



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
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November 4, 2018

Subject: Help rebuilding the paleontology collections of Brazil's National Museum

Dear Paleontology Colleagues,

As you may know, the National Museum of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro was consumed almost entirely by fire on September 3, 2018. The destroyed building included exhibit rooms and offices as well as paleobotany, invertebrate paleontology, and vertebrate paleontology collections that included a number of holotypes. The current director of the museum, Dr. Alexander Kellner, has been working hard to secure funding from the Brazilian government for a new building. In order to make his case as strong as possible, he has requested help from fellow paleontology colleagues and institutions. Notably, the National Museum is in desperate need of: (1) photographs and replicas of its own specimens that perished; and (2) donations of any number of replicas and fossils, including comparative specimens, from other institutions or individuals. Because the museum's 3D printers luckily survived, 3D digital data (copyright permitting) can also be sent to the museum. Individuals and institutions can help the National Museum by sending formal letters stating that they will make such donations.

At this point, it is not necessary to state the exact number of replicas and/or specimens to be donated, but simply the *intent* to make such donations. What is needed (and time-sensitive) are letters that demonstrate an international effort to help the National Museum to rebuild its paleontology collections, which in turn can further justify the need for a place where replicas and specimens can be properly stored, curated, and open to visitation. Letters should be addressed to: **Dr. Alexander Kellner** (Museum Director), direcao@mn.ufrj.br. It would be most effective if the letters can be sent to Dr. Kellner via email by **November 30, 2018**, although the museum will continue to welcome donation intent letters past that date.

Please forward this letter to whomever deem appropriate, and on behalf of our colleagues in Brazil, thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Rayfield'.

Emily J. Rayfield, Ph.D.
SVP President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica M. Theodor'.

Jessica M. Theodor, Ph.D.
SVP Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. David Polly'.

P. David Polly, Ph.D.
Past SVP President