

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

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American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

ACETONE IN ISOPROPRANOL -- Acetone is used as a dehydrating agent in the preparation of 99.9% pure isopropanol. On two occasions we have received 55 gallon drums of isopropanol that had the distinct aroma of acetone. In the first instance the aroma was not noted by a part-time employee, and specimens were placed in a 50% isopropanol-water solution resulting in noticeable clearing of the fishes within two days. Alerted by the damage and the odor, we had the alcohol analyzed by our chemistry department. No acetone was found in testing despite the chemist's acknowledgment that its obvious aroma was present. A second drum of aromatic isopropanol received recently also tested "clean", but was returned to the distributor. Isopropanol users should consider using the time-tested olfactory test on each new drum of alcohol prior to usage. GEORGE H. BURGESS, Ichthyology, Florida State Museum, University of Florida. NOTE<<<see Taylor 1984 Curation Newsletter No. 7 for comments on this note. >>>>.

JAR LIDS FROM KOLS\* CONT. (see Newsletter 5:3). We have used seven sizes (48-120 mm) of polyfoam-lined polypropylene jar lids at the Florida State Museum for over two years now, and are extremely pleased with their performances (no "backing off", no evaporation or leakage). The 120 mm gallon jar top is an especially useful improvement over metal or bakelite lids previously used. Unfortunately this type of lid is not available in 132 mm, the size of most 2, 3, and 5 gallon "glass buckets". We have, however, had a few 89 mm (quart) lids develop horizontal cracks after storage. In each case the lid was apparently tightened too securely; it is recommended that this type of lid not overtightened since it maintains an excellent seal at lesser tightening. GEORGE H. BURGESS, Ichthyology, Florida State Museum, University of Florida.

[EDITORIAL COMMENT: In this report Kols Container Co., Baltimore, has been mentioned as supplier. However, please note that these closures, liners, and bottles are sold by many distributors in addition to Kols. For information see your local Yellow Pages or refer to Appendix 4 in the original Curation Report of the Committee (Fink, et. al., 1978).]

NOTE: FOR INFORMATION ON LARVAL FISH PRESERVATION SEE ----  
Dabrowsk K. and R. Bardega. 1982. The changes in fish larvae dimensions due fixation in different preservatives. Zool. Jb. Anat., 108: 509-51c.

LABELING-OF RADIOGRAPHS ---- In the past, radiographs of fish specimens have been labeled by taping lead letters onto the paper envelope or cassette enclosing the radiographic film or by mapping the layout of specimens on a separate sheet of paper which had to be kept with the radiograph. These techniques are cumbersome and can result in mistakes.

We have had good results using radio-opaque substances mixed with india ink to label the film envelopes. These substances are used by medical

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radiologists for imaging of internal structures in the body. They are available by prescription only, and were furnished for our purposes by an Academy member who is an MD. Test exposures were made with both soft x-rays (25 KV, 5 MA, 1-3 min.) and hard rays (20 KV, 5 MA, 1-3 min.). In order of opacity, they are:

1. Barium sulfate latex cream - This is normally used for various intestinal-colonic examinations. It is the most radio-opaque of the four, but is difficult to apply because of its creamy texture.
2. Gastroview - A viscous solution of organically bound iodine used in gastrointestinal examinations. This compound is easily applied with a crow-quill pen and dries quickly (although it still will appear shiny and wet). It is quite opaque and is the recommended substance of the four we have used.
3. Sinografin - An injectable oil containing 38% organically bound iodine used in hysterosalpingography, is also acceptable for our purposes. It is close to Gastroview in opacity, but it is a bit more difficult to apply with a pen.
4. Dinonosil oil - A substance used in intra-tracheal examinations, with 34% bound iodine, is not acceptable. It is by far the least opaque for our purposes, written words were barely discernible at low intensity exposures. The oil base soaked into the paper and it never completely dried.

These substances can be written either directly on the film envelope or on a piece of paper inserted between the specimen and the cassette. They can be a great help to the museum radiologist who will now be able to label a radiograph with considerably more useful information than had been feasible using previous methods. Michael HEARNE and DAVID CATANIA, Curatorial Assistants, Department of Ichthyology, California Academy of Sciences.

NSF BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH RESOURCES PROGRAM ---- The following figure and tables [note only one table reproduced in this electronic version due to scanning problems KEH. 1994] summarize fiscal data for the National Science Foundation's Biological Research Resources Program for the support of systematic collections in Ichthyology and Herpetology. These may be of interest to our collections community in planning their own requests to the BRR Program and in evaluation of budgetary requests in proposals they may review for that program.

Table 1: NSF Biological Research Resources Program, Systematic Collections Support by Institution Awards from FY 72 to FY 82 \* (thousands of dollars). Prepared by J. Tyler from BRR Program Records as of 9/30/82.

Harvard University	4,438.5
American Museum of Natural History	3,228.5
field Museum of Natural History	2,596.4
California Academy of Sciences	2,420.8
Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia	2,100.4
University of Michigan	1,921.6
Missouri Botanical Garden	1,701.2
New York Botanical Garden	1,700.3
University of California, Berkeley	1,399.6
Bernice P. Bishop Museum	1,339.2
Los Angeles County Museum	1,128.7
Carnegie Museum	1,020.1
University of Kansas	405.4
Florida State Museum	380.4
Cornell University	309.8

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University of Washington		206.3
Yale University		189.2
New York State Museum, Albany		160.1
Louisiana State University		125.5
Pomona College		112.5
Florida Department of Agriculture		70.7
University of Wyoming		53.3
California State Polytechnic		23.8
University of Georgia		21.6
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens		19.4
Fairchild Tropical Garden		16.4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$27,089.7</b>

**FORMALDEHYDE VAPOR MASKS** ---- We have recently discovered the latest advance in vapor masks, specifically designed for eliminating formaldehyde fumes. These masks are lightweight, comfortable, and provide easy breathing. The useful service life depends on the concentration of fumes present and activity of the wearer, and are disposable. They are available through: Occupational Health and Safety Products Division, 220-7W, 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55101, (Product no. 8754, ca. \$10.00 each). Michael HEARNE and DAVID CATANIA, Curatorial Assistants, Department of Ichthyology, California Academy of Sciences.

**UMMZ COLLECTION MANAGER POSITION** ---- The Fish Division of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan will be hiring a collection manager in, September. The appointment is for 1 year, with the expectation of continued support after a review of performance. Duties include processing of loans, accessions and exchanges; supervising cataloging, general collection maintenance; management of supplies, etc. A background in ichthyology is required and experience in a fish collection is desired. Inquiries should be addressed to: Fish Division, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, ATTN: Manager Search. Interested persons who are attending the ASIH meetings in Tallahassee should contact one of the Curators from Michigan: Gerald Smith, Robert Miller, or Bill Fink. It may be possible to arrange interviews at the meetings.

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, WC-12, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C. 20560; William Saul, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA 19103; Allan Resetar, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605; or John Simmons, Museum of Natural History, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.