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ABSTRACTS

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REVITALIZATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION
OF THE MUSEU CARLOS MACHADO IN PONTA DELGADA, AZORES**

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The biological marine collections of the Museu Carlos Machado in Ponta Delgada have constituted a major historical and scientific reference over the last 120 years, with great cultural and social importance. Using their expertise to disclose biological knowledge and rising environmental concerns, Natural History museums play an important role in the development of local communities. The Museum is, by excellence, the right place for depositing reference collections of several taxonomic groups, e.g. molluscs, fishes, crustaceans or algae. Therefore, its integration in the scientific activities of the Marine Biology team of the Azores University Biology Department is, more than a logical goal with obvious advantages to both entities, a cultural and scientific responsibility. Fossils (from Santa Maria Island), marine algae and crustaceans collections were reviewed; several species were added to these collections - about 40 fossils, 50 algae and 20 crustaceans. Damaged specimens were replaced. Important historical and scientific contributions housed in the Museum, as volumes by Drouet (1861) or Barrois (1888), publications or letters, were reviewed and organized. With this work we wish to revitalize the Museum's Natural History collections, therefore contributing to the important mission of this Azorean Museum.