

## **Les Herbonautes launches its 6<sup>th</sup> call for projects producing data for research**

Launched in 2013, *Les Herbonautes* offers an online community the opportunity to enrich the descriptive and archival specimen data of natural history collections, with a particular focus on herbaria. In doing so, the community plays a role in contributing to the study and knowledge of biodiversity. *Les Herbonautes* is a citizen science programme led by the Récolnat infrastructure.

### A corpus of images and citizen science made available for the creation of datasets

The national network of naturalist collections, Récolnat, is a research infrastructure with a perimeter that encompasses the whole variety of natural history specimens. The infrastructure works to facilitate access to collection specimens, improve the openness of their data, and increase their valorisation through research.

Récolnat aggregates and makes available a corpus of images of more than 10 million specimens from naturalist collections, produced through national digitisation programmes across almost 80 French mainland and overseas institutions.

Since its creation, the users behind *Les Herbonautes* have digitised more than 600,000 specimens, representing more than 7.6 million individual contributions. The datasets that have been produced have enriched national collections and can be directly exploited for the purposes of research.

As a result of recent calls, 50 projects have been selected for *Les Herbonautes*, resulting in significant contributions to programmes and scientific publications in France and abroad.

### How to participate

This project call is open to all topics providing they have a link with biodiversity, including systematics, ecology, history, geography, chemistry, etc. Projects should be of relevance to the corpus of botanical collections across France. Applications will be assessed by the Récolnat scientific committee and evaluated in terms of their relevance and feasibility. Following assessment, the selected projects will be added to the calendar of "missions", ready to benefit from the participatory transcription from a community with 10 years of experience.

Your application must include the following elements (see template below):

- a presentation of the project, describing its objectives, the institutional framework, possible collaborations and partnerships, as well as its scientific, historic, cultural, or other areas of interest;
- the botanical collections concerned and whether they are already in the [Récolnat](#) collections database;
- a description of the type of data required. In addition to transcribing the main collection fields (e.g. country, region, collector, determinator, location, geolocation, collection identifier), it is possible to create customised questions tailored to your research project;
- photos to illustrate your request;
- a suggested timeline for the mission.

Your application must reach us by midday (Paris time) on 31 January 2024. Please submit it to **[lesherbonautes@recolnat.org](mailto:lesherbonautes@recolnat.org)** with the subject "**AAP\_Herbonautes2023**".

Successful applicants commit to:

- following the progress of their mission on the platform [lesherbonautes.mnhn.fr](https://lesherbonautes.mnhn.fr)
- informing the Récolnat team and including the following reference in any publication relating to their mission: *LesHerbonautes/MNHN/Récolnat*

Récolnat commits to:

- accompanying the applicant through their familiarisation with the platform and the management of their mission;
- implementing the mission and animating the community of *Herbonautes*;
- producing an export file (csv) of the collected data at the end of the mission.

For additional information, please contact: [lesherbonautes@recolnat.org](mailto:lesherbonautes@recolnat.org)

*Les Herbonautes*, a citizen science programme by the national network of naturalist collections (Récolnat)

Call for applications - 2023

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Project title

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- Institutional framework (academic institutions, associations, other):
- Presentation of the project (2000 characters maximum):
- How will the digitisation of the collection data help meet your project objectives?
- Describe the main interest areas of your project (scientific, museographic, historic, societal, etc.)
- Which collections are required? Are the collections already present in the [Récolnat database](#)? If this is not the case, are they already recorded on a different database?
- Description of the type of data required. In addition to transcribing the main collection fields (e.g. country, date, location, geolocation, etc.), phenological, historical, biological information;
- Estimated start date for the mission and the timeframe for the data production?
- What results, scientific progress and use are envisaged for the datasets produced by *Les Herbonautes*?
- Will the dataset populate another database? If yes, please describe.
- Optional additional information: