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The David Rockefeller Beetle Collection

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Collection image courtesy of the Department of Entomology

Collection on display at the Harvard Museum of Natural History (HMNH)

[Arthropods: Creatures that Rule](#)

[The Rockefeller Beetles](#) exhibit at the HMNH, recounts the story of banker, philanthropist, and Harvard alum David Rockefeller whose childhood pursuit grew into a lifelong passion. At seven years old he started collecting beetles and continued to collect right up until his last year at age 101. Even as a busy Harvard undergraduate, he kept a small collection in his dorm room and took grad-level classes with noted entomologist, William Morton Wheeler. For over 90 years he collected beetles from all around the world eventually building a personal collection of more than 150,000 specimens that includes hundreds of rare species. In 2017, his longstanding support for the Museum of Comparative Zoology's Department of Entomology culminated in a gift to the museum of this extraordinary collection.

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