



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Museum of Texas Tech University

11 November 2010

Dr. Luis Izquierdo Vásquez
Rector, Universidad de San Marco
Lima, Perú

Dear Dr. Vásquez,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate with you about the value of the collections of the Museo de Historia Natural of San Marcos University. As I am director of the Natural Science Research laboratory of Texas Tech University, I appreciate the effort and cost that go into creating and maintaining museums. I wish to reassure you that the collection at the Museo de Historia Natural of San Marcos University is worthy of the necessary costs and work because it is a documentation of the biodiversity of the magnificent country of Perú. Last week I was at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. and I recalled with Don Wilson a bat that had been identified as *Micronycteris schmidtorum*. I was not sure if the specimen had been deposited in the Smithsonian or in the Museo de Historia Natural of San Marcos University. Dr. Wilson and I determined that the specimen from Perú, Cusco la Convencion Armihuara is deposited in your museum as specimen number MUSM 13737. This specimen according to our data is an undescribed species that will add to the almost 500 species known from Perú. This specimen is but one example of how valuable the mammal collection at the Museo de Historia Natural of San Marcos University is to Perú and the world.

It is my opinion that the museum collections at Universidad de San Marco are the most valuable and important in the country of Perú. This is a tremendously valuable resource and an important source of national pride. I respectfully request that you work with scientific community, your faculty, and others to find a way to ensure that these collections remain available to future generations.

Sincerely,

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