

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. Dunnum, J. A. Esselstyn, E. Gutiérrez, J. D. Hanson, P. Holahan, T. Holmes, C. A. Iudica, D. A. Kelt, B. K. Lim, S. B. McLaren, B. McLean, N. D. Moncrief, N. Ordóñez-Garza, E. A. Rickart, D. S. Rogers, W. T. Stanley, 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) At the Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, part of the Committee did a site visit to the Collection of Mammals of the University of Central Oklahoma Collection of Vertebrates (UCOCV). A report was prepared based on materials provided by the curators and collection manager, and on the site visit. The curators were officially notified that the UCOCV had received accreditation from the American Society of Mammalogists effective 22 December 2014.

(2) Personnel at three collections, Oklahoma State University, the University of Iowa, and Colección Boliviana de Fauna (CBF) in La Paz, Bolivia, contacted us with questions about seeking ASM accreditation or reaccreditation. Information was provided and we have encouraged the curators at these collections to move forward with the process.

(3) Most of the Committee activities involved beginning the next survey of mammal collections of the Western Hemisphere. The survey was begun in May 2014 and Committee Members have been contacting collection curators since then. Although much progress has been made, there are many curators who have not responded. We will discuss this issue at the Annual Meeting, but still hope to complete the survey during 2015.

(4) A paper published this past year by R. D. Bradley, L. C. Bradley, H. J. Garner, and R. J. Baker, "Assessing the value of natural history collections and addressing issues regarding long-term growth and care" in *Bioscience* will be posted on the Systematic Collections Committee website.

(5) The Committee would like to look into the possibility of publishing the results of the survey in the *Journal of Mammalogy*, or as a supplement, as was last done in 1997 as *Mammal Collections in the Western Hemisphere – A Survey and Directory of Existing Collections*.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,
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