

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology

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TEL. NO. 812-337-8260

September, 1979

Dear Colleague:

We are happy to report to you that the spawning season gives signs of resuming soon at the Indiana University Axolotl Colony. Unlike other years in which spawnings have begun in late autumn, this year we have already had several good spawnings and expect more in the coming months. Thus we are writing you now to tell you about what we anticipate we shall be able to supply to the scientific community in 1979-1980, contingent on normal spawning activity commencing on schedule. We believe it will begin by November, at the latest.

We expect to have a fairly abundant supply of wild-type axolotl embryos and larvae. Embryos may be available for shipment in the fall on as little as one week's notice. Larvae aged from three weeks to three months may be available on short notice, but only in very limited numbers. This is because we cull spawnings within a few weeks after hatching to reduce the number of hand-fed animals to a level only slightly above expected needs. However, we would be very happy to set aside larvae for any serious research purpose and raise them for a reasonable length of time if you require it. One hundred or more wild-type larvae is a level easily within our reach, provided we have enough advance notice of your needs. Ideally, two or three weeks notice should be given.

Embryonic or larval axolotls carrying the following genes should be available in good amounts during the coming year. (As usual, the requested mutant spawnings result from matings of heterozygotes and contain 25% homozygous recessive individuals and 50% heterozygotes.):

e	fg (linked only)
d	s
D	x
m	y
ax (may be limited)	ut
	r

The following genes will be available, but supplies will be limited. You should not hesitate to request these genes, but should not plan on a continuous supply:

c t
a b
ir mi
p an
as l

We will continue to ship, as in the past, via commercial air cargo services. Shipping charges are collect, and we request that you return the insulated shipping jug to us promptly by U.S. mail or UPS. Certain investigators have experienced trouble or inconvenience with this method and have requested that we ship via Emery or other private express package services. We are glad to do so, but the expense is typically two or three times as great. We have experimented with shipping via the U.S. Post Office's new Express package service and the results are promising so far. Rates are comparable to air cargo and the Post Office guarantees delivery within 27 hours (packages may be picked up at your Post Office even sooner). If the reliability remains good, we might recommend this method to you as it would eliminate the need for you to go to the airport to pick up your shipment. Methods of payment still remain to be worked out, however.

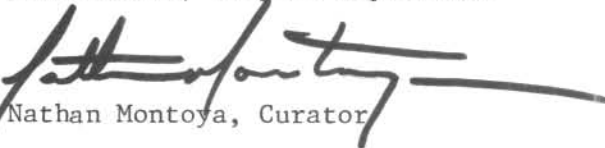
As always, there is no charge for axolotls themselves, as the NSF covers our direct costs.

We are optimistic about the coming year and will do our best to supply you with material and information. Please don't hesitate to let us know of your needs, with, as far as possible, the maximal lead time for our preparations.

Sincerely,



Fran Bacher, Project Supervisor



Nathan Montoya, Curator

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