



Video Transcript

How to relax and preserve sea anemones

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- In this video, I am going to walk you through how to relax and preserve sea anemones.
- With sea anemones it is very important to record the color pattern and the different states of relaxation of the anemone.
- During the preservation process, colors are lost, so you need to take pictures to have these characters.
- You will require images of the oral disk of the sea anemone, but also others that will show the column or the structures of the column.
- Additional images of the anemone contracted are always useful.
- Once you have recorded and photographed the anemone, you should relax it.
- To relax the anemones, they should be in a small aquarium or other container and air should be provided.
- A very easy way to relax sea anemones is to use menthol crystals. Also magnesium chloride can be used.
- With the menthol crystals, you have to put some of them in your container and leave them for several hours until the anemone does not respond to touch anymore.
- Because the study of sea anemones almost always involves the use of histology, the best way to fix these animals is with formaldehyde.
- Using ethanol makes them very hard, and also freezing them will macerate the tissue and the histological process will not be optimal.
- Depending on the size of you specimen, especially if they are bigger animals, also if they are very contracted, you should inject some higher concentration formaldehyde into the specimen, either with a syringe or a pipette.
- It is very important that all the images, the molecular samples and your whole specimen in formaldehyde are correlated and they are all labeled accordingly.