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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Title: Where is the...Gaskoin Shell...Collection?

Author(s): Lingwood, P.

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As part of our exchange arrangements with the Smithsonian Institution Libraries the Editor has received the following:-  
Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology No. 33.

"Evolution of Oblitacythereis from Paleocosta (Ostracoda: Trachyleberididae) during the Cenozoic in the Mediterranean and Atlantic". by Richard H. Benson.

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BIRD AND MAMMAL LICE WANTED

Christopher Lyal, of the Department of Entomology, British Museum, (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, is attempting to build up a more comprehensive representation of British mammal and bird lice in the National collection. It is expected that a number of species remain to be added to the British List.

Lice are frequently to be seen on the surface of the pelage shortly after the host has died. The lice may be killed by placing the dead host in a plastic bag and adding a few drops of ether or chloroform; the animal can then be removed and the fur or feathers rubbed against the lay over a large sheet of paper. The body may also be researched directly, particular attention being paid to the back of the neck, rump and groin. The lice should be preserved in 80% alcohol, together with a record of the host species, locality (including grid ref. if possible) and date.

Anyone who feels that me may be able to supply Mr Lyal with lice from named hosts as they become available is asked to contact him at the B.M. (N.H.). Any other insect ectoparasites would be welcomed by Tony Hutson of the same address.

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WHERE IS THE...GASKOIN SHELL... COLLECTION?

I am anxious to trace specimens which originally belonged to the shell collection of Dr. John Samuel Gaskoin (1790-1858) especially any which might have been part of his "Pathological collection" which is now in Merseyside County Museum. It was purchased, by the

museums, from Lvell Reeve (1814-1865), in 1860, but the stock book entry suggests that it was part of a larger collection of deformed shells, which since Reeve was a dealer, has probably been dispersed. Another part of Gaskoin's Collection was purchased by the Reverend Thomas Lombe Taylor (1802-1874), whose collection was disposed of by gift and sale in 1879/80. Part of this collection still containing some Gaskoin types, was acquired by James Cosmo Melville (1845-1929) whose collection went to John Read le Brockton Tomlin (1864-1954) and eventually to the National Museum of Wales.

I would be most grateful for any further information that might enable me to locate other specimens.

Dr. Peter Lingwood,  
Merseyside County Museum,  
Liverpool.

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REQUEST FOR DATA AND SPECIMENS

Ricinuleids (Arachnida): I would be grateful for any information concerning collections of specimens of these animals. I would also be particularly interested in examining any specimens that are available and I can offer an identification service. As an arachnologists who is particularly interested in these strange arachnids I am trying to obtain as much data as possible. Any help would be more than welcome.

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