

*the*  
LOST  
*species*



*the*  
**LOST**  
*species*

*Great Expeditions in the Collections  
of Natural History Museums*

CHRISTOPHER KEMP

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS  
CHICAGO AND LONDON

The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 60637  
The University of Chicago Press, Ltd., London  
© 2017 by Christopher Kemp

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or  
reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission,  
except in the case of brief quotations in critical articles and reviews.

For more information, contact the University of Chicago Press,  
1427 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.  
Published 2017

Printed in the United States of America

26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 1 2 3 4 5

ISBN-13: 978-0-226-38621-8 (cloth)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-226-38635-5 (e-book)  
DOI: 10.7208/chicago/9780226386355.001.0001

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Names: Kemp, Christopher, author.

Title: The lost species : great expeditions in the collections  
of natural history museums / Christopher Kemp.

Description: Chicago ; London : The University of Chicago Press, 2017. |  
Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017016333 | ISBN 9780226386218 (cloth : alk. paper) |  
ISBN 9780226386355 (e-book)

Subjects: LCSH: Natural history—Popular works. | Type specimens (Natural  
history)—Popular works. | Biological specimens—Identification—Popular  
works. | Natural history—Research—Popular works. | Natural history—  
Catalogs and collections. | Natural history museums.

Classification: LCC QH45.5 .K46 2018 | DDC 508.075—dc23  
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017016333>

© This paper meets the requirements of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992  
(Permanence of Paper).

*For my family*



Tax·on·o·my

tak'sänəmə/

*noun* Biology

the branch of science concerned with classification, especially of organisms; systematics

1. the classification of something, especially organisms: "the taxonomy of these fossils"

2. a scheme of classification

plural noun: taxonomies

"a taxonomy of smells"

ORIGIN: early nineteenth century: coined in French from the Greek *taxis*, meaning "arrangement" and *nomia*, meaning "distribution"

The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their proper names.

**Confucius**

Collections are large-scale research facilities. The problem is, they don't look like it. If you go to the Large Hadron Collider or if you go and look at some other particle accelerator or a radio telescope or something, you go in and there's lights and there's switches and there's things that make noises. It's all gleaming and clean, and there are people running around doing stuff on computers. It looks very high-tech. If you go into the basement of a museum and you see a bunch of jars on shelves, you don't necessarily say, "That's in the same category of things as a particle accelerator."

But it is.

**Christopher Norris, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History**

*Nomina sunt consequentia rerum.*

(Names are the consequences of things.)

**Dante**

