



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones
Tropicales
Center for Tropical Paleoecology and Archeology (CTPA)

Donation of the Graham Palynological Collection to the Smithsonian Institution

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The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama is proud to announce that it has received the donation of the best collection of neotropical pollen in the world, the Graham Palynological Collection, thanks to the generosity of Alan Graham, Professor Emeritus at the Kent State University and current curator at the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

This collection began as part of an early palynology laboratory set up in the herbarium of the University of Texas in 1954, and expanded with original preparations, and also with exchanges with numerous laboratories throughout the world. It comprises over 25,000 pollen slides of modern taxa, mostly from the neotropics, thousands of pollen slides from Dr. Graham's work on the geological history of the forests of Central America, as well as pollen residues and an impressive collection of literature (over 16,000 reprints related primarily to the biology and geology of the New World with emphasis on Latin America). The modern reference component has the added virtue that all the original preparations can be referenced to a specific herbarium collection, allowing scientists to verify the identification of fossil material and specimens used in taxonomic studies.

At STRI, we are grateful and honored to be hosting this collection, which is an invaluable resource for our scientists. Soon, we hope to have all components in digital format, to share it on the web with everyone who might be interested, worldwide.



Prof. Alan Graham,



A sample of the collection