

## Variation

For example, in this jar I have 44 specimens that were collected in 1972 off the coast of Guyana. In another jar, I have one individual that was collected off the coast of Colombia in 1964. And as you can see, I have many other populations, which represent the entire geographical range of the species. We have males and females, because fish, just like people, just like many other species, are sexually dimorphic, very often. So you want to get representatives of males and females. We have different ontogenetic series here, so we have very small individuals, leading up through adolescents to adults. So we're really incorporating all the different life stages in this collection; we're incorporating all the different geographical populations of the species, and we also have a temporal factor here, because these collections were made at different times, and I'll tell you a little bit more about that in a minute. So, basically, what we're getting at in these collections is the envelope of a species. We're trying to look at the variation that's encompassed by that definition of a species.