

Anuran Lab Internship



Siera Heiner, *Utah State University* | Molly Womack, *Utah State University* | Genevieve Mount, *Utah State University*

Abstract

Research conducted on frogs and toads (family Anura) proves to be extremely helpful in providing insight into the functions of their ecosystems. The sensitivity they show in response to environmental change has the potential to reveal important organismal, ecological and evolutionary information.

Not only do anurans provide insight into the biology of their own kind, but they also allow researchers to understand biological phenomena within a large range of other organisms. Gaining knowledge of these remarkable species is a vital gateway to comprehending the intricacies of biological processes across the globe.

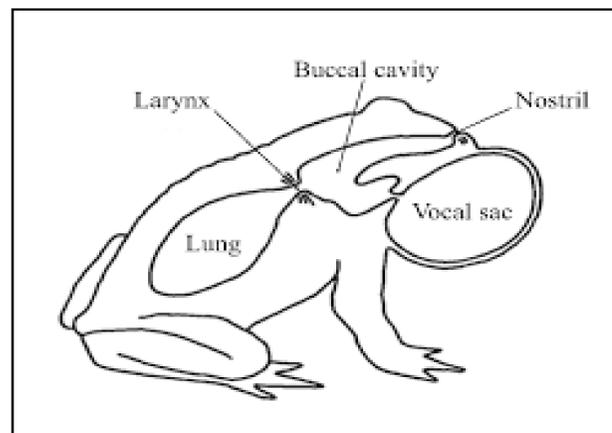
Responsibilities

My internship responsibilities included data collection of anuran specimens acquired from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology for the Womack Lab. I learned to handle fragile specimens in a controlled laboratory environment and catalog them according to their MVZ identification numbers so that they will be available and easily accessible for future research in the lab.

I also developed complex literature review skills in a second project where I was responsible for gathering vocal sac data on the *Bufo* family. Information on vocal sac presence and type in male toads has the potential to provide further insight into the evolution of secondary sex characteristics of anurans.



Lab set up for documentation of anuran specimens acquired from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.



Basic vocalization anatomy



Lab specimen documentation using corresponding identification tag.

Takeaways

This internship experience allowed me to broaden my research experience and refine my organizational skills in the laboratory. Researching these species has provided me with critical biological knowledge and allowed me to appreciate the undeniable importance of research collaboration.



Siera Heiner
Utah State University
Department of Biology



Lateral vocal sac



Single subgular vocal sac



Bilobated vocal sac