Engaging with Wikidata
Benefits and impacts for botanists and institutions

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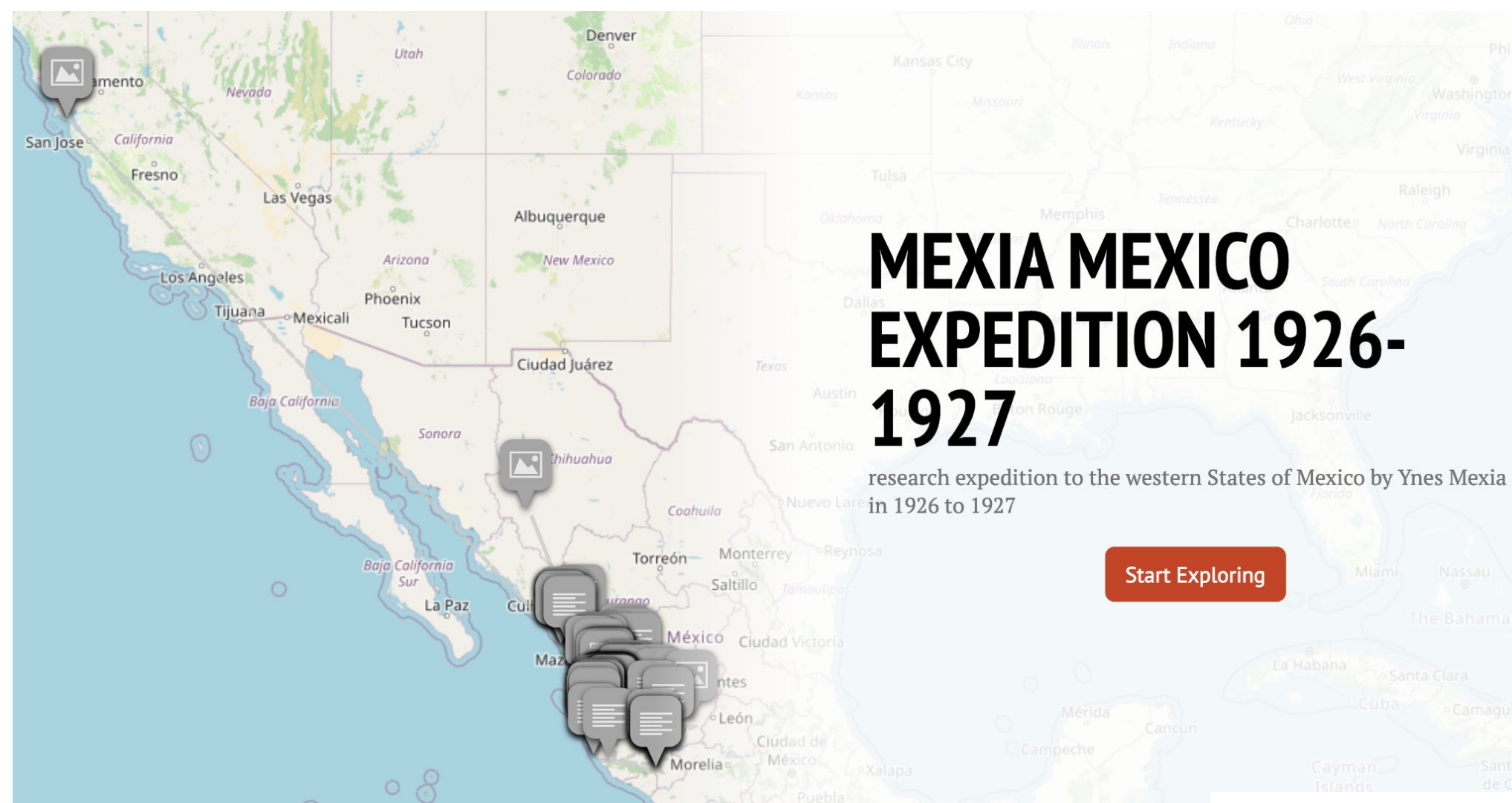*← Scan to see our poster on your device*

Fig. 1. Visualisation of one of Ynes Mexia's research expeditions based on Wikidata items, ODbL.

Scan to see a visualisation of this expedition →
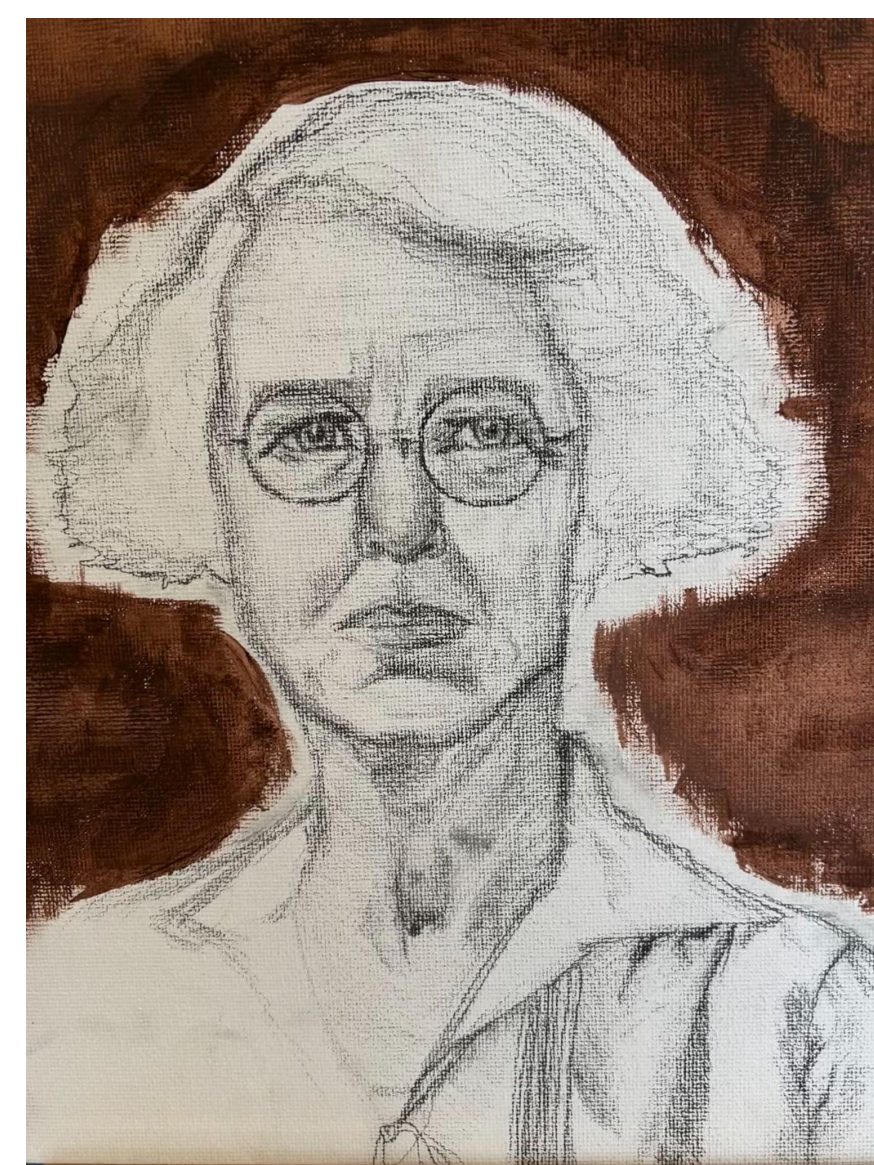
Wikidata is an important tool for botanists.

Fig. 3. Botanist Ynes Mexia (1870-1938), NPS Photo, Public domain.

- Wikidata is a **multilingual linked open knowledge base** to which **anyone can contribute**.
- It contains **CC0 licensed data** and empowers the **referencing** of this data thus showing the source of this information.
- Wikidata can help **disambiguate and enrich data on botanists** and collectors of botanical specimens.

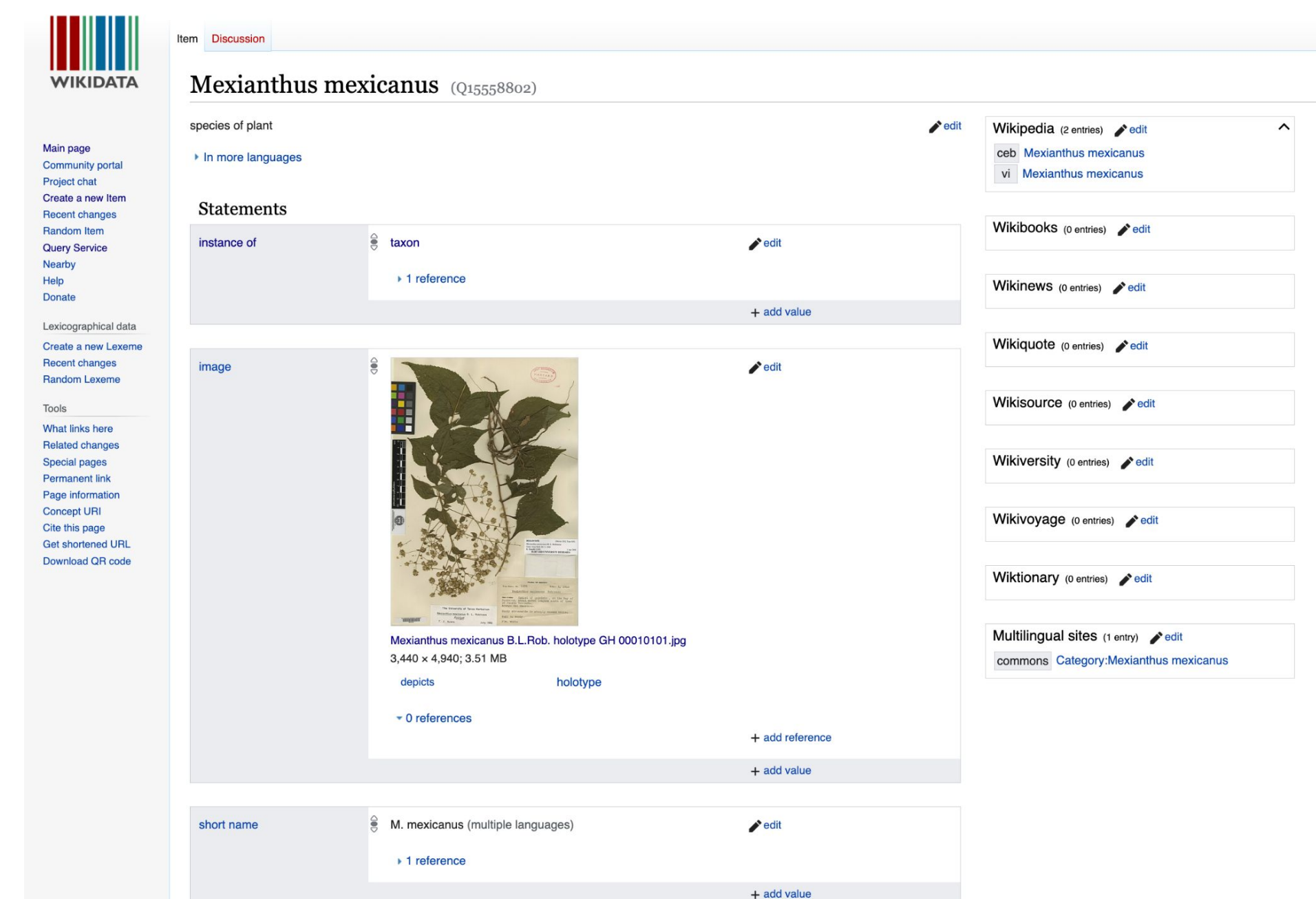## Wikidata items on plant taxa contain data from multiple sources, with references.

Fig. 4A. Wikidata item for the plant species Mexianthus mexicanus, CC BY-SA 4.0

- Sources can include links to the **original description** of the taxon.
- Wikidata may also have items for alternative names for a plant species and can **link synonyms to their publications**.
- An **image** of the species can also be added *(Fig. 4A)*.

Wikidata can illuminate connections of botanical research expeditions.

- **Research expeditions** are a major source of objects contained in natural history institutions *(Fig. 1)*.
- Currently there is **no single database** that contains comprehensive data on the world's scientific expeditions.
- **Natural history institutions are using Wikidata** to help link historical and contemporary research expeditions to other entities such as participants, locations, publications, and institutions *(Fig. 2)*.
- These **links** are being made within Wikidata as well as in **collection management systems and catalogues**.
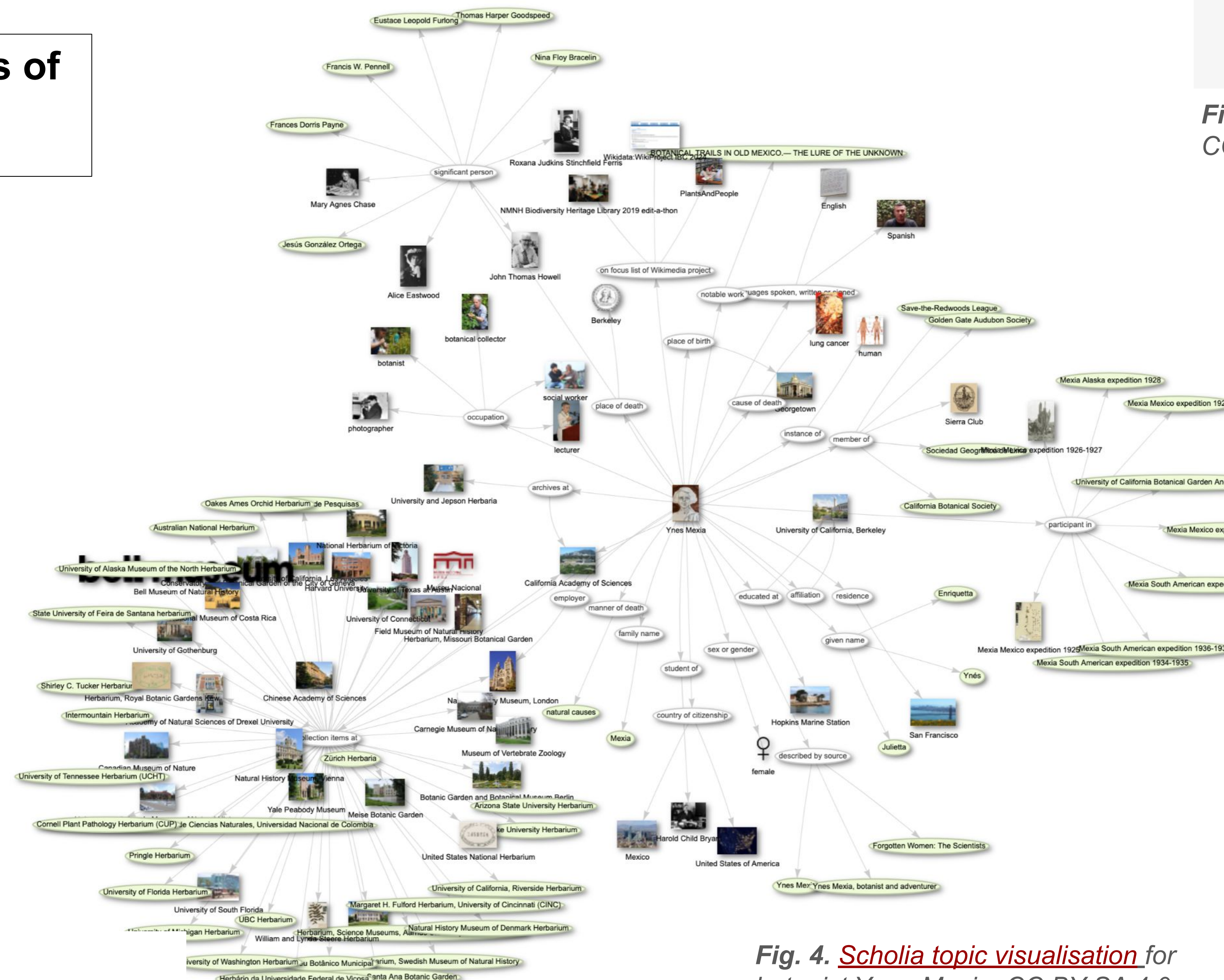

Fig. 4. Scholia topic visualisation for botanist Ynes Mexia, CC BY-SA 4.0.

Wikidata acts as a database hub and a universal identifier.

Fig. 4B. Wikidata item for the species Mexianthus mexicanus showing links to other identifiers, CC BY-SA 4.0

- Wikidata links to identifiers such as the **Catalogue of Life, GBIF, IPNI, POWO, and Tropicos,** among others *(Fig. 4B)*.
- Wikidata can **facilitate access** to information in different source databases from natural history institutions, herbaria and data aggregators.

Information in Wikidata can be queried & visualised.

- The Wikidata identifier for a botanist can be used in **Scholia** to generate a **topic visualisation graph** *(Fig. 4)*.
- The website **Bionomia** uses a botanist's **Wikidata identifier or ORCID** to create a profile linking them to **specimens**, dates, taxa, and institutions *(Fig. 5)*.
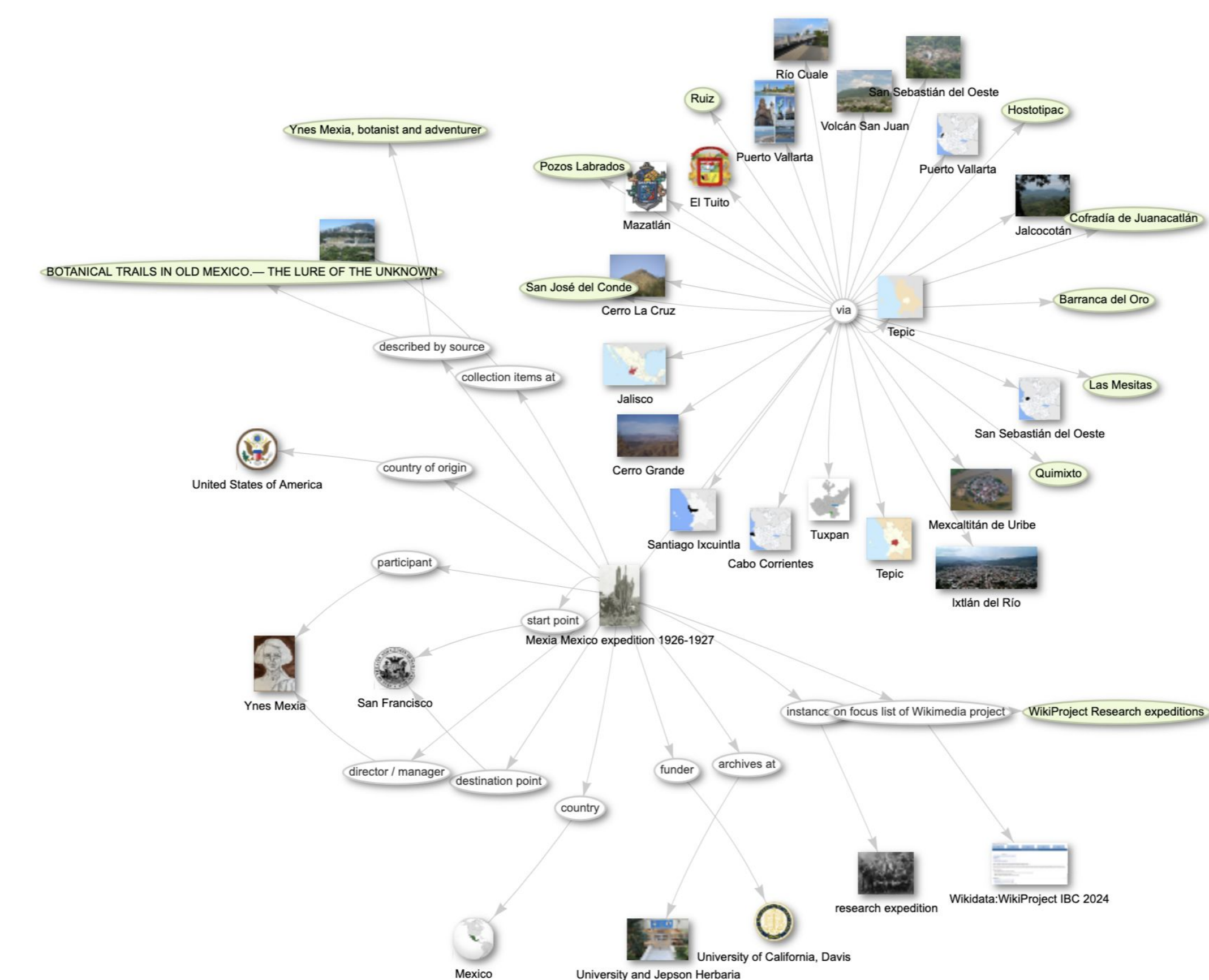

Fig. 2. Scholia topic visualisation graph for the Mexia Mexico Expedition 1926-1927, CC BY-SA 4.0.
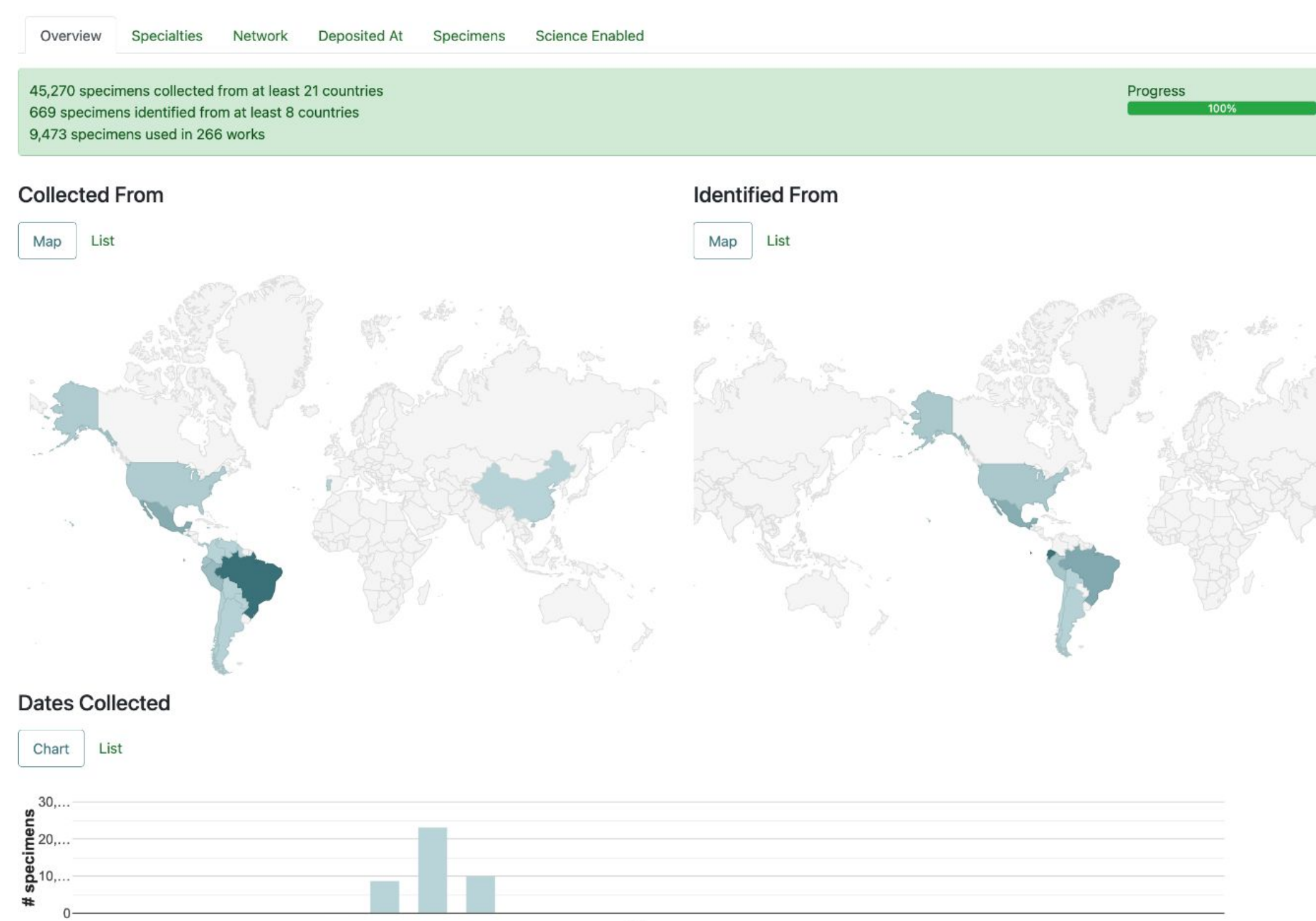
Fig. 5. Bionomia profile for botanist Ynes Mexia, with permission.

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