

Systematics Collections Committee

Committee Members: J. E. Bradley, R. D. Bradley, L. N. Carraway, J. P. Carrera E., C. J. Conroy, B. Coyner, J. R. Demboski, C. W. Dick, R. C. Dowler (Chair), K. Doyle, J. Dunnun, J. A. Esselstyn, E. Gutiérrez, J. D. Hanson, P. Holahan, T. Holmes, C. A. Iudica, R. Laite, T. E. Lee, Jr. B. K. Lim, S. B. McLaren, B. McLean, N. D. Moncrief, L. Olson, N. Ordóñez-Garza, C. D. Phillips, M. A. Revelez, E. A. Rickart, D. S. Rogers, C. W. Thompson, N. Upham, P. M. Velazco.

Mission:

The Systematic Collections Committee advises curators worldwide in matters relating to collection administration, curation, and accreditation, and maintains a directory of mammal collections. The Committee also surveys existing collections approximately once each decade and maintains a list of curatorial standards for managing a collection-accreditation program under the auspices of the Society.

Information Items:

(1) A site visit for the accreditation of the mammal collection at Texas Tech University was conducted by Robert Dowler and Tom Lee on 6 April 2017. The Committee voted to approve reaccreditation and a certificate was signed by President Sikes and Committee Chair Dowler and sent to the curators.

(2) The Committee continued to work on the survey of mammal collections of the western hemisphere and plans to have a report in manuscript form completed for dissemination and publication later this year. A poster with preliminary data was presented by Jon Dunnun, Robert Dowler, and the Committee at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Moscow, Idaho.

(3) A subcommittee (Jon Dunnun, Marcia Revelez, Burton Lim and Caleb Phillips) was tasked with review of a proposed ASM Standards for Genetic Resource Collections similar to the ASM standards for mammal collections. The proposed genetic accreditation standards document originated at the Natural Science Research Laboratory, Texas Tech University, where it was conceived by Robert Bradley, developed by Caleb Phillips, Kathy MacDonald, Heath Garner and Lisa Bradley, before being transmitted to staff at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, and later the subcommittee. Approval of these standards would expand the current accreditation program for mammal collections by the American Society of Mammalogists to include a separate accreditation of Genetics Resources Collections. The subcommittee reported at the Committee Meeting in Moscow, Idaho, and the standards were discussed. During the past year the Committee finalized the standards (attached to this report) and is presenting these to the Board of Directors for approval (action item 1 below).

(4) There are additional mammal collections, primarily in the U.S. and Mexico, that are seeking ASM accreditation. A continuing problem is finding funds to conduct site visits as part of the accreditation process. The Committee proposed that the ASM Board of Directors approve a budget to assist with costs of committee members conducting these site visits. Historically, the

collection being considered for accreditation is expected to provide funds for travel associated with the site visit. In reality, most small collections and some larger ones have not been able to provide such funds and committee members have opportunistically visited sites in conjunction with research or used their personal funds to assist with site visits. However, this has resulted in some collections waiting years for a site visit. The Committee would like to request an initial budget of \$2,000 to help offset costs of these visits. All use of funds would be verified with receipts associated with making collection visits for accreditation purposes. These funds would supplement any funds provided by the host institutions.

Action Items:

(1) Approval is requested by the Board of Directors for Curatorial Standards for Genetic Resources Collections (appended to this report). See Information Item 3 above.

(2) The Committee requests an annual budget of \$2,000 to assist with travel costs for up to three site visits of mammal collections and genetic resources for the accreditation programs. See Information Item 4 above

Proposed budget:	
Travel for 2 persons/site visit (airfare or car).....	\$1,200
Hotel accommodations as needed.....	600
Food.....	<u>200</u>
Total	\$2,000

Respectfully submitted,
Robert C. Dowler, Chair
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