The Anatomy Museum at CVASU: A Pioneering Educational Tool Opening New Horizons in Study and Research

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Abstract

The CVASU Anatomy Museum could be the first Anatomy Museum in Bangladesh, serving as a center for education, research, and recreation. It aims to standardize educational tools, inspire innovation among researchers, and provide visitors with a unique learning experience. The museum houses a rare and extensive collection, including around 200 skeletons of animals such as elephants, tigers, horses, oxen, deer, camels, ducks, goats, sheep, crocodiles, snakes, and monkeys. Additionally, it features 70 stuffed animals, over 100 taxidermy birds, 500 preserved specimens, 2,000 bones, and 75 animal models. All specimens were collected from various regions of the country and processed using standard methodologies. Students of anatomy, neuroscience, developmental biology, and comparative studies benefit greatly from hands-on learning opportunities here. The museum also attracts visitors with fascinating displays like the elephant skeleton, python model, and crocodile exhibits, offering educational enjoyment for all ages. Moreover, it provides opportunities for anatomists, embryologists, ornithologists, and biologists to pursue research in anatomical and biological sciences. Overall, the museum stands as a pioneering institution in Bangladesh, fostering education, research, and public engagement through its exceptional anatomical and zoological collections.

Introduction

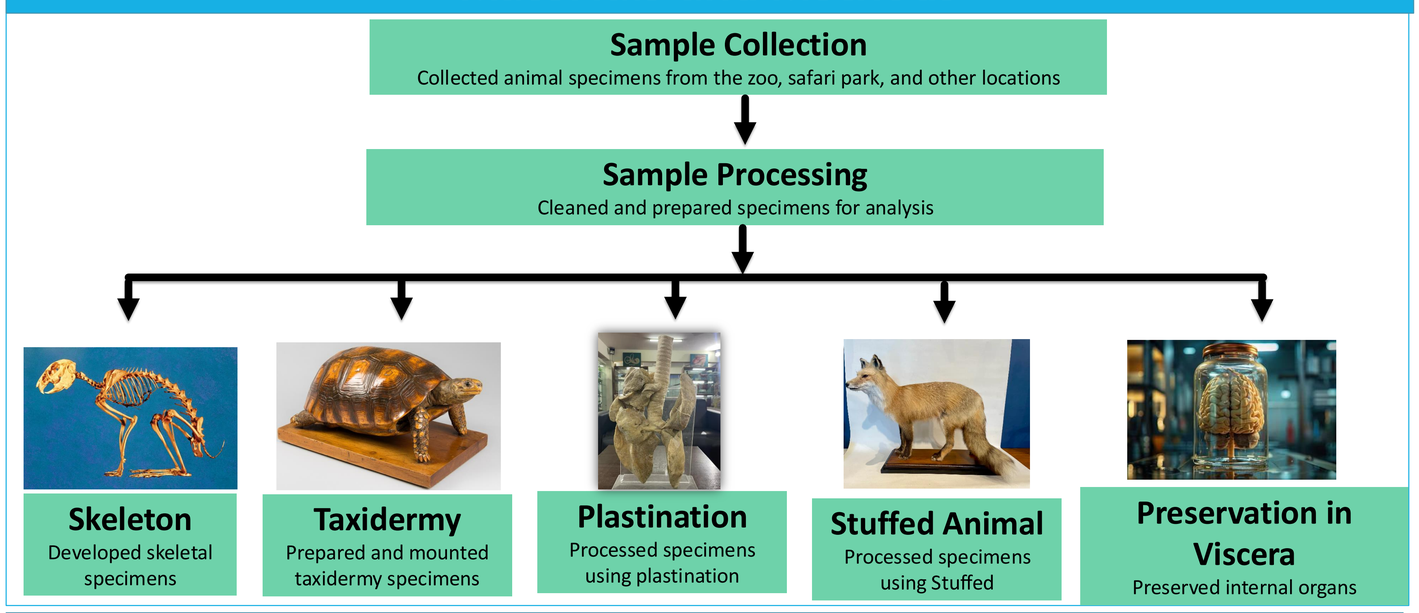
An anatomy museum is a specialized educational facility that preserves, displays, and interprets anatomical specimens to promote understanding of living organisms' structure, function, and diversity. It serves as a bridge between theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience, facilitating both academic instruction and public education. The Anatomy Museum at Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) was developed under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) with the vision of creating Bangladesh's first comprehensive anatomical repository. The museum has become a vital component of veterinary anatomical education through meticulous collection, preservation, and display of skeletons, plastinated samples, models, and taxidermy mounts.

Furthermore, recent educational research underscores that plastinated specimens and anatomical models not only enhance student motivation and ability to visualize complex structures but can also serve as effective, durable teaching tools when cadaveric or fresh specimens are limited [1, 2]. By creating an institution that integrates teaching, research, and public outreach, CVASU's Anatomy Museum opens new horizons in the biological sciences in Bangladesh, bringing anatomy out of textbooks and into an immersive, tactile, and visual learning environment [3].

Despite the global recognition of anatomy museums as essential learning resources, there remains a lack of documentation and academic evaluation of such facilities in Bangladesh. This research gap underscores the need to highlight the educational, scientific, and recreational significance of the CVASU Anatomy Museum.

This study aims to (a) describe the development and organization of the Anatomy Museum at CVASU, (b) evaluate its role as a pedagogical and research tool, and (c) identify its potential contributions to anatomical education, innovation, and public engagement.

Materials and Methods



Results

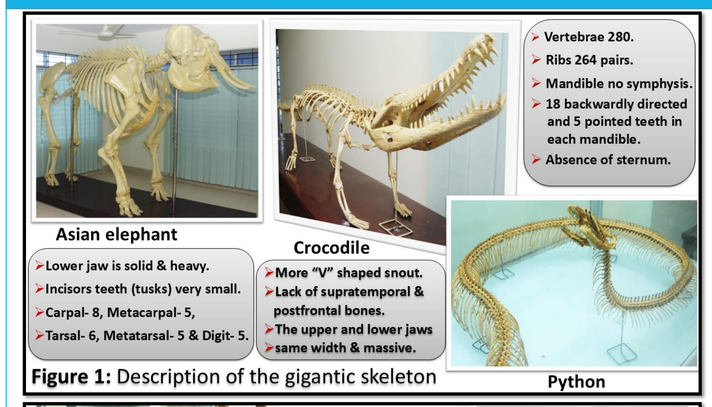


Figure 1: Description of the gigantic skeleton

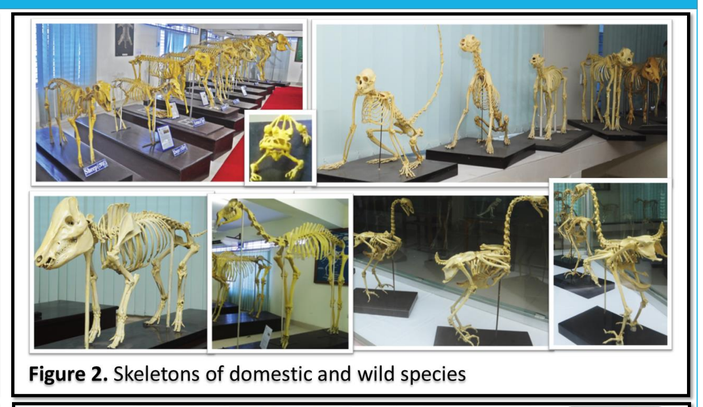


Figure 2. Skeletons of domestic and wild species

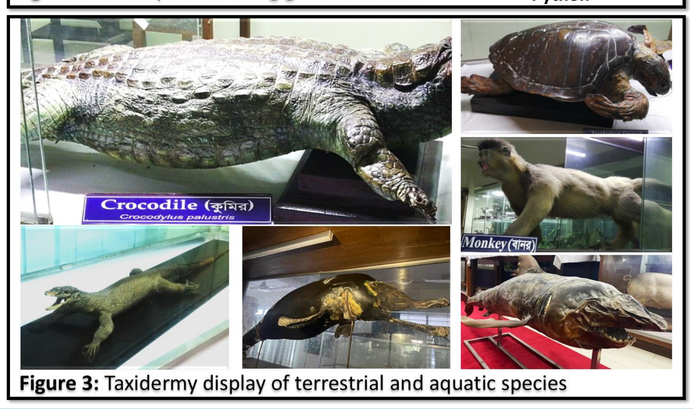


Figure 3: Taxidermy display of terrestrial and aquatic species

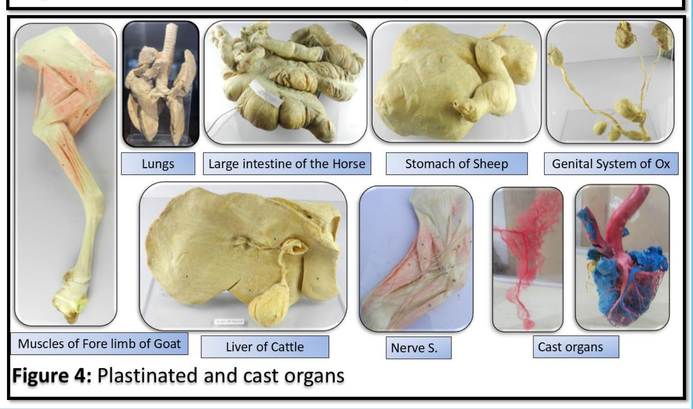
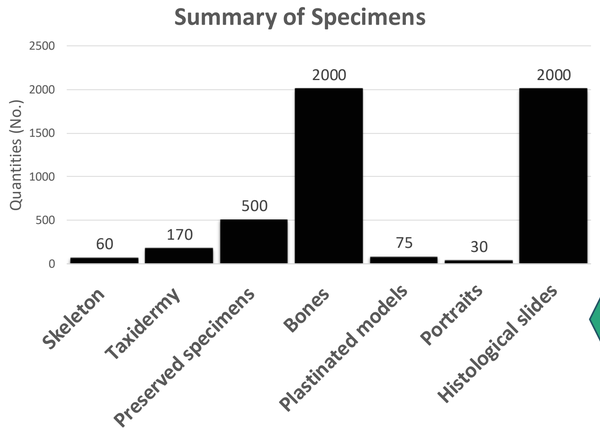


Figure 4: Plastinated and cast organs

Chart: Summary of the total specimens in the CVASU Anatomy Museum.



Bones, preserved specimens, and histological slides dominate the collection compared to others.

Figure 5: Stuffed specimens of various birds and animals displayed in the Museum.

Discussion

The Anatomy Museum represents a pioneering step toward advancing veterinary anatomical education and research in Bangladesh. Such exposure enhances students' understanding of morphological variations among domestic, wild, and avian species, supporting a more comprehensive approach to veterinary education [4]. Similar findings were reported by Onyango et a, who emphasized that anatomy museums significantly contribute to conceptual learning and long-term retention among veterinary students [5]. According to a previous study, anatomical museums are essential infrastructures for research innovation, allowing the integration of modern visualization techniques with traditional dissection-based studies [6]. In this context, CVASU's initiative aligns with global standards of veterinary anatomical education and provides a model for similar institutions across South Asia. This not only promotes scientific literacy but also fosters interest in wildlife conservation and environmental awareness [4]. Such engagement reflects the museum's contribution beyond academia, serving as a bridge between science and society.

Figure 6: Portrait, Mass Media, and Visitors

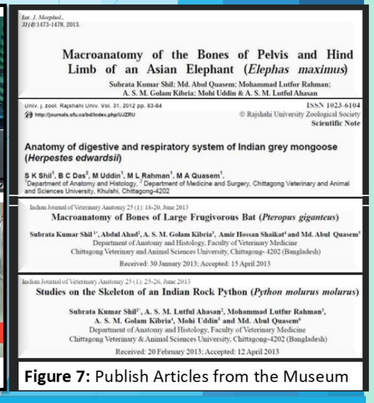


Figure 7: Publish Articles from the Museum

Conclusions

- Enrichment of quality education and research by ensuring more specimens.
- Comparative and Topographic Anatomy will enhance the understanding of clinical skills.
- Learning process will be easier with more interest.

Future Directions

- Digitalization & Virtual Access
- Interdisciplinary Research Hub
- Outreach, School Programs & Biodiversity Education
- Collaboration with Museums & Universities
- Augmented Learning for Veterinary and Allied Courses
- Documentation & Cataloging

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