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Editorial

As winter rolls on and animal casualties trickle into museum freezers this time of year can bring its own benefits. Now it is cool enough (!!) to face the storeroom of fluid-preserved specimens from your museum director's last trip abroad. Winter always seems to abound in those jobs that have been procrastinated from the previous year and which lack any creativity. This winter, however, has seen the creation of a selection of freeze-dried slices of fungi (see below).

SPNHC's *Collections Forum* has also come up with some useful articles for fluid preservationists, like myself: darkening of certain reptile skins has been attributed to a reaction occurring within 6 months of fixation from fresh using formalin preservation (Stuart) and the use of 1% glutaraldehyde mixed with 2.5% formaldehyde and buffered with 2% sodium glycerophosphate has, so far, been found to be effective for preserving marine collections and helping to overcome the problem of lipid preservation in fish livers (Stephenson and Riley). There is also a table, covering a two year period, showing pH fluctuation of buffered formalin and formol-glutaraldehyde mixtures without being used on specimens. In the meantime I presume that all of you members out there are blissfully happy since I have had no grievances to air in this newsletter, nor much else apart from Paul Browns Paper, Print and Glue seminar review and Maggie Reilly's conch crunch! Next deadline for news, views and articles is the 20th June.

Simon Moore, Group Editor.