

Amphibian BioTech, Inc.
P.O. Box 4120
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

6 January 1983

Dear Friend of the Amphibian Facility,

I have used the old "Amphibian Facility of the University of Michigan" letterhead for the last time. But I believe good things will follow.

The University of Michigan was obliged to close the Argus Building where the Amphibian Facility was located all these years. Space is not available elsewhere on campus to relocate the Amphibian Facility.

In seeking a solution to the problems this development caused, I have decided to re-establish the Amphibian Facility as a private commercial operation. Financial support which will provide a solid underpinning for the frog resource has been developed. A location at the Airport Industrial Center near Willow Run Airport has been found. It consists of a 4,000 sq. ft. unit which can be increased to 8,000 sq. ft. by building a loft. Similar additional units can be added as needed. The animals have already been moved but it will be several weeks before we are completely set up.

We are incorporated under the name Amphibian BioTech, Inc. but we will also use the name (a.k.a.) Amphitech, Inc. Subsequently, Amphitech, Inc. will be incorporated as a wholly owned sales and distribution subsidiary of Amphibian BioTech, Inc. which will continue as the production organization. Still further down the line we hope to organize a non-profit research and development entity under the name The Amphibian Facility, Inc.

The principals of Amphibian BioTech, Inc. are:

- Dr. George W. Nace. Professor, Division of Biological Sciences and Fellow, Center for Human Growth and Development. He is President of the parent corporation on a part-time basis and will continue his teaching and research at the University.
- Mr. Conrad J. Samonek. He has been a building contractor, a farmer, and a teacher of building trades in the public schools. He has long been interested in frog culture. He is Vice-President.
- Dr. Robert J. Rozof. He earned both a PhD in mouse genetics (with Morris Foster) and an MBA at the U of M. He is Secretary-Treasurer.

The objectives of Amphibian BioTech, Inc, are to raise and sell Xenopus to the research and teaching market. Initially, the emphasis will be on Xenopus laevis. Subsequently we hope to add other species of the genus.

Our start-up stock of animals from the Amphibian Facility is below a level which permits supply of adults in the immediate future, however, larvae, advanced tadpoles and juveniles will be available for sale within weeks. It will be as much as two years before significant numbers of mature "Laboratory Bred" Xenopus from Amphitech will be available. In the interim we may carry "Wild-Caught Conditioned" animals to serve your needs. High standards of selection will be applied and our price structure will reflect a difference between teaching and research grade animals. As conditions allow, a third category of animals with varying levels of genetic definition will be made available.

Immediately available for sale will be the aquatic oligochaete, Lumbriculus variegatus. This worm resembles Tubifex but does not form the aggregation ball typical of Tubifex. Lumbriculus is an ideal live food for some anuran or urodele amphibians and for fish. Our animals come from cultured stock and are available throughout the year in any quantity. Crickets and other live food for the terrarium or aquarium are also available. Inquiries or orders for these live-food animals can be accepted immediately.

We can also provide immediately the African bullfrog, Pyxicephalus adspersus, and the South American leptodactylid, Bell's horned frog, Ceratophryus ornata. These are from cultured stock and are available as juveniles.

Concurrently we will continue development of leopard frog culture and expect to sell research grade Rana pipiens larve, tadpoles and juveniles soon. In the meantime "Wild Caught" R. pipiens will be maintained in sufficient numbers to provide a reliable source of the Lucké renal adenocarcinoma. Subsequently it is hoped that a frog line will be developed that will permit transplantation of this herpes virus tumor.

In addition, we will maintain our colony of Bombina orientalis, the Asian firebellied toad. These will be available for sale.

Other amphibian items and services will be added as resources permit and demand develops. The items will include the Michigan Environmental Enclosure for Small Animals (MEESA) (the new manufacturer is nearly ready) and food for amphibians. Services will include the boarding of animals (e.g. when you are on sabbatical or when long time periods are involved between intervention and evaluation of results), and the injection into eggs of mRNA which a client may wish to assay without the time and dollar cost of developing the egg injection procedure in house. The latter service could be initiated soon if a demand were evident.

Our space will permit making laboratory benches available to visiting investigators and we invite persons on sabbatical leave and other post-doctoral level people to join us. Sabbatical and other visitors must pay a bench fee and be self-supporting. Post-doctoral level persons are invited to apply for membership on the staff of Amphibian BioTech, Inc., or perhaps later, The Amphibian Facility, Inc. For such membership, candidates must pass a review and plan to make a working contribution to our Research and Development objectives as well as working on their personal objectives. These objectives may, but need not, coincide. Such staff members must be supported on their own grants or fellowships, but we will provide advice and assistance in the preparation of applications to be submitted through Amphibian BioTech, Inc. For those who wish and are accepted for long-term membership we may be able to provide short-term support "between grants" should this be necessary. It will be possible for such people to apply for affiliated relationship with The University of Michigan.

The mailing address for this enterprise is:

Amphitech, Inc.
P.O. Box 4120
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Its street address is:

Amphitech, Inc.
250 Airport Industrial Drive
(US-12 Bypass and Onandago)
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

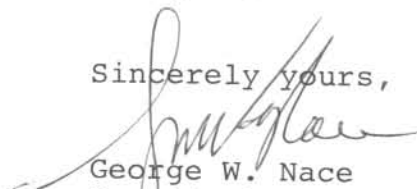
Its telephone number is 313-482-2213.

I will continue to be available at my university numbers - 313-763-2341 or 764-1471 and my university activities will continue from:

The Division of Biological Sciences
Natural Science Building
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48019

We hope to hear from you and especially welcome your suggestions as to how we may be of service to you as you plan your future research and teaching involving amphibians.

Sincerely yours,



George W. Nace
President

P.S. Our price list should be available soon.
Please inquire.