

*Specimen Preparation*

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*[Animated ROM logo appears with sound sting.]*

*[Title: Measurements; a time-lapse camera captures Burton Lim working at a table at a field camp, getting ready to prepare a rat specimen. Title: Weight; Burton measures the length of the rat and weighs it.]* Specimens are prepared as a representative collection of small mammals in an area.

*[Title: Ventral Incision; Burton uses scissors to cut along the rat's underside.]* They document the species diversity and relative abundance from a specific place and time. *[Title: Skinning the body; Burton cuts and removes the skin from the body tissue.]*

*[Title: Cleaning the skin; Burton uses a brush to clean the skin.]* There are many uses of this material including baseline information as an historical record and verification of species found in an area, *[Title: Stuffing with Cotton; night-view with light on skin; Burton uses cotton to reshape the previously removed skin.]* for research on evolution, and monitoring changes to the environment.

*[Title: Wiring the feet; Title: Wrapping the tail wire; Burton uses thin wire to give shape to the feet and tail.]*

*[Title: Sewing the incision; Burton sews the skin closed.]* All collecting have approved animal use protocols that follow provincial and federal guidelines, and are conducted under research permits from foreign authorizing bodies. *[Title: Pinning the specimen; the stuffed specimen gets attached to a piece of foam core.]*

*[Video ends with animated ROM logo and sound sting.]*