

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS AND DESTRUCTIVE SAMPLING POLICY¹

Statement of Basic Principles

It is the policy of the Peabody Museum of Natural History to foster and promote research on its collections consistent with the preservation and protection of the collections for the use and enjoyment of future generations. To this end, the Museum considers requests for destructive sampling and technical analysis of objects in its care when the potential contribution to scientific knowledge outweighs the defacement or loss of a specimen.

Requests for analysis or destructive sampling will be considered in light of the following criteria:

1. The purpose and merit of the study, and the appropriateness of the proposed analytical methods.
2. The demonstrated competence of the researcher in the proposed methods.
3. The potential to compromise future analyses.
4. The availability, or rarity, of equivalent material.
5. The proposed dissemination of the results of the analysis.

Special consideration is warranted for certain classes of object such as type specimens, objects of special scientific, historic or monetary value, objects not well represented in the Peabody Museum's collections, or objects of a sensitive cultural nature.

Procedures

Researchers who wish to sample an accessioned specimen or object must complete a Technical Analysis/Destructive Sampling Request and return it to the appropriate division of the Museum.

Requests will be evaluated and approved by the Curator or curatorial designee, who will also approve selection of the objects to be sampled. If, in the Curator's judgment, the analysis or sampling request warrants further consultation because of a specimen's special significance, additional evaluations should be sought.

¹Destructive sampling is defined as any process which physically alters or consumes all or part of a specimen.

All samples and any portions thereof not destroyed during analysis must be returned to the Museum. The researcher must supply the Museum with sample control numbers if those are different from the Museum's specimen numbers.

If specimens requested by a researcher are to be totally consumed, then the researcher's request will be treated as a request to deaccession specimens, and will be governed by deaccessioning policies and procedures.

The researcher is expected to supply the Museum with a short summary report and copies of the raw data as well as reports, publications, or unpublished manuscripts which refer to the borrowed material.

Approved, Board of Curators, September 12, 1994