



## FAC Policy on Destructive Analysis



Requests for destructive sampling require additional consideration and justification. The primary concern is maintaining the integrity of the collection for future research. Destructive analysis is defined as the permanent loss of biological tissues from the body, including hair, skin, organs, bone, finger- or toenails. Destructive analysis or other activities subjecting the remains to damage will only be permitted when the scientific knowledge gained clearly outweighs the loss of material. Appropriate steps must be taken in all requests to minimize the loss of material. The information provided on the Request for Destructive Sampling Form should aim to:

- 1) Address the substantial scientific benefits that will result from the research.
- 2) Justify the choice of biological material to be sampled as it relates to the study.
- 3) Provide explicit details of the sampling strategy and the analytical framework of the study.
- 4) Clearly indicate if any of the sampled material can be returned following analysis.

The researcher may be asked to mitigate the invasive destruction by casting, photographing, and measuring or other appropriate documentation procedure prior to sampling. Any costs associated with this mitigation will be the responsibility of the researcher. All sampling must take place at the University of Tennessee as tissues, including bones, will not be sent elsewhere for sampling.

FAC approval of destructive sampling must be secured prior to submission of grant applications. If approved, the Director of the FAC will provide a letter of approval to the funding agency in support of the application. Funds must be available to defray costs if FAC staff is asked to collect samples or if extensive staff time is required to assist the researcher.

Policies concerning photography and remitting data, publication and manuscripts to the FAC discussed in the *Protocols for Research Requests* also pertain to studies involving destructive analysis.