

## INFORMATION 3 Side-view photography

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Overhead specimen photography is explained in STEP 8 and Information 2. A specimen can also be photographed from the side, and the technique for side-view photography will be explained in this section. As shown in the figure, the fish specimen is stabilized by placing between a glass board (or acrylic board) and front side of the aquarium and then photographed from the side. The glass board should be fixed using clips, like clothes-

pins, so that it can easily be adjusted to change its angle and position depending on the thickness of the fish.

Dirt and incrustations from the fish settle at the bottom of the aquarium. Thus, this photography technique has some benefits such as low frequency of water replacement as compared with that in overhead photography and stabilization of the fish body without removal of air from the bladder and/or abdominal



Specimen photography room at the Museum Support Center, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. Side-view photography of the type specimen in progress. Camera is fixed on a tripod, and flash lamp is used for lighting. The photographed image is scanned directly into the computer.



Glass aquarium seen from the front. The black board at the back of the aquarium is used for a photograph with black background.



Acrylic aquarium with black background.



Glass aquarium seen from the side. Fish is stabilized by placing between a glass board and front side of the aquarium.



Acrylic aquarium with black background.



Acrylic aquarium with white background.

cavity. However, the drawbacks are that it is difficult to stabilize very small fishes in the right position and that the glass board appears in the photograph since the fish body is placed between the glass board and the front side of the aquarium. The latter is especially troublesome in the case of a fish with dermal flap on the surface of pectoral fins, because the dermal flap is pressed against the surface of the glass board.

This photography method is adopted by the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, the Kagoshima University Museum, and the Fisheries Research Laboratory at Mie University.