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COMMENT: This electronic version of the newsletter was created by scanning the original copy and then editing as needed. Apologies for any scanning errors that have not been corrected. Karsten E. Hartel, MCZ January 1994. hartel@mcz.harvard.edu

CURATION NEWSLETTER No. 4 February 1982
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologist

NOTICE - At the ASIH annual meeting in Corvallis the Ichthyological Subcommittee on Curatorial Supplies and Practices was reappointed as a full committee and broadened to include herpetology. We will continue to produce the Newsletter, this issue containing the first major article on herpetological matters. We hope that it will generate additional herpetological contributions.

At the beginning of the new year, we would like to thank all of the contributors to the Newsletter, especially Ralph Taylor. In addition, our committee would like to acknowledge the continued support and encouragement given by Bob Gibbs, Bruce Collette, and Bill Fink.

FIELD PRESERVATION OF LARGE FISHES - Injection of fixative into the gut and musculature of large fishes in the field is an unpleasant and often a time-consuming task. This procedure is generally done with a syringe and hypodermic needle. Unfortunately, this requires continual filling of the syringe and cleaning of the needle as it becomes clogged with scales and flesh.

On Academy expeditions our collecting equipment includes a Sears two-gallon metal sprayer outfitted with a metal "Luer lock" hypodermic adapter. We have had great success with this apparatus; injecting is quick and the continuous pressure exerted by the sprayer prevents clogging of the needle.

One needs to "customize" the end of the sprayer hose by soldering the Luer lock adapter to the end of the sprayer mechanism. Since the majority of medical facilities now use disposable, all plastic syringes, the Luer lock adapter is not a common item. They can be purchased at \$5.40 each) from the Arthur H. Thomas Company, Vine Street at Third, Philadelphia, PA 19105, (215) 574-4500. To save on cost, they can also be removed from old glass syringes.

Plastic garden sprayers could probably be adapted also. These would have the advantage of not being affected by the corrosive properties of formalin. - WILLIAM G. SAUL, Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia.

DATA ON SUPPORT OF ICHS AND HERPS COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE - A summary and detailed data on the funding by the NSF Biological Research Resources Program for the support of refurbishment and operations of ichthyological and herpetological systematic collections from 1972 (inception of BRR Program) to the end of 1981 are available. Please Contact: Dr. James C. Tyler, Division of Environmental Biology (Rm. 336), National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550, (202/357-7475) .

PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY ON PREPARATION AND CURATION OF HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIMENS - John E. Simmons, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

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The following is a bibliography of preparation and curation techniques of interest to herpetologists. It was compiled by checking Zoological Record, the current literature sections of Herpetological Review (from 1971 to present), the Association of Systematic Collections Newsletter, Curator, and Turtox News. Older literature was not searched as thoroughly as the more recent, but an attempt was made to list papers of historical significance.

Additions and corrections are requested for a future publication of a revised bibliography.

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ALCOHOL RECYCLING AND TOPPING OFF - I would like to suggest an economic compromise which might also solve topping-off problems. We have been gradually increasing the strength of the alcohol in our collection and I think the process our volunteers use could be applied to the problems discussed on pages 36-7 of the ASIH Curation Report (Fink et al, 1979). Jars of specimens with their labels are carefully drained of alcohol through a sieve into a 5-gallon container. When the container is about 3/4 full, a small

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amount of 99% alcohol is added, stirred, and checked with a hydrometer. If the percentage is low, the process is repeated until correct. When the mixture reaches the correct percentage, it is transferred into a carboy for general use refilling jars or topping off. In this way the old and new alcohol is thoroughly stirred, all jars contain a reasonably uniform solution, and clear, light alcohol is recycled providing some economy. Establishing a routine for merely topping off could be set up the same way, requiring smaller quantities of 99% alcohol and fewer 5-gallon reservoir containers. - CAROL SCHLEIFER, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Except where noted, this newsletter is written and compiled by the ASIH Ichthyological Committee on Curatorial Supplies and Practices and is intended for use by our membership. Comments are not to be construed as an endorsement of practices or products by ASIH. Correspondence should be addressed to: Karsten E. Hartel (Committee Chairman) or Jose Rosado MCZ, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA 02138; Janet Gomon, Susan Jewett or Leslie Knapp, Div. Fishes, WG-12, National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. 20560 William Saul, Acad. Natural sciences, Philadelphia, PA 19103; Allan Resetar, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill. 60605; or John Simmons, Museum of Natural History Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.