

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Wetland Invertebrate Assessment Tool**

The Royal BC Museum, working in collaboration with Darcie Quamme of Integrated Ecological Research, the Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP), and the Province of BC, is offering to maintain and house a voucher collection of macroinvertebrates from wetlands of the Slocan Valley and Kootenay Lake areas. The Royal BC Museum will maintain a reference collection of specimens from this study. This ensures quality control, verification of samples, taxonomic consistency, and repeatability. It will also allow for comparisons to other similar projects in the future (McDermott *et al.* 2014).

The Wetland Invertebrate Assessment Tool aligns with the Royal BC Museum's goals under the Museum Act. The Royal BC Museum is mandated to increase and communicate knowledge of the natural history and human history of British Columbia by conducting sound research and communicating results to the public through articles, symposia and special presentations.

- In addition, the Royal BC Museum collection priorities include identification, research and monitoring aquatic invertebrate species from areas of British Columbia where information or coverage is meager, including the Slocan Valley and Kootenay Lake areas.
- Sensitive freshwater wetland habitats are also prioritized because they are at the forefront of ecological change with regards to climate warming.

The goals of the Wetland Assessment Tool are to provide information on the health of wetlands in the region and to prioritize wetlands for restoration and conservation. These methods meet museum specifications for collection, taxonomic identification, and storage of specimens (McDermott *et al.* 2014). This project will help to increase our understanding and improve our knowledge on the biodiversity of British Columbia.

The Royal BC Museum's in-kind support for this project includes:

- \$5000 curation supplies (vial storage cabinets, ethanol, label paper, unit trays)
- 30 days per year of staff time for the curation of the material (approximately \$10,000)
- Long-term storage of the voucher specimens, costing approximately \$100 per year.

Specimens curated through this work into the Royal British Columbia Museum holdings will be available in perpetuity for further research and public inquiry.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Claudia Copley,

Entomology Collection Manager & Researcher

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McDermott, H., T. Paul and S. Strachen 2014. CABIN Laboratory Methods: Processing, Taxonomy and Quality Control of Benthic Macroinvertebrates. Environment Canada.36 pp

