

Director's Note

The report that transgenic frogs can be produced in seemingly large numbers (Development 122: 3173-3183 [1996]) has caused enthusiasm to spread quickly among amphibian researchers. The prospect is clear: Soon it may be possible to routinely employ various amphibian cell markers for lineage tracing, gene function studies, and broad-scale developmental genetics. We at the Axolotl Colony are delighted with those prospects. This spring (at the latest) we plan to try adapting the *Xenopus* protocols to axolotls.

Our short term goal is to devise a transgenic method which routinely works with axolotls. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could set up here at I.U. a "transgene assembly line" working several days each week inserting foreign genes, provided by our readers, into eggs.

Artificial (hormone-induced) spawnings would be needed in large numbers, together with lots of males (for vas deferens-sperm homogenates). Accordingly, we plan this winter to increase our stocks of adults to accommodate a possible increased demand. Our attitude is "service-oriented," and we look forward to being able to help many of our readers enhance their research efforts and extend the usefulness of the axolotl as a model system with this new technology.

Over the next several months we suggest that any "pioneers" who begin experimenting with the transgenic methodology, or have suggestions for adapting the *Xenopus* protocols to axolotls, share information over the uronet (bionet.organisms.urodeles).

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Indiana University Axolotl Colony Price List current Fall 1996

Embryos

Subscriptions priced by predicted usage for the year. If predicted usage is exceeded, an additional invoice will be issued.

Embryos / Year	Cost / Year
Fewer than 500 embryos/year	\$ 100/year
501 -1000 embryos/year	\$200/year
1,001 - 3,000 embryos/year	\$500/year
More than 3,000 embryos/year	\$1000/year

Darkly pigmented embryos are sorted at blastula.

Albino embryos are NOT sorted, viability varies.

Mutant spawns priced per order. Please inquire about prices and availability of specific mutants.

Larvae, Juveniles, and Non-breeding Adults

Priced per animal.

Size Range**	Cost per Animal (\$)	Quantity Prices
Hatchlings	0.25	\$25 per 100 hatchlings
2-3 cm larvae	0.50	\$25 per 50 larvae
3-5 cm larvae	1.00	\$25 per 25 larvae
5-8 cm juveniles	5.00	
8-15 cm juveniles/sub-adults	10.00	
Healthy cull adults (non-breeding)	15.00	

**All sizes may not be available. Call or e-mail to find out current availability. In some cases, when space allows, animals can be raised to fill orders placed in advance.