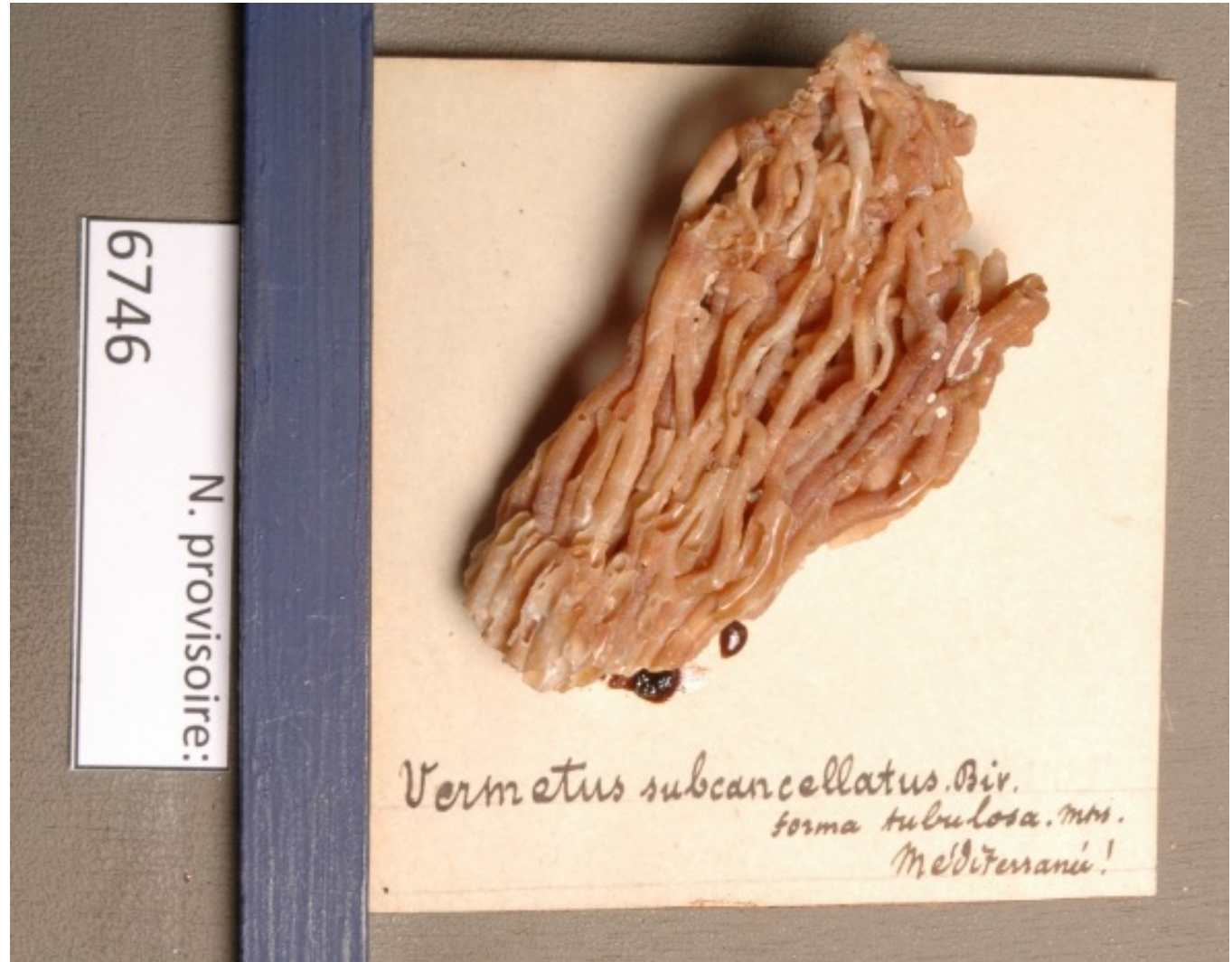
Inventory: Need for standards

- Number of specimens
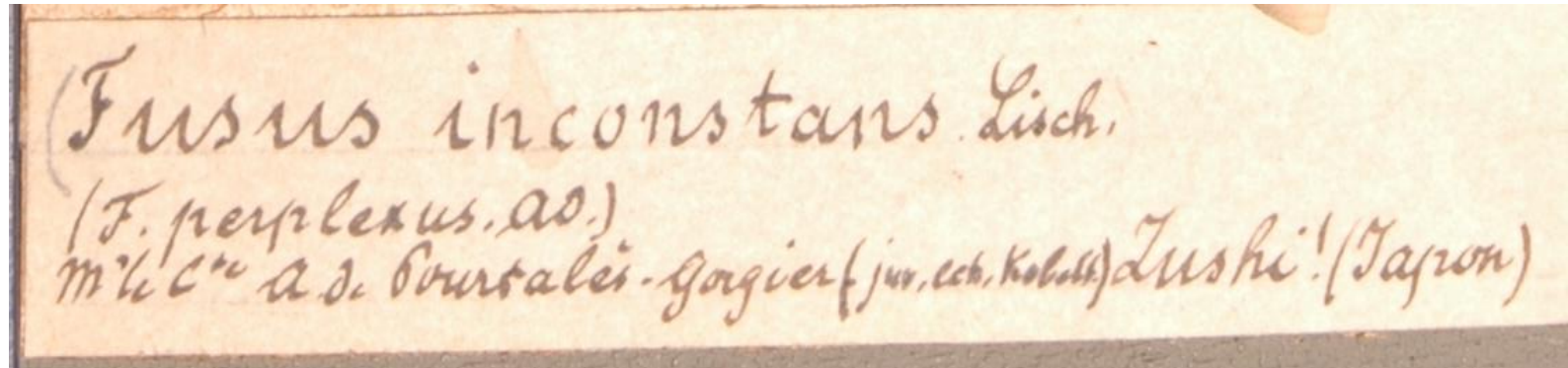
In the inventory:

2 entry ID

--> 1 specimen from Perou

--> 2 specimen from Chili

Scurria scurra (Less.)
(Patella. Less. - Acmaea. Orb.)
1. Voy. Tschudi . 2.3. D' Philippi.
2.3. Chili! 1 Pérou!

Inventory: Need for standards

- Which collector?

Mr le Cte A. de Pourtalès-Gorgier (juv. Ech. Ko[ba]lt)

--> Use and contribution to the LEGITCH project aiming to build a centralized register of collectors of nat hist collection of Switzerland (Info Fauna and GbifCH)

In the inventory:
Collector: Pourtalès-Gorgier, Arthur (1844-1928) and as Remark: Echange Ko[ba]lt

Inventory: Need for standards

- Ambiguous location

Singapour

Java

Voluta scapha. L. var. (aulica)
Mr Boul. Lagnier. Singapour? Java?
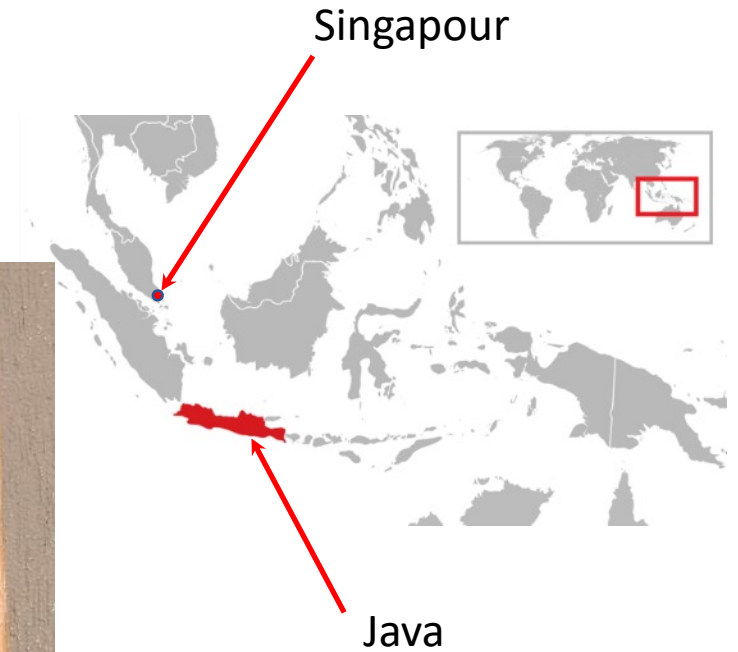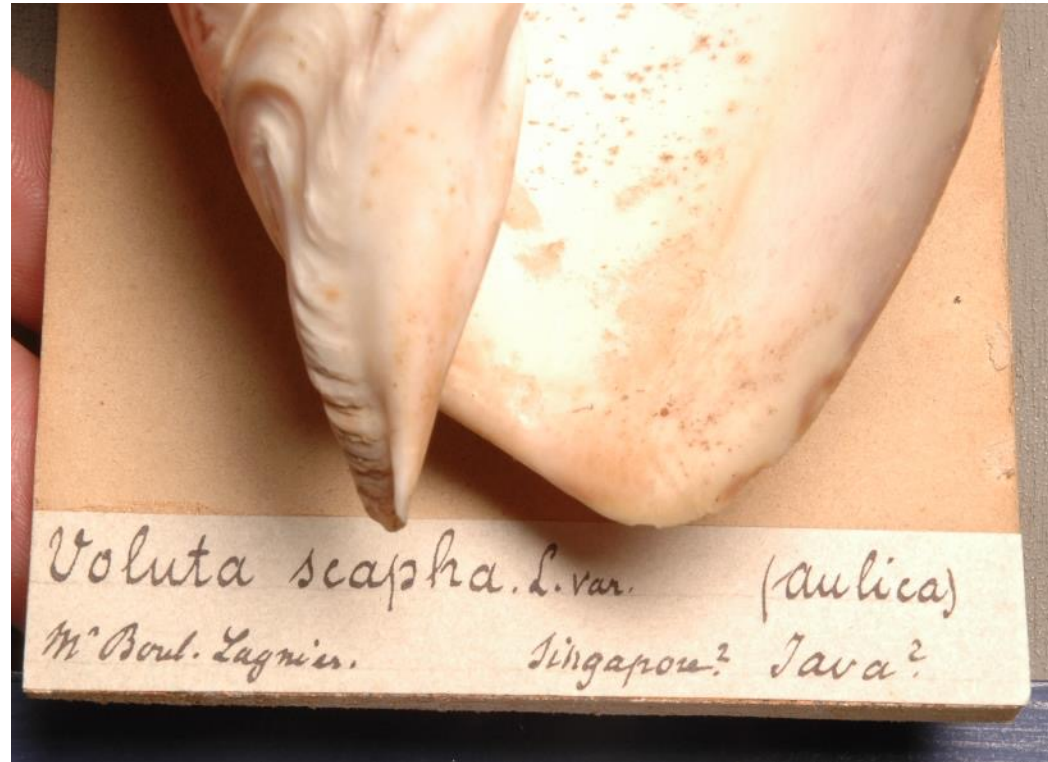
In the inventory:

Singapour and Java in the remark, no location registered

Inventory: Tackling the challenge

- Training material as a starter for newcommers
  - Excel table and pictures with "standard" and "problematic" lot

- Weekly discussion about ambiguous cases among the team

- Setup of standard rules to apply when encoding information based on examples and expanding with new problematic cases.

- → Inventory has still to be normalized in regard of these rules before the upload in the database

Inventory and beyond:
How to address archive documents ?

✓ Join pdf to the data

? Handel the concept of «document» in the database
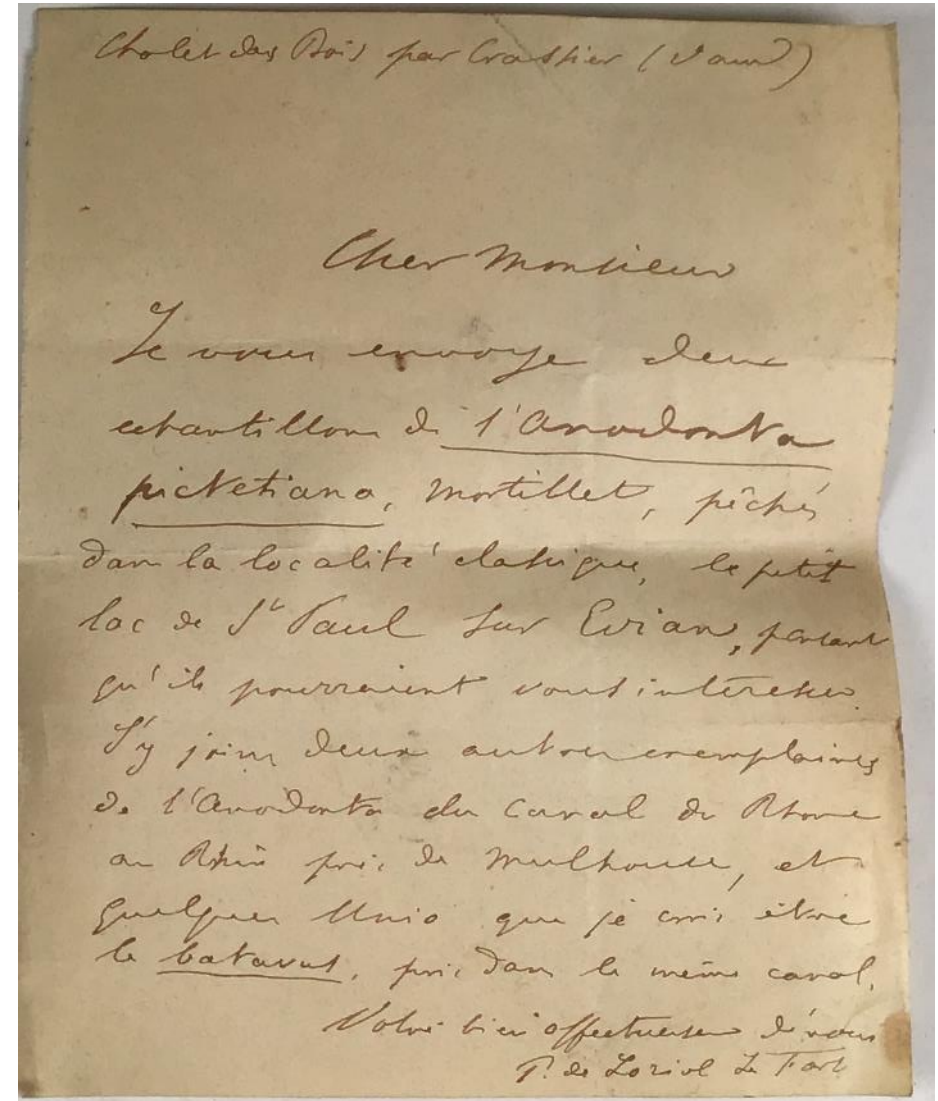
Data publication: Geolocalization

- Swiss specimens are allready handeled by GbifCH

- Exotic specimens: the Harvard georeferencing tool will be tested in colaboration with InfoFauna and GbifCH
    - --> july 2023: first testing of the method
    - --> february 2024: treatment of the data

    - A feed-back will be provided in this period

Thanks to the mollusk team: Sophie Pasche, Yaëlle Bouquet, Lita Patty, Khalil Outemzabet, Antoine Böttge, Andrea Cruz, Margot Liberek, Valérie Stahl, Louise Robert, Lucille Ruynat as well as all the ones who helped and will help in the project!

And thank you for your attention

Conférence internationale / *International Symposium*

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