



The Use of Specimens in Molecular Based Studies

The NMBE (official abbreviation for science purposes) welcomes the opportunity to make its collections available for scientific study. To ensure that the needs of both contemporary and future users can be met the following guidelines have been drawn up.

1. All proposals for research involving the extraction of DNA from NMBE specimens should be addressed to the head of the relevant science department: Vertebrates, Invertebrates, canine collection (Albert-Heim Foundation), Palaeontology (see: <http://www.nmbe.ch>).

2. Please provide a project proposal including:

- a brief outline of the project.
- a brief justification for the required material.
- evidence that the proposed techniques produce reliable results.
- evidence of qualification and experience of the researcher and facilities of the laboratory where the work is to be done. A letter of support should be provided from the host laboratory if not directly affiliated with the proposers.
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- reprints of former investigation(s) of the applicant and/or laboratory would be appreciated.

The NMBE reserves the right to evaluate the proposal with regard to scientific importance and technical feasibility.

3. The smallest possible sample should be taken from the least conspicuous site and should cause the least damage to the specimen. The relevant curator will assist in the choice of specimens.

4. The applicant(s) agree(s)

- to return aliquots of extracted DNA to the NMBE.
- to provide GenBank/EMBL accession numbers or computer readable copies of sequence data derived from NMBE specimens as soon as possible but no later than the date of submission for publication. The NMBE guarantees not to circulate these data before they have been published.
- to acknowledge use of the collection in publications involving use of NMBE specimens. Reprints of such publications should be sent to the NMBE.
- to inform the NMBE on a yearly basis about the state of the investigation

5. The NMBE retains the right to insist that tissue extractions are done in an appropriate laboratory within the NMBE.

6. Fees may be charged to help the NMBE provide the necessary resources.
7. All requests to pass material on to third parties or for subsequent use of PCR products should be addressed to the head of the relevant department
8. The NMBE retains all "rights" to DNA sequences derived from specimens in its collections. The research and the results of the research may not be commercially exploited in any way without the prior written consent of the NMBE. Consent may be refused at the NMBE's absolute discretion or may be granted under conditions set by the NMBE (and may well require prior agreement as to the sharing of the financial benefits arising from such exploitation).
9. The NMBE will inform the applicant about other investigations by the NMBE or other user(s) that are in progress with the same material.
10. The NMBE retains the right to refuse permission for DNA extraction from specimens.

Berne, 13/6/2002