

Survey of the recent mammal collections of the world

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Genoways, H.H. & Schlitter, D.A. 1985: Survey of the recent mammal collections of the world. — Acta Zool. Fennica 170:41-42.

Survey of collections of recent mammals reveal that there are 706 of these collections located in 78 countries. These collections hold 4 874 954 specimens. There are 19 collections that hold 50 000 or more specimens of recent mammals.

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1. Introduction

Two recent surveys of collections of recent mammals have proven to be useful in locating the specimen-based research resources of mammalogy. Choate & Genoways (1975) conducted the fourth survey of North American collections, whereas Genoways & Schlitter (1981) completed the first survey of collections elsewhere in the world. These papers contain information on the taxonomic and geographic coverage of the collections as well as their size. Researchers should also be able to trace the location of specimens formerly included in collections that no longer exist.

2. Methods

Both surveys were conducted by sending questionnaires to curators or directors of all known or suspected collections of recent mammals. Collections listed and data reported were only from returned questionnaires.

3. Results and discussion

These two surveys have revealed the existence of 706 collections of recent mammals in 78 countries throughout the world (Appendix). These collections are located on six continents with the largest number being located in North America. These collections hold 4 874 954 specimens with the most being held in collections in the United States of America. There are 19 collections of recent mammals that hold 50 000 or more specimens (Table 1). These collections are located in nine countries on four continents.

These surveys suffer from the same problem as any survey in that they can record only the information that is returned. We are certain that there are other

collections of recent mammals in the world including some major ones. However, we hope that these surveys will form a basis for future work that will eventually provide a complete inventory of this research resource.

Table 1. Collections of recent mammals holding 50 000 or more specimens.

Institution	Specimens
National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA	480 000
British Museum (Natural History), London, England	300 000
American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, USA	241 000
Zoological Museum of Moscow University, Moscow, USSR	150 000
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA	146 500
Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Science, Bialowieza, Poland	145 000
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, USA	136 000
Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA	114 000
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA	112 300
Zoological Institute, Leningrad, USSR	100 000
Zoologische Staatssammlung München, München, Federal Republic of Germany	100 000
Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	85 000
Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands	80 000
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada	73 360
Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA	70 000
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Usa	70 000
National Museum of Zimbabwe, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	67 000
Forschungsinstitut und Natur-Museum Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic of Germany	55 000
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, USA	50 000

References

- Choate, J.R. & Genoways, H.H. 1975: Collections of recent mammals in North America. — *J. Mammal.* 56:452–502.
- Genoways, H.H. & Schlitter, D.A. 1981: Collections of recent mammals of the world, exclusive of Canada and the United States. — *Ann. Carnegie Mus.* 50:47–80.

Appendix. The number of collections of recent mammals listed by country and the number of specimens held in each country.

Country	Collections	Specimens	Country	Collections	Specimens
Argentina	12	32 104	Mexico	3	34 261
Australia	14	104 110	Mocambique	2	1 044
Austria	7	45 057	Morocco	1	850
Belgium	6	80 930	Namibia	2	11 189
Brazil	12	119 612	New Zealand	3	6 100
Brunei	1	63	Northern Ireland	1	400
Bulgaria	6	11 660	Norway	1	12 000
Canada	30	180 449	Panama	1	56
Chile	6	3 984	Papua New Guinea	2	2 438
China	3	15 187	Philippines	2	7 500
Colombia	4	14 100	Poland	3	152 714
Costa Rica	1	350	Portugal	2	730
Cuba	2	5 000	Republica Dominicana	1	850
Czechoslovakia	16	89 737	Republic of South Africa	27	81 573
Denmark	2	38 000	Romania	2	3 655
Egypt	2	1 300	Saudi Arabia	1	300
El Salvador	1	306	Scotland	7	6 963
England	19	328 531	Senegal	1	2 000
Federal Republic of Germany	11	246 100	Singapore	1	12 000
Finland	4	33 850	Spain	1	600
France	11	32 199	Sri Lanka	1	2 885
German Democratic Republic	8	29 732	Sudan	1	1 000
Ghana	1	700	Suriname	1	250
Honduras	1	50	Sweden	2	20 700
Hungary	2	806	Switzerland	7	49 200
Iceland	1	150	Tanzania	4	1 760
India	7	40 180	Thailand	1	6 500
Indonesia	1	13 000	The Netherlands	4	101 900
Iran	1	900	Tunisia	1	200
Iraq	1	260	Turkey	1	8 606
Ireland	3	4 800	Uganda	2	316
Israel	6	14 880	United States of America	354	2 340 893
Italy	11	24 390	Uruguay	2	5 500
Jamaica	1	75	USSR	8	317 251
Japan	11	42 674	Venezuela	4	10 060
Kenya	1	8 000	Vietnam	1	2 200
Korea	3	3 183	Yugoslavia	5	8 829
Lebanon	1	600	Zimbabwe	5	79 366
Liberia	1	50			
Malaysia	7	13 256	Total	78	706
					4 874 954