

ACQUISITIONS STRATEGY – Freshwater Invertebrate Collection (curator: H. Proctor)

A. COLLECTIONS AND PROGRAMS

1. Describe the purpose of the Collection and why it is maintained by the unit

The Freshwater Invertebrate Collection (hereafter FIC) serves two main roles: as a repository for specimens collected during research by University of Alberta graduate students and staff (and to a lesser extent Alberta governmental and other non-university researchers), and as a synoptic collection of invertebrates from non-marine waters in Alberta and contiguous provinces, territories and U.S. states. Adults of insects that have their larval stages in the water are not included in the FIC, with the exceptions of aquatic beetles (Coleoptera) and hard bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera). Parasites from aquatic vertebrates are also not included. By including specimens from contiguous regions, the FIC may play a role in helping to identify species likely to move into Alberta in the future due to natural or human-aided range expansion. The FIC also houses the freshwater invertebrate specimens collected during the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program, which ran from 1975-1985. These specimens represent an important baseline survey of aquatic invertebrate diversity in the oil sands region of Alberta before major development occurred. The FIC occasionally act as a repository for materials from surveys of natural areas run by the Alberta provincial government. The FIC had its heyday during the tenure of Dr. Hugh Clifford (now emeritus), and helped to form the basis of his valuable book *Aquatic Invertebrates of Alberta* (1991, University of Alberta Press). Most specimens were collected in the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s.

2. Type of Material in Current Collection

Material	# of accessioned	# to be accessioned	# pending decision
- invertebrates from inland water bodies in western Canada, almost entirely from Alberta but with some representatives from the Yukon, NWT, and Saskatchewan - 95% of specimens are in 70-85% ethanol with the remainder dry (mostly mollusc shells) or on glass microscope slides - accessioned lots may be a single specimen or they may represent a vial containing up to hundreds			
accessioned lots in good shape	~4600		
dried out vials, mostly of leeches, possibly destined for deaccessioning	~100		
individually identified molluscs and beetles from surveys of parks in Alberta and from M.Sc. project in Wood Buffalo NP, respectively		~200	
loose bivalve shells and mass-preserved samples from graduate student projects			~300
Totals	~4700	~200	~300



3. **List the academic programs supported by the Collection**

- Zoology 351 Freshwater Invertebrate Diversity (12-20 undergraduate and graduate students, run every second year)
- various M.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis research projects from the Department of Biological Sciences

4. **List community engagement programs/activities supported by the Collection**

None.

B. STRATEGY AND CRITERIA FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS

1. **Identify the types of new acquisitions that are essential to support the current and proposed programs identified above**

The FIC should continue to acquire specimens from Alberta and contiguous provinces, territories and states that help to expand the taxonomic coverage of the collection, with emphasis on taxa that (a) have no or few current representatives in the collection, (b) are currently represented by specimens in poor condition. The FIC should also continue to act as a repository for voucher specimens reported in student theses or in publications by U of Alberta academic staff, and for specimens collected during surveys of natural areas in Alberta. These specimens must be properly preserved, have adequate data (location, date, collector's name at minimum), and be identified to family level at minimum. Specimens collected in provincial or national parks must be accompanied with documentation of collector's permits from the relevant governmental authority.

2. **List any existing collecting area that will no longer be supplemented**

The FIC will no longer accept mass collections of unsorted, unidentified specimens.

3. **List any additional requirements unique to the Collection that would affect a decision to acquire**

None.

Approved by Unit/Department/Faculty

Dr. Heather Proctor
Designated Curator (Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature)

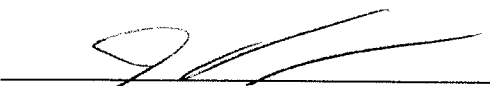
Dr. Michael Caldwell, Chair
Chair/Dean/Director (Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature)

8 June 2011
Date Completed

Approved by Museums and Collections Services





Janine Andrews, Executive Director

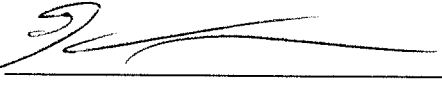
Nov 4/2011

Date

Approved by UofA Museums Policy and Planning Committee



Chair, Policy and Planning Committee (Print Name)



Signature

OCTOBER 25, 2011

Date of Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 25, 2016

Date of Next Review

