



سلطنة عُمان
وزارة التراث والسياحة
Ministry of Heritage and Tourism



متحف التاريخ الطبيعي
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Natural History Museum

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Museums are key contributors to the well-being and to the sustainable development of our communities; they are placed to create a cascading effect to foster positive change, tackling social isolation and improving mental health.

Introduction

The National Collections of Oman Natural History Museum established in 1982 include; National Herbarium, National Collection of Animal and Skeletons, National Collection of Shells, National Collection of Insects and National Collection of Fossils. These collections are concerned to archive and preserve Oman's natural heritage and biodiversity, and currently comprise more than 40,000 different specimens collected from different regions of the Sultanate of Oman in different times. These collections have been well prepared and scientifically classified to include the best models of Oman Biodiversity collections, and become the reference basis dedicated to studies and scientific research. The Natural History Museum, through its national collections, also participates in national efforts and scientific research to document and classify the unique diversity of Oman's Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.



High diversity of marine algae in southern Oman

Wrote: Dr. Michael Wynne
University of Michigan

A surprisingly rich diversity of marine algae (seaweeds) found for the Dhofar coast of Oman, based on initial work from the 1980s when a group from the University of York, U.K., carried out ecological studies on the kelp communities of southern Oman, more attention to identifying the algal flora needed. The Algal Biodiversity Project of Oman funded by a British Government “Darwin Initiative” grant (2002-1999). The project involved the Oman Natural History Museum (Ministry of Heritage and Tourism) along with the University of Michigan Herbarium (USA) and the British Natural History Museum, London. Initial results of this project reported

from 1999 to 2008. A new species of red seaweed recently described by Dr. Michael Wynne of the University of Michigan, namely, *Martensia incipiens*, which collected at Sadah, east of Salalah. Field notes made when the new species collected noted its brilliant iridescent colors ranging from pink to lilac in the living condition. The description of this new species brings the total to 18 new species described from the Dhofar coast. That total includes not only red algae but also green and brown algae.

In 2018, Wynne published a checklist of the seaweeds of the



Oman, in which 402 species of brown, green, and red algae presented. The diversity and abundance of marine algae on the coasts of Dhofar Governorate complies with stretch of coastline impacted by the seasonal monsoon, the “khareef”, when constant winds cause strong wave action, upwelling, higher nutrient levels and colder water temperatures. In addition, the continental shelf is also relatively narrow in the region between Mirbat and Sadah, and thus the oceanic conditions are even more pronounced and influential on marine algae diversity. According to Wynne, it is worth noting that many of the Omani new species are conspicuously large, that is, much larger than other known species in their genera. These include *Champia gigantea*, *Leveillea major*, *Bryopsis robusta* [names reflecting their larger

Martensia Incipiens



sizes], *Chrysomenia tigillum*, *Dipterocladia arabiensis*, and *Centroceras secundum*. Another robust and common new species is *Gelidium omanense*, in a genus that is a significant source of agar, a valuable phycocolloid, which used in cooking as a gel added to soups, sweets and ice cream, and used for medical and scientific purposes. In addition to discovering new species in Oman, Wynne also described two new genera, a higher classification of algae. So far, these two new genera known only from Oman. These are *Pseudogrinnellia barrattiae*, the species named for the collector, Lynne Barratt of Hunting Aquatic Resources, York, U.K. The other new genus is *Stirnia prolifera*, which honors Dr. Joze Stirn, formerly of the Dept. of Fisheries Science and Technology, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, who provided many of the collections. According to Wynne, the wave-

buffeted shores of southern Oman are an amazingly rich source of seaweed diversity, one that deserves further attention.

It is worth mentioning, the National Herbarium of Oman (with acronym (ON)) within the Natural History Museum includes the Algae collection with more than 800 specimens.

Champia Gigantea



Pseudogrinnellia Barrattiae



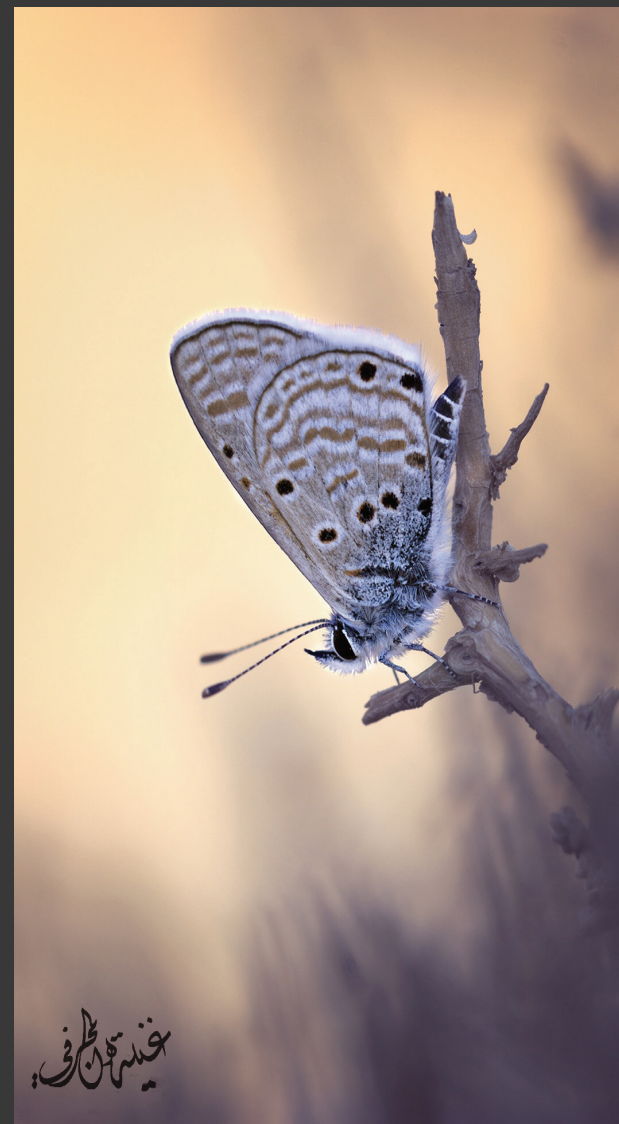
Natural History Museum and Oman Animal and Plant Genetics Resources Center Launch Omani Butterflies Initiative

The Oman Natural History Museum in the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in partnership with Oman Animal and Plant Genetics resources center in the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, launched a scientific initiative, called the Omani Butterflies Initiative, which focuses on animal genetic resources, specifically in the field of insects. The initiative extended from September 2021 to March 2022, and its geographical scope covers all provinces of Sultanate of Oman. Support this initiative comes from Oman Indian Fertilizer Company (Omifco).

The initiative based on the importance of butterflies in the ecosystem; it has

an important role in the process of pollination of many plants, and has an important aesthetic and tourism aspect, in addition to the importance of updating scientific data and databases available about Omani butterflies. Therefore, the initiative aims to update and expand the information base on Omani butterflies through the community efforts to register their observations of Butterflies around them in (Tajmee application).

It is worth mentioning that the last report published on the types of Omani butterflies dates back to 1996 and included the species seen in Muscat province during the period



from 1993 to 1996, in addition to the species registered in the National Collection of Insects at the Oman Natural History Museum.

The initiative aims:

The Initiative aims to educate the community about the local butterfly species, document new species of butterflies in the Sultanate, scientific classification and dissemination of information and data, and maximize the benefit of the scientific aspect of butterflies in tourism promotion. Competitions were also launched to encourage the community to participate in the initiative and allocate funds to the participants in the competitions associated with the initiative for the most initiators in registering different types of butterflies and besides that 3 winners were honored with the best image in terms of quality and capture in the initiative. Note that the initiative

icon is fixed in the “Tajmaee” application and it is possible to continuously participate by recording data in the application.

Results of the initiative:

The initiative ended with 55 views of Omani butterflies from several regions of Sultanate of Oman, comprising 15 species of butterflies from different provinces.



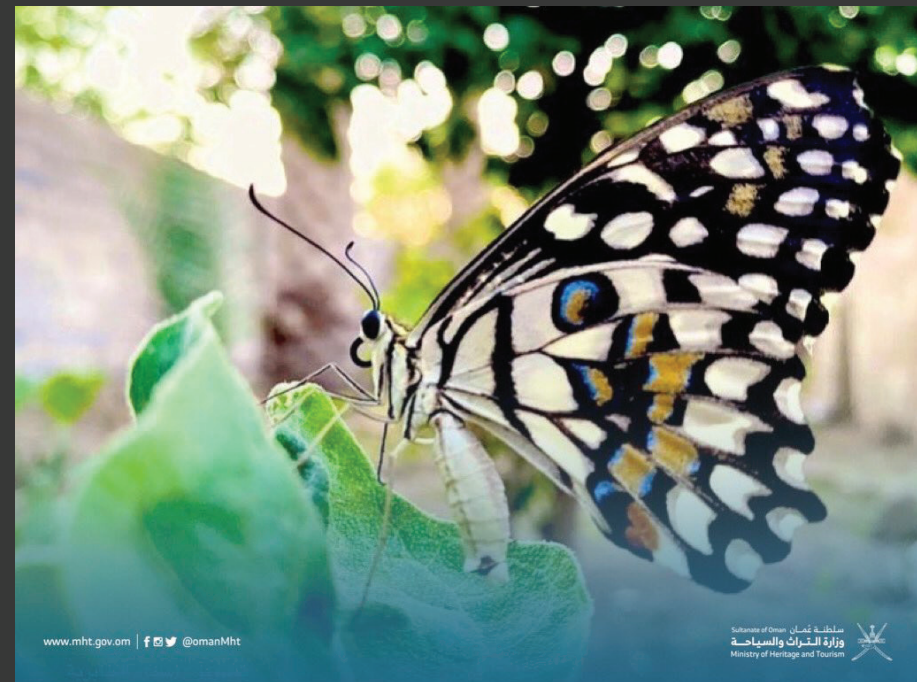
	Scieintific Name	English Name
1	<i>Colotis calais amatus</i>	Salmon Arab Butterfly
2	<i>Anaphaeis aurota</i>	Caper White Butterfly
3	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	Yellow Pansy Butterfly
4	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady Butterfly
5	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Plain Tiger Butterfly
6	<i>Hypulimnas misippus</i>	Diadem Butterfly
7	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	Lime Butterfly
8	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>	Asian Grass Blue Butterfly
9	<i>Pontia glauconome</i>	Desert White Butterfly
10	<i>Tarucus rosaceus</i>	Mediterranean Pierrot Butterfly
11	<i>Ypthima asterope</i>	Common Three- Ring Butterfly
12	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>	African Migrant Butterfly
13	<i>Azanus ubaldus</i>	Desert Babul Blue Butterfly
14	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Pea Blue Butterfly
15	<i>Colotis liagore</i>	Desert Orange Tip Butterfly

Winners of the First Competition (best initiators in terms of image quality and capture):

1st - Ghania Bint Salem Al-Majrafi
(Desert White Butterfly)



2nd - Asma bint Ahmed Al Jabri
(Lime butterfly)



3rd - Saeed bin Hamad Al-Rashidi

African Migrant Butterfly



Winners of the Second Competition (the most initiators of the initiative):

1. **1st / Abdullah bin Hilal Al-Mahzari.**
2. **2nd / Ghania Bint Salem Al-Majrafi.**
3. **3rd / Mohammed bin Hilal al-Mahdari.**



The Researcher:
Dr. Mohammed Bin Hilal Al Kindi

Researcher in Board

Mohammed bin Hilal Al Kindi received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, in 2003 in Physics and Geology, then completed his PhD in the study of cracks and fissures in the southern part of the Hajar Mountains from the University of Leeds in England in 2006. Afterward, in -2006 2014 he worked as a geologist in development of reservoirs fields in the Petroleum development Oman. In 2008, He joined the Board of the Oman Geological Society in the position of Executive Director and became president of the Society in 2013 until 2015. He has many publications on Oman geology and he published many books through the Geological Society of Oman and the Geological Society of London and international publishing



houses. His specialization in studying geological structures such as cracks, faults and folds. The geological trips during his work at Petroleum Development Oman and his contributions to the programs of the Oman Geological Society gave him the opportunity to visit many Geological sites in Oman and identifying the fossils spreading in Omani regions and linking them to climatic and geological changes throughout Oman's millions of years of history. Through his experience in the field of fossils, he has many collaborations with the Oman Natural History Museum in classifying many fossils in the National Fossil Collection. Dr. Mohammed currently work as the President for Earth Science Consultation Center in addition to his work as a visiting lecturer at The German University of Technology.

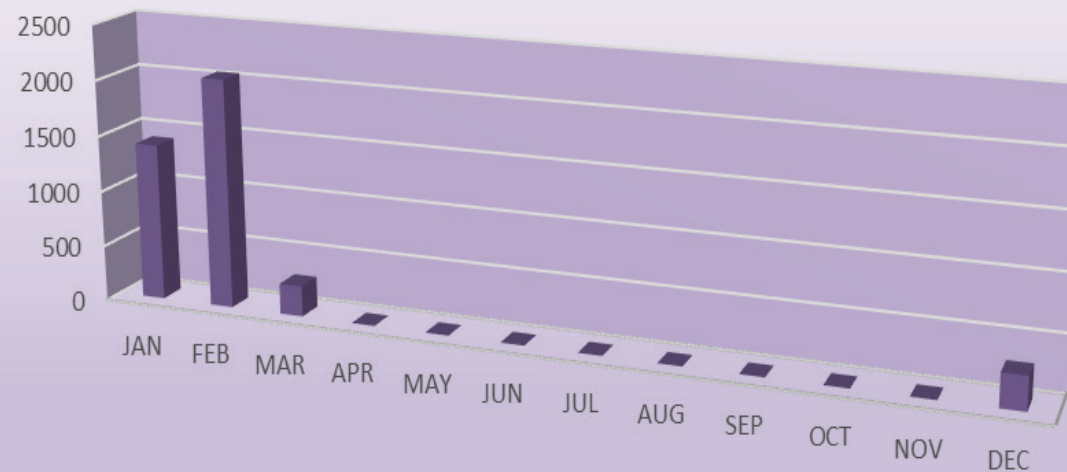


From His publications: Geological and Biological Development in Oman, the Story of life in Oman 800 million years ago and the Guide to the Caves of Sultanate of Oman.



Natural History Museum during the Pandemic “Covid-19”

NHM Visitors 2020



The impact of the pandemic “Covid-19” on the Oman Natural History Museum:

After the International high impact of the pandemic «Covid-19, On March 10, 2020, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq issued a high order to form a high committee to observe the mechanism dealing with developments resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. After closing, following the reopening of a number of activities in Oman as directed by the High Committee charged for dealing with COVID-19 in Oman; precautionary measures have been prepared and announced when visiting museums, including Steps and guides for museum staff and visitors.

Due to the pandemic and its impact on the number of visitors to the museum for 2020, the number of visitors during the past year has dropped to 4,027 (the closing period was from April to November) in conjunction with 2019, which reached 7,329 visitors in the same period. Number of Visitors to the museum in 2022 until the end of May: 4,536 visitors

Scientific research

The research and scientific movement in the Oman Natural History Museum have also influenced because of the international precautionary procedures. Followed this effect is summarized in the small number of researchers and scientists employed for museum collections from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman. In addition to a decrease in the number of trainees from universities and colleges in the museum, compared to the number of researchers and trainees during 2019, which reached approximately 31 researchers.

Actions taken at the Natural History Museum to minimize the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic:



The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, represented by the General Directorate of Museums, add on several actions during the period of the impact of the pandemic on the museum sector to reduce the negative effects of the pandemic. The actions include focusing on social media to activate the role of the museum in society, where a virtual video of the Natural History Museum published in to visit the museum virtually. The views during 2020 reached 60,000. Also, researchers and research institutions contacted by e-mail and meetings held with educational institutions

to develop the role of the museum in various fields.

Precautionary actions to reopen the museum after the closure period:

After the reopening of tourist activities and places, the Ministry



Photo: Researchers visit the museum's collections

Heritage and Tourism has taken several actions to reopen its museums, including setting up guidelines and regulations for visiting museums. Through which the Oman Natural History Museum has carried out several precautionary actions and procedures, including stopping the reception of school visits to the museum and receiving a certain and limited number of visitors, in addition stopping the activities and events (educational activities and temporary exhibitions).



Photo: University and colleges students visit the museum collections

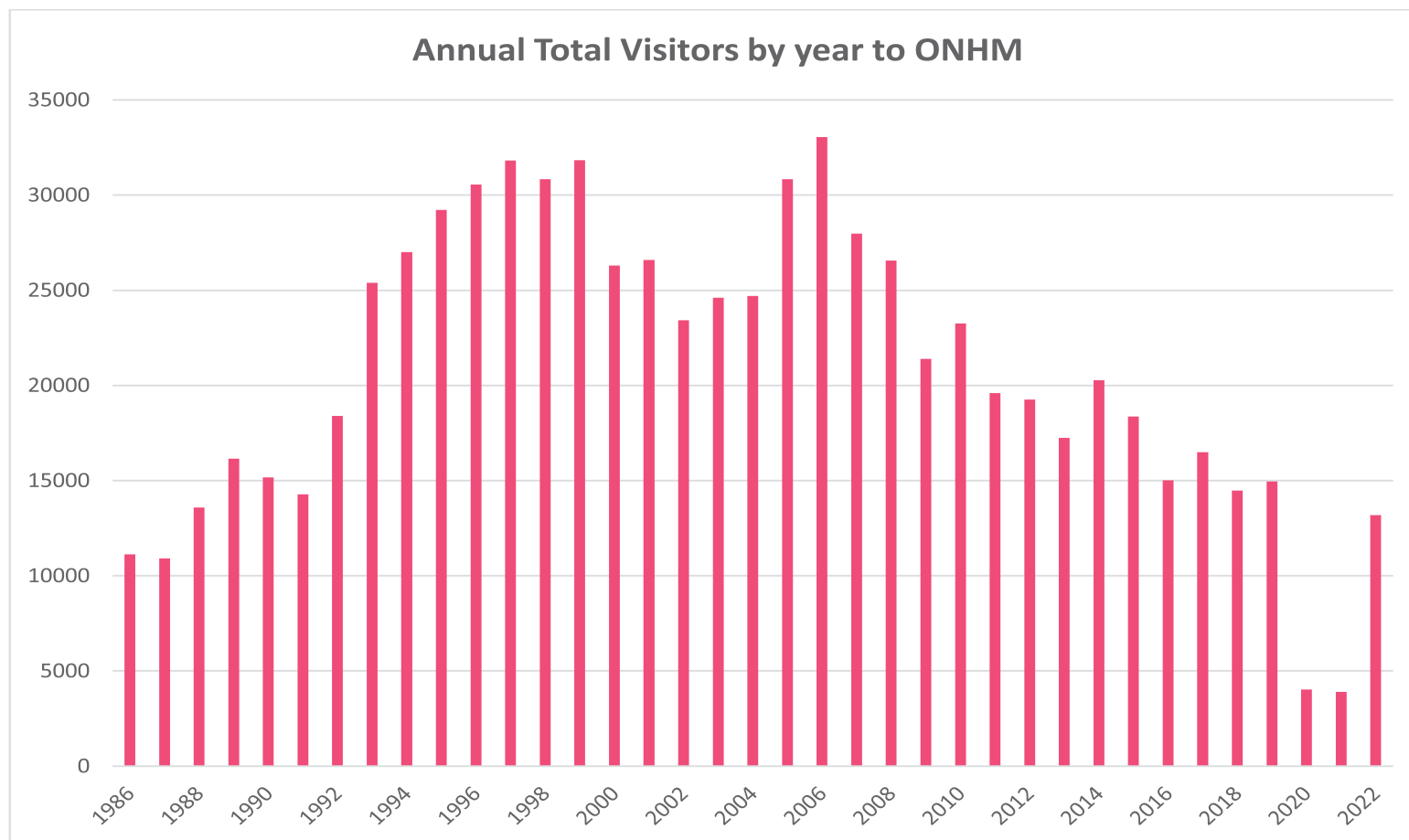
Recovery procedures from the Covid-19 pandemic:

After reopening of tourist activities and places, Oman Natural History Museum tackled several actions to recover from effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on visitors and beneficiaries of the museum. Wherein, started the reception of school and university visits, organization of temporary exhibitions and educational workshops and the reception of tourists, researchers and trainees in all museum sections.

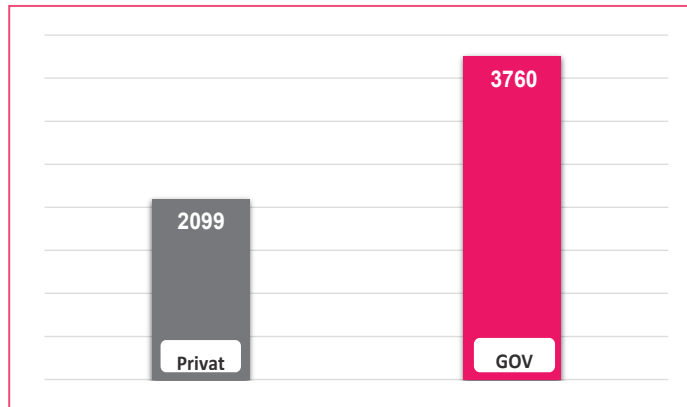


Museum & Society

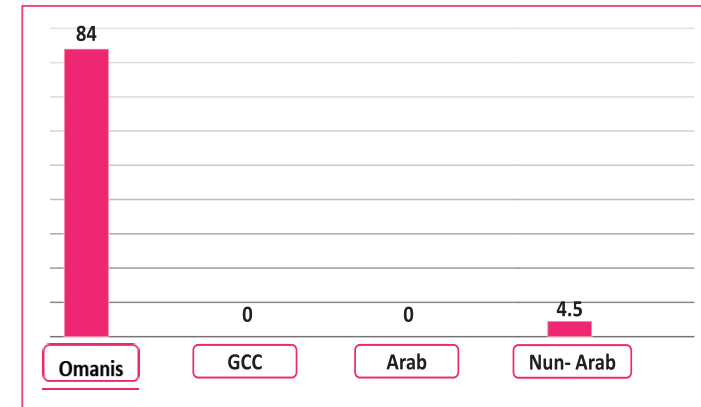
The total visitors to Natural History Museum of Oman since its opening is 771727 visitors



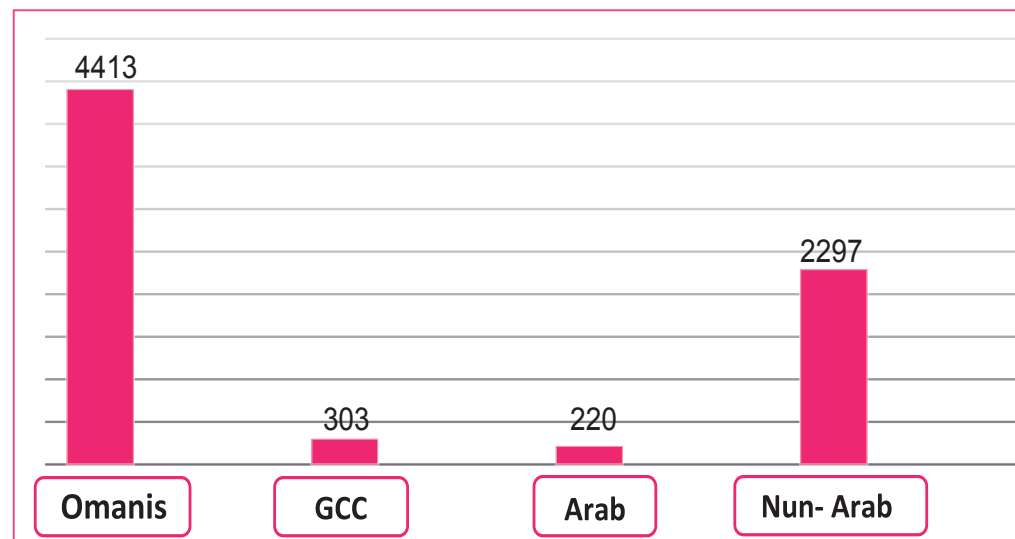
School Visits 2022



Official Delegations 2022



General Visitors 2022



New Species in Oman's Biodiversity

Goniozus Omanensis



Miscophus Alhashmii



Miscophus Fuscoales



Miscophus Luteoabdominalis



Miscophus Qaboosi



Opilo Acaciensis n. sp



Jatropha spinosa



Papaver rhoeas



New Species in Oman's Biodiversity

Schouwia Purpurea



Sesuvium Revolutifolium



Verbascum Virgatum





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