

PREFACE TO THE (HOPEFULLY) FIRST EDITION

Unfortunately, a guide like this one does not happen simply. It is the product of polite requests (at first polite, anyway) from colleagues, of mutual nagging, and of wives with persistent memories. What we are attempting to achieve with this contribution is a consolidation of many years of personal experience with squid into a source of practical information hopefully useful to the increasing number of people working with the squid. One does not undertake the task of preparing such a guide for a limited audience with unreserved enthusiasm. It always seems the same amount of work could produce something for a larger audience and therefore, hopefully, of greater significance. On the other hand when the hours and days spent on developing handling procedures, techniques, and "tricks of the squid trade" are considered it seems untenable not to pass this otherwise unpublishable data on in hope of saving others like pain and time. Therefore, what we have attempted to do is informally put together information that should prove useful to people interested in all aspects of squid biology. In this way we hope to make the laboratory utilization of the squid more efficient not only from the standpoint of the investigator and the collector but also for the future of the species *Loligo pealei*.

This guide was first issued and privately circulated in the summer of 1973 to test its usefulness and to solicit suggestions for its improvement. The original five chapters have been expanded to eight to include more neurophysiology because the squid is uniquely suited for such research. However, it is hoped that we can also call attention to other potential uses of the squid as a laboratory animal because it is ideal material for many types of research. Because the cephalopods have been evolutionarily isolated for such a long time they have "solved" many of the "problems of vertebrate evolution" in unique and independent ways. Therefore, not only from an intrinsic standpoint but also from a comparative view the squid offers a wealth of largely unexploited potential for biomedical research. Although this guide is primarily centered about the "Common Atlantic Coast Squid" *Loligo pealei*, it is hoped much of the information contained in it can be usefully applied to other species.

Because techniques and methods are constantly changing and being improved or modified this guide has been published with a plastic binder. As revisions occur or additions become desirable it should be possible to simply add new sections or corrected pages rather than wait for enough material to accumulate to warrant a new edition. Therefore, we hope the users of this guide will feel especially free to make suggestions for improvements and additions. In this way we hope to be able to better meet the needs of the laboratory and the investigator. "Loligology" is at best an imprecise art but we hope to be able to at least make it more efficient. Any help from the users of this guide will be greatly appreciated.

J. M. A. WOODS HOLE
JANUARY 1974

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First edition, 1974

Library of Congress catalog card number 74-77352

PUBLISHED BY THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY,
WOODS HOLE, MASS. 02543 U.S.A.

PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY BAKER MFG., PRINTERS,
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.