Collectors: Caleb L. Loughran & Lauren Bansbach.

Museum of Southwestern Biology

University of New Mexico

CERIA, Building 83 of 87131, 302 Yale Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dear Caleb L. Loughran & Lauren Bansbach

My name is Vicente Fernández Lara, and I am an undergraduate student at Utah Tech University working under Dr. Klabacka’s Sites. I am currently leading a project focused on resolving the *Aspidocelis neomexicana* species complex (Saint George [Utah]) and assessing their distribution and possible expansion of their territory. The results of this project will contribute to both the fields of evolution and conservation biology. Funding for this project is received from the Department of Biology at Utah Tech University and my advisor Randy Klabacka. Sites Jr. Using a molecular data set (mitochondrial genes 12S, 16S and ND), I will generate a robust phylogenetic hypothesis (using a coalescent framework) that will help to determine species boundaries and make biogeographic inferences concerning this species complex and how it relates to the *Aspidocelis neomexicana* found in three different locations in New Mexico. Tissue samples are needed to extract large quantities of DNA to get the coverage of the information needed to determine their origin. Up to six samples per species per locality would be ideal to cover the species haplotype from the locality. The tissues used for this project will be stored in a museum tissue loan box in our private tissue freezer. This study is starting, and will be finished and submitted for publication by May, 2023. Dr. Klabacka and me caught three individuals in Saint George area, where it has never been reported before. Detailed below is a list of the tissue samples in the Museum of Southwestern Biology that are crucial to my project. If it is at all possible, could you send me the following sub samples?

Many thanks,

Vicente Fernández Lara.

Vicente Fernández Lara

Department of Biology

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**(All tissues are *Aspidocelis neomexicana*)**

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| MSB: Herp: 98729 |
| MSB: Herp: 98731 |

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Student: Vicente Fernández Lara Advisor: Randy Klabacka