

# Nature after Europe

provincializing collections and their institutions

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Humanities of Nature

1

The “Anthropocene” and me



*Cosmopolites sordidus* (E.F. Germar, 1823) or, banana weevil

2

Hesitations, i.e. geopolitics of knowlege

The formal establishment of an Anthropocene Epoch would mark a fundamental change in the relationship between humans and the Earth system. (...) The case for a new epoch appears reasonable: what matters when dividing geological-scale time is global-scale changes to Earth's status, driven by causes as varied as meteor strikes, the movement of continents and sustained volcanic eruptions. Human activity is now global and is the dominant cause of most contemporary environmental change."

Simon Lewis and Mark Maslin, *Nature*, 2015

Human activities are exerting increasing impacts on the environment on all scales, in many ways outcompeting natural processes. (...) This epoch may be defined to have started about two centuries ago, coinciding with James Watt's design of the steam engine in 1784.

Paul Crutzen, The "Anthropocene", 2006

3

Boundaries/borders



Frontex border patrol on Greek-Turkish border

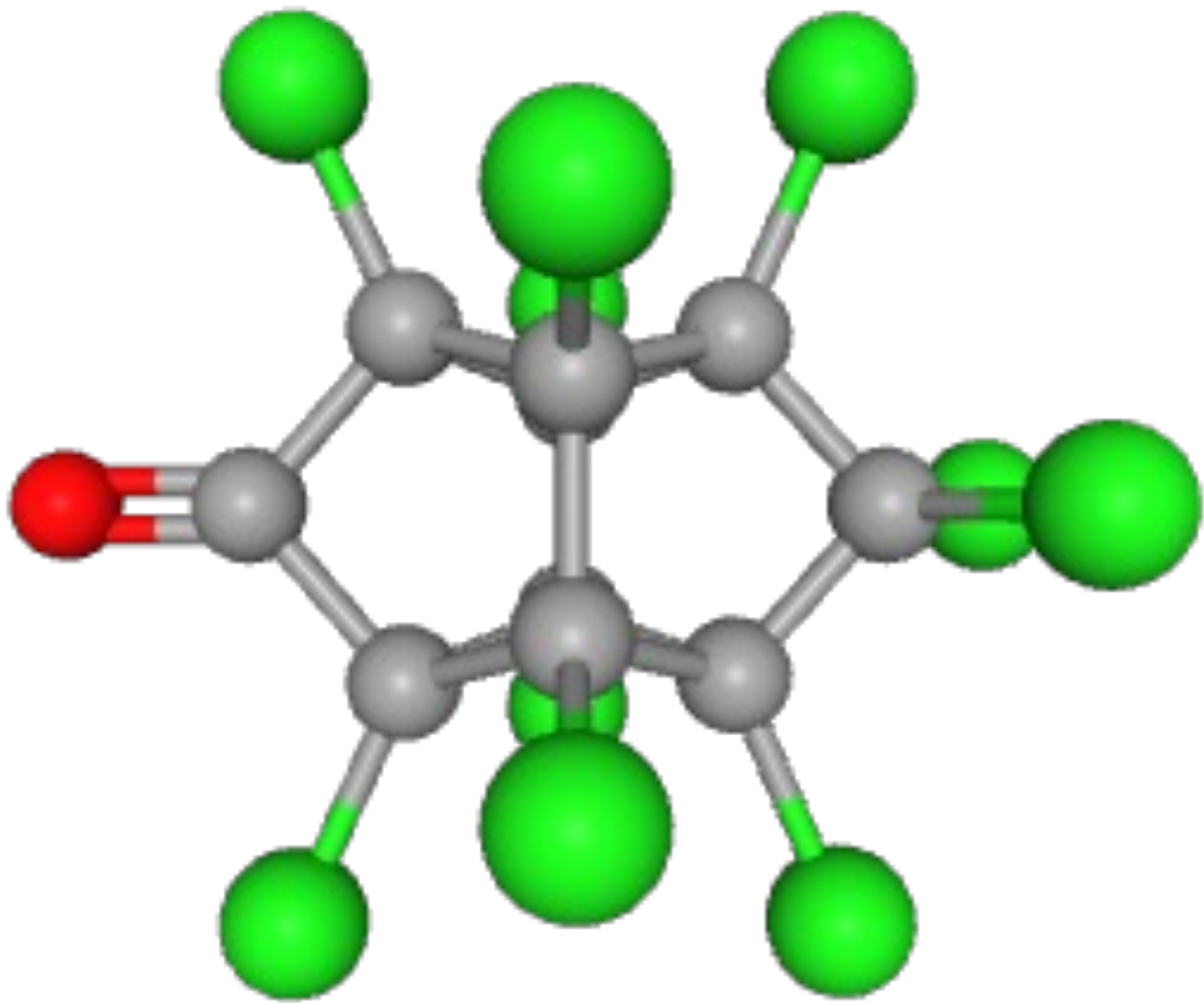
“For if the Rest was necessary for the political, economic and social formation of the West, it was also essential to the West’s formation both of its own sense of itself – a ‘western identity’ – and of western forms of knowledge.”

Stuart Hall, “The West and the Rest”, 1992



4

Collections in the “Anthropocene”



3D model of Chlordecone,  
 $C_{10}Cl_{10}O$



Photo: Leica Geosystems