

The Biology Curator

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Further reading on the Leeds City Museum Natural History Collections

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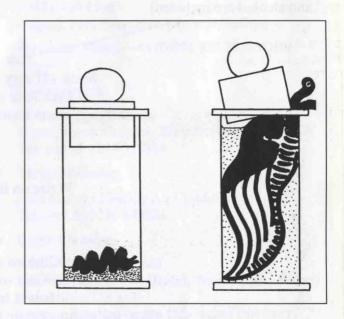
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A Method of Rehydrating Specimens

- 1. Prepare a solution of Decon 90 detergent and water in approximate concentration 1:20; exact proportions are not necessary to obtain good results. (The phosphates in the detergent penetrate the cells allowing water to osmose into them)
- 2. Add the solution to the dried out material. Make sure no labels are affected. (The solution causes serious damage to paper and script)
- 3. Leave for an average of 3 days but check daily to ascertain if the solution needs to be changed or renewed. (Rinse material thoroughly in running, cold water before re-immersing.)
- 4. After rehydration is complete, rinse material in running, cold water for at least 10 minutes.
- 5. Replace material in alcohol (usually 80%) with information that it has been rehydrated.

Ideally check the material for a further week. If the appearance of the alcohol changes it could mean the material needs a further rinsing in water before final curation



Wet Curation Procedures

