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Museum Notes

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Museum Notes

MUSEUM NOTES

During the course of the SFC business meeting in Charlotte, N.C., I suggested and solicited contributions from southeastern fish collections in describing their holdings, emphasis, past history and protocol of cataloging and accession that may be of interest to members of the society. I would publish these contributions as arrived in the PROCEEDINGS with minimal review. The following is the first of these to get into print.

Holdings of the University of Richmond Fish Collection

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The holdings of fishes catalogued in ledgers in the fish collection at the University of Richmond have been computerized and stored in ASCII files in the University's mainframe computer system.

There are 401 species of fishes (58 families; 17 freshwater, 41 marine) in 5,371 lots representing 45,869 specimens. The average number of specimens per lot is 9 (range, 1-311). Type materials of the collection are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Dominated by freshwater species, the most speciose families are Cyprinidae (72 species), Percidae (33), Centrarchidae (19), and Catostomidae (15). The storage preservative is 70% isopropyl alcohol. Catalogue information includes species, catalogue number, collector's number, state, county, drainage, collection locality and date, collector(s), and numbers of specimens. Nomenclature is like that in Robins et al. (1980).

Collections are primarily from montane, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain provinces of Virginia with good representation of fishes from southeastern United States. The geographic range of freshwater fishes extends from St. Lawrence River south to Georgia and Alabama and west to Tennessee. A few collections are from Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Great Britain. Marine fishes are from the western North Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

Angling, block nets, electrofishing, gill nets, primacord, seining and trawling were the principal methods of collection. Bartering and cash, consisting of one 10 lb carp and a one dollar bill, respectively, were used to obtain an adult tuberculate male *Nocomis raneyi* from an old fisherman cane-pole fishing from the bank in the lower Piedmont James River in 1973. The species at the time was considered to be restricted to upper portions of drainage (Lachner and Jenkins, 1971).

The collapse of a shelf in 1976 resulted in a loss or damage of about one-fifth of the collection, mainly specimens of five families (Petromyzontidae, Amiidae, Clupeidae, Salmonidae and Esocidae). Although not included in the total count of species, their collection data are maintained in the catalogue but are listed as lost/discarded. Since the collapse, additional specimens representatives of these families, except Salmonidae, have been deposited in the catalogued collection.

The collection was established in 1956, although specimens date back to 1935. Most of the fishes were collected by William S. Woolcott and his students over the past 35 years. Throughout the history of the collection, exhaustive sampling has been the collecting strategy for building the collection as a teaching and research tool, and a repository of fishes for central Virginia. Approximately 350 unsorted collections, primarily from southeastern drainages, remain uncatalogued.

Exchanges and loans are encouraged with other institutions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This paper is dedicated to Dr. William S. Woolcott, D.A. Kuyk Professor of Biology at University of Richmond, who will retire in 1992; and his 33 graduate students that assisted in field collections and curation of the museum (E.A. Bergin, A.C. Bierne, G.R. Brooks, S.B. Churn, J.T. Clark, J.C. Conyers, C.B. Cross, R.M. Daniels, J. M. Dolan, III, W. Duncanson, R.K. Falls, D.A. Flemer, D.V. Grimes, W.M. Hall, Jr., W.T. Hogarth, A.F. Horne, M.A. King, G.W. Link, Jr., J.J. Loos, J.T. Magee, E. G. Maurakis, W. R. McGuire, H. S. Milsaps, A. H. O'Bier, Jr., M. H. Sabaj, J. R. Saecker, D. G. Saintsing, E. R. Smith, D. R. White, and J.W. White). Appreciation is extended to G. Brown, University of Richmond Academic Computer Center for coordinating computer file storage and access of fish collection data.

LITERATURE CITED

- Lachner, E. A. and R.E. Jenkins. 1971. Systematics, distribution, and evolution of the chub genus, *Nocomis* Girard (Pisces, Cyprinidae) of eastern United States, with descriptions of new species. *Smithsonian Contributions Zoology* 85:1-97.
- Robins, C.R., R. M. Bailey, C.E. Bond, J.R. Brooker, E.A. Lachner, R.N. Lea, and W.B. Scott. 1980. A list of common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada (4th Ed.). American Fisheries Society Special Publication 12. Bethesda, Maryland.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It has been brought to my attention by Bob Jenkins that the actual title as arranged on the masthead of this publication is the Southeastern Fishes Council PROCEEDINGS. To maintain propriety and continuity, I am asking that articles from this publication be cited in that format.

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