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Moulding of the viscera of a Cascabelle

(South America rattlesnake or Pit Viper, *Crotalus durissus*, L., 1758) by silicone and polyurethane projection (Axson)

Moulage des viscères de la cavité générale d'un Crotale Cascabelle (Crotalus durissus, L., 1758) par la méthode de projection au silicone et au polyuréthane (Axson)

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INTRODUCTION:

One of the major problems of the techniques of moulding by stamping with silicone used in anatomy is the weight of the silicone flow (thickness: from 5 to 10mm). It distorts or displaces the soft organs.

Crotalus durissus, L. 1758

Dissection of the Pit Viper

METHODS:

The adaptation herein proposed consists in projecting a thin film of silicone (thickness: 1 to 3mm) with an air-filled pistol (400cm3) and a double-composed cartridge with its static shaker (Axson). The moulding test was done on the viscera of the general cavity of a male Cascabelle pit viper (Crotalus durissus, L. 1758), 2.840kg and 155cm long. It was euthanized in MHNN in 2008, following a cloacal prolapsus. After being frozen for one year, the animal was desiccated. The moulding of the viscera was done on the same day. This was possible because the silicone acts rapidly (about 3min.) and the removal of the mould is possible after 15min. Later, a specimen in polyurethane resin was made and stained.

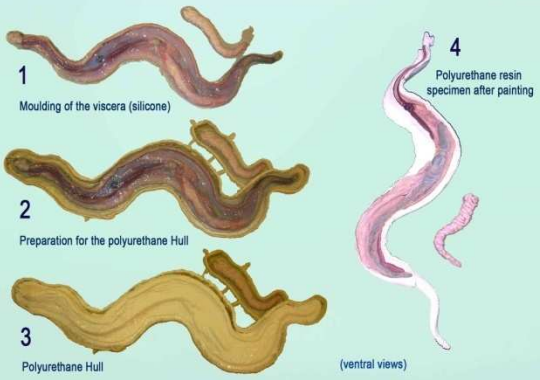
RESULTS:

This work was interesting because it corresponds to an anatomy study, which was not thoroughly described in the bibliography. But above all, it permitted the development of a new and original type of moulding technique, whose most important breakthroughs are listed below:

-Possibility to create a moulding with a thin film of silicone, without any physical contact during the operation

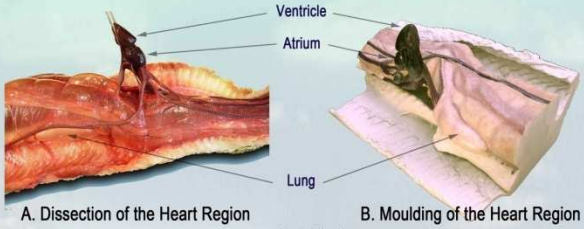
-Speed of execution and flexible realization

-As the mixing happens continuously and on demand with the cartridge, no further need of a large quantity of silicone that must be used quickly.



CONCLUSION:

The final product is very satisfying and could be used in pedagogical presentation.
Of course, specific equipment is essential but the extra cost is compensated by the need for a lower quantity of silicone and a lower toxicity, as the operator is not in contact with the catalyst any more.



A. Dissection of the Heart Region

B. Moulding of the Heart Region

(ventral views)

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