A Guide to
THE CONCISE EARTHWORM

These photographs are intended to be used along with a separate dissection guide.

SIDE ONE

1. These views are of a preserved earthworm, dissected and pinned back to expose a dorsal view. The long photograph is of the anterior in front of the clitellum. The internal anatomy posterior to the clitellum is much less complicated. It continues all the way back to the anus with very little change from what is seen here at the bottom of the long photograph. Specifically this means that posterior to the clitellum you should only find the intestine, blood vessels and the nephridia in each segment.

2. The enlarged view of the hearts and seminal organs is actually of a different specimen than the one seen in the long photograph. Therefore it differs a little from what is seen there.

Some confusion will arise in separating out seminal vesicles from seminal receptacles. This is because there are sometimes extra projections of seminal vesicular tissue from beneath the intestine. Therefore more than six seminal vesicles may be visible.

The seminal receptacles are seen as distinct round organs under the dissecting microscope.

3. The use of a dissecting microscope or magnifying glass greatly enhances the value of this dissection.

SIDE TWO.

4. The long photograph is of the dorsal surface of the earthworm. The head region is of the ventral surface as are the two photographs below it.

5. The cross section is of a part of the worm posterior to the clitellum. It should be compared with a section on a prepared microscope slide.

6. The photograph of the setae is enlarged approximately 25 times. Although not always easily visible, their tiny bristles are easily felt by rubbing your fingers on the ventral surface of the earthworm.

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Printed in Canada