

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

24 August 1954

Dear Frank and Art.

We have all enjoyed your recent letters, Frank, and are pleased to hear that everything is going so well. Re-reading your letter of August 13th I will try to answer your questions in the order that they appear.

The "snake" is a blind skink, family Dibamidae, also commonly known as a limbless lizard. Identification was made by Dr. Snyder of the Zoology Department. Kelly has made an excellent radioautograph of the animal. Enclosed is a paragraph on this creature taken from the book, "Reptiles of the Pacific World," by Arthur Loveridge.

I guess that is the only question in that particular letter so I will go on to some of the recent logs. We noted Art's comment "keep the powder dry" in regard to the decay and self absorption curves and will do so, however, the consensus of opinion is that the arguments are similar to those that we have had in former years and the most reasonable procedure is to use the curve that seems to fit most of the data with the exception of the thyroid tissues and perhaps a few others, and then state the errors that may occur in some samples. We have delayed so long on this matter that we are anxious to resolve it in order to complete filling out the cards. Another argument for using a general curve is that there is considerable variation in curves for any one tissue and that to be exact about this matter would almost require separate curves for each sample.

The fyke net was mailed August 20 and the telephoto lens and aqualung tools were mailed today (parcel post). The aqua lung tools include:

1. Assembling testing fixture (including tank valve purchased from US Divers)
2. One substitute body nut - American
3. One substitute body nut - metric
4. One body nut wrench with handle
5. One high pressure block assembling fixture
6. One valve wrench for tank

7. One pressure testing gauge adapter
8. One spanner screwdriver
9. Three 3/16" rubber "o" rings for pressure gauge adapter

The screw driver and the handle for the body nut wrench are packed in the box with the 15" telephoto lens. The other tools are packed in a separate box. Also in the box with the telephoto lens are two plankton buckets with the net end ring for attaching buckets. This last item evidently was not included in the original order which explains your difficulty in joining the bucket to the net. This attaching ring is to be sewn on to the net.

We have not received the instruction book on the repair of the aqualung which Art had originally requested but Marion has sent a follow-up letter on it yesterday. If not available we will make a photographic copy of the instruction book the library has.

Imagine that by now you have located the adapting frames for the robot negatives as they were included in the August 3rd shipment and also were reported in our letter of August 3rd. Frames of the robot size without using adapters are not available.

The counts, recorded as c/m/gram of tissue, for the fish samples from Parry Island that you requested are enclosed. Everything appears in pretty good order with one or two exceptions as you will note. Also enclosed are the counts of fairy tern thyroids of some of the recent samples. Note that these are ~~int~~counts per minute per plate but the values are so low that they are of no significance anyway.

Looking at the next to the last paragraph in the log of August 5 our comment is that areas G and F extend indefinitely, ~~to the inshore waters.~~

The samples mailed to us on August 13 were received here August 18 with a slight discrepancy between the numbers entered in the log and those that accompanied the samples but we can straighten that out without difficulty.

Sincerely,

AHS:pr

Counts of Fish Samples from Elmer in Counts per Minute per Gram (Counts uncorrected except for weight of sample. Correction for geometry and backscatter, 1.5).

PLATE NO.	SPECIES	ACTIVITY OF TISSUES IN C/M/G					ENTIRE	TOTAL WT.
		MUS-	SKIN	BONE	LIVER	CERA		
Collection - July 20, 1954; Date Counted - Aug 13, 1954								
12421	Damsel, <u>A. amabilis</u>						751	2.7
12422	Damsel, <u>A. amabilis</u>						776	1.3
12423	Wrasse, <u>Thalassoma p.</u>						363	1.5
12424	" "						240	1.9
12425	Blenny, <u>Salaria sp.</u>						2411	0.6
12426-30	Grouper, <u>E. hexagonatus</u>	268	72	574	744	1505		74.
12431-35	Surgeon, <u>A. triostegus</u>	235	76	315	599	2527		102.
12436-40	Damsel, <u>P. jenkensi</u>	258	64	293	308	3682		27 & 36
12441-45	Goatfish <u>M. samoensis</u>	4813	2381	8193	5380	15643		13, 15, 22 & 24
Collection July 27; Date Counted - Aug 23. Deep Entrance								
12561-65	Bonito <u>E. yaito</u>	1295	752	5053	9226	5466		1960
Collection July 25 - Deep Entrance; Counted - August 23								
12571-75	Grouper <u>Vartola louti</u>	260	59	169	759	1207		950
12576-80	" <u>E. elongatus</u>	96	62	106	2201	360		1090
Collection August 1 - Deep Entrance; Counted August 23								
12631	Jack, <u>Caranx sp.?</u>	297						592
12632	" "	250						804
12633	" "	231						550
12634	" "	120						410
12635	" "	317						451
12636	" "	290						492
12637	" "	174						544
12638	" "	186						630
12639	" "	7872						731
12640	" <u>lugulois</u>	194						1600
12641-45	Shark, <u>C. menisorrh</u>	1772	121	306	373	266		3711
12646-50	" <u>C. melanopterus</u>	232	125	337	679	252		4715
12651-55	" <u>T. obesus</u>	2033	50	650	904	159		12146

Counts per Minute per Plate Dried Fairy Tern Thyroids

Collected at Belle 29 July 1954; Counted 24 Aug 1954.

<u>Plate Number</u>	<u>Net Counts per Minute per Plate</u>
13039	8
13047	12
13057	6
13065	10
13073	4

Excerpt from "Reptiles of the Pacific World," by Arthur Loveridge, Washington. The Infantry Journal, 1945.

Page 97:

BLIND SKINKS

Each of the three remaining lizard families of the Pacific region has only one or two representatives there, though all have continental allies. The worm-like blind skinks occur in Annam and Indo-China, with a single species ranging from the Philippines to the Nicobars and eastward to New Guinea. In color these blind skinks vary from pale brown to black both above and below; an occasional Philippine skink may have a blotch of silvery gray above, while it is usual for the anal region to be lighter. It is in that region that the males (fig.33) differ so strikingly from the limbless females (fig. 32), for on either side of the anus is the vestige of a hind limb in the shape of a flipper-like scaly flap, the pair of them so closely pressed over the opening as to scarcely be discernible. Never more than 9 inches long, these blind skinks are frequently only two-thirds that length. Taylor usually found them under logs, but one was taken in sandy soil at the base of a tree. The shells of their eggs are said to be calcareous.

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