

## State of the Indiana University Axolotl Colony--1984

Fran Briggs, Project Supervisor

The I.U. Axolotl Colony continues to enjoy good health. The population remains stable at just over 600 breeding adults, about equally divided into seven lineages, each lineage carrying particular genes.

## GENE AVAILABILITY:

The genes with well-identified carriers in good supply are: eyeless (e), cardiac (c), vasodilation (v), cardiac-2 (c-2), spastic lethal (sp-1), and all the pigment mutants, including melanoid (m), axanthic (ax) and albino (a). Cardiac 2 and spastic-lethal are newly discovered genes in the Colony. (See report in this issue.) We keep fewer numbers in stock of the known carriers of the limb and gill mutants (x, y, r, and s) since those genes are rarely requested by our user group.

## COLONY AIMS:

Our efforts historically and currently focus primarily on: (1) continuing to supply Axolotl Colony users with material as needed; (2) identifying and maintaining genetic stocks of interest to internal and external users; (3) searching for and describing new mutant genes that continue to arise in Axolotl Colony stocks; (4) identifying and building up stocks of two very interesting temperature-sensitive maternal effect mutants, v/v and ts-1/ts-1.

## PERSONNEL:

Leah Dvorak (Assistant Supervisor) left the Colony in September to pursue graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. We miss her substantial contribution and delightful personality, but wish her all the best in her

graduate studies.

Craig Watson continues as Curator, managing all the work-study students needed to maintain the Axolotl Colony. Craig has also taken on many of Leah's duties as Assistant Supervisor.

Craig and I are assisted by Mary Watson, who has taken over (entirely) the responsibilities of Shipping Manager.

#### SHIPPING:

Our revolving Shipping Fund is solvent, thanks to prompt reimbursement by our many users. Thanks to all of you who help us to keep the fund solvent.

We are looking forward to another year of providing you with productive spawnings and new discoveries.