



Museum of Natural Science

COLLECTION OF GENETIC RESOURCES
POLICY AND APPLICATION PROTOCOL FOR TISSUE GRANTS
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The Collection of Genetic Resources (CGR) at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS) consists of preserved tissues and tissue extracts from birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and fishes. Most material archived in the GRC has accompanying vouchers in the LSUMNS specimen collections. The CGR is a centralized repository, and we encourage its use by the international research community. Grants of LSUMNS tissues are intended to provide material that supplements the researcher's independent efforts to acquire samples.

Procedure for making a request

Tissue grant applications usually proceed in two steps. First, researchers should examine the specimen holdings on the online LSUMNS Genetic Resources database at <http://www.lsu.edu/museumcollections>. For additional information regarding holdings, contact Donna Dittmann. Second, researchers should request specific samples via email (preferable) or regular mail to Fred Sheldon. Requests from graduate students should be co-signed by their advisor, who will assume responsibility for use of the samples. If the request is approved, the researcher will receive a Letter of Agreement.

A tissue request should contain:

- A brief statement concerning the research project. The statement should specifically address the following:
 1. Objectives and timeframe of the project.
 2. Availability of material from other sources, including the researcher's independent efforts to collect samples for the study.
 3. Method(s) of analysis that will involve requested tissues.
 4. Outcome of past projects supported by tissue grants from the LSUMNS.
- A list of requested LSUMNS specimens by taxon. Depending on the needs of the project, also indicate specific locality or catalog number. Please specify the amount of tissue/extract required and preferred preservation for shipment (e.g., frozen on dry ice, suspended in 95% EtOH, or in DMSO buffer).
- Researchers are responsible for shipping costs of tissue samples. We recommend the use of a mail carrier that does not irradiate shipments. For any carrier other than U. S. Postal Service, please include name and a current account number.
- Depending on the size of the tissue grant the LSUMNS may require the grantee to send cryovials.

Permits

- Requests for tissues must be accompanied by copies of all requisite permits.