

# PRESERVED SPECIMENS



**Darwin Biological's Chordata specimens** (such as sheep eyes and rats) are supplied vacuum packed in Propylene Phenoxetol, an odourless shipping and holding fluid designed to prevent deterioration, having been first fixed in formalin.

Upon opening of the sealed bag, the specimens should be submerged in Phenoxetol (available from Darwin Biological) or used immediately. We recommend unopened specimens are kept in a cool, dry place and used within 3 months, alternatively submerge in Phenoxetol for longer term storage.

**Darwin Biological's preserved specimens** (such as locusts and botanical samples) are supplied submerged in a preservative solution primarily comprising of ethyl alcohol. Specimens which remain submerged should last indefinitely provided they are kept cool and out of direct sunlight. Over time some colour degradation will occur; we recommend transferring to fresh preservative solution periodically (70% Ethyl Alcohol). Ideally specimens should be used within 6 months of receipt.

SDS are available online at [www.darwinbiological.co.uk](http://www.darwinbiological.co.uk) for all solutions used:  
4% Formalin, 1% Propylene Phenoxetol and 70% Ethyl Alcohol.