Zooniverse project calls on the public to reveal Victorian natural history

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Zooniverse unveils its latest project called *Science Gossip* which is an investigation into the making and communication of science in both the Victorian period and today. This project is born from a collaboration between an Arts and Humanities Research Council project in the UK, called ‘Constructing Scientific Communities: Citizen Science in the 19th and 21st Centuries’ (ConSciCom) and the Missouri Botanical Garden who provide content from the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL).

The publication of books and periodicals are key locations for knowledge about the natural world. The BHL has digitized millions of pages of historic literature on biodiversity from the 1400s to today. Hidden within these pages is a wealth of illustrations that you can help identify, classify and correlate. Help us unlock these illustrative treasures by adding your own observations to these images. Let us know who created them, their subject matter and any particular species they portray. Having a better understanding of the range of individuals who made science through their images will help us ascertain what constituted a nineteenth century citizen scientist. This is the first Zooniverse project where citizen scientists are both the researchers and subject of the research.

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