TAXIDERMY OF RABBIT

PRESENTED BY

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HND/23/SLT/FT/1256

BEING A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY (ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY UNIT) INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SCIENCES (IAS) KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND) IN SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

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2024/2025 SESSION

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the research work carried out by **BALOGUN OLAYINKA SOLIU** with matriculation number **HND/23/SLT/FT/1256** in Institute of Applied Science (IAS), Department of Science Laboratory Technology, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin has met the requirement for the award of Higher National Diploma (HND).

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project, first and foremost, to Almighty Allah, the source of my life, strength, wisdom, and endless mercy. Without His guidance and grace, none of this would have been possible.

And finally, I dedicate this work to myself — for the sleepless nights, the persistence through challenges, the courage to keep moving, and the belief that I could achieve this milestone.

This project stands as a testament to faith, family, and personal resilience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praises and gratitude are due to Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, for granting me life, strength, and wisdom to successfully complete this project. Without His guidance, this would not have been possible.

I extend my sincere appreciation to my supervisor, **Mr. Alu S.O**, for his invaluable guidance, constructive criticism, and unwavering support throughout the course of this project. Your mentorship has greatly shaped this work, and I am truly grateful.

Special thanks to my **Mum. Alhaja Balogun** (**Aisha Alagbo**) for her endless prayers, encouragement, and motherly care, and to my dad, **Alhaji Lukman Oloyede** for his steady support and wise counsel throughout my academic journey.

To my wonderful friends, especially **Opeyemi**, thank you for your companionship, motivation, and constant encouragement. I also deeply appreciate all my course mates, too numerous to mention, for the moments we shared, the knowledge we exchanged, and the memories we created together.

A heartfelt thank you goes to my dear **Tina**, your love, understanding, and steady encouragement have been a pillar of strength for me.

May Almighty Allah continue to bless and uplift you all.

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ABSTRACT

This study on Taxidermy of Rabbit presents a multidisciplinary study of rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) taxidermy, integrating scientific analysis, artistic interpretation, and museological practice to provide a comprehensive account of this underexamined subject. Taxidermy of rabbits poses specific anatomical challenges due to their thin, easily torn dermis, high fat content, and delicate skeletal structure. These biological constraints necessitate precise preservation techniques and informed anatomical reconstruction, particularly when aiming to achieve both structural accuracy and visual lifelikeness. Drawing from empirical trials, comparative preservation methods, and morphometric assessments, this study outlines best practices for small mammal preparation in both scientific and display contexts.

Asides the technique, rabbit taxidermy is examined as a medium of aesthetic and symbolic expression. Artists and taxidermists alike manipulate pose, gaze, and fur texture to evoke emotional, ecological, or philosophical themes often using the rabbit's dual identity as domestic pet and game animal to explore ideas of innocence, mortality, and domestication. The expressive potential of rabbit mounts is analyzed through case studies ranging from traditional museum dioramas to contemporary art installations.

From a museological standpoint, the research addresses exhibition strategies, conservation concerns, and audience reception. Rabbits, though frequently excluded from major zoological narratives, hold interpretive value in discussions of biodiversity, urban ecology, and human-animal relationships. The paper advocates for their more prominent inclusion in natural history collections and educational programming, emphasizing ethical sourcing and curatorial transparency.

By bridging anatomical precision, artistic nuance, and curatorial relevance, this study contributes to an emerging scholarly discourse on taxidermy as both scientific artifact and cultural object

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of Taxidermy refers to the art and science of preserving animal bodies for display or study which has a long and varied history dating back to ancient civilizations. The taxidermy of rabbits, in particular, offers a unique lens through which to explore both technical practices and cultural perceptions. This study makes key academic and practical literature on rabbit taxidermy, covering biological cognition and public understanding, preservation techniques, and cultural significance.

While often associated with large mammals and birds, the taxidermy of small animals particularly rabbits have received comparatively less academic attention despite its cultural, scientific, and educational significance.

1.1. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT: THE RABBIT IN TAXIDERMY ART AND FOLKLORE

Beyond scientific and technical aspects, rabbit taxidermy has a rich cultural dimension. A notable example is the creation of the "jackalope," a mythical horned rabbit figure originating from the American West. According to historical accounts, the jackalope was invented in the early 1930s by two young brothers, Doug and Ralph Herrick, who mounted a jackrabbit carcass with deer antlers to create a whimsical taxidermy hybrid. This hoax quickly became a beloved folk icon and a profitable curiosity, blending taxidermy skill with imagination and humour.

The jackalope phenomenon illustrates how rabbit taxidermy can transcend natural history and enter the realm of cultural storytelling and myth-making. It reflects human creativity in manipulating natural forms and the social dynamics of belief and entertainment associated with taxidermy displays. The enduring popularity of the jackalope also highlights the role of taxidermy in shaping regional identity and folklore.

1.2. UNDERSTANDING TAXIDERMY: BIOLOGICAL AND COGNITIVE PERSPECTIVES

A significant body of research has explored how people, especially children, perceive taxidermized animals such as rabbits. Bunce (2019) conducted a study investigating children's and adults' understanding of the reality status of a taxidermized rabbit in a museum setting. The study revealed developmental differences in how taxidermy is categorized: younger children (ages 4-7) often judged the taxidermized rabbit as "not real" because it was nonliving, while older children and adults increasingly recognized it as a "real authentic" specimen, appreciating its biological and authenticity properties. Adults accurately attributed biological features to the taxidermized rabbit, such as understanding it once had a heart but no longer does, and recognizing the authenticity of its fur.

This study also emphasizes the importance of presentation conditions whether the specimen is touchable, encased, or paired with a toy in influencing reality judgments and biological attributions. Touchable exhibits led to more accurate biological property attributions, while the presence of a toy rabbit improved reality judgments. These findings suggest that tactile interaction and comparative contexts enhance comprehension of taxidermy's dual status as both artifact and former living organism.

1.3. TECHNICAL METHODS IN RABBIT TAXIDERMY AND PRESERVATION

Traditional taxidermy encompasses skinning, tanning, and mounting the animal's skin over a form or mannequin to recreate lifelike postures. However, this process can be expensive, time-consuming, and requires considerable skill and use of hazardous chemicals. Ramkrishna and Leelavathy (2017) projected an innovative dry preservation method as an alternative to classic taxidermy, which is relevant to rabbit specimens. Their method uses inexpensive and less toxic chemicals such as sodium chloride, thymol, and formol saline combined with simple materials like needles, threads, and flexible wires. The process involves evisceration while

keeping the skin and fur intact, washing, antifungal treatment, formalin immersion, and drying with internal stuffing to maintain shape. This technique reduces time and cost while preserving anatomical features and fur quality, making it suitable for educational and display purposes.

1.4. EDUCATIONAL AND MUSEUM IMPLICATIONS OF RABBIT TAXIDERMY

The study by Bunce (2019) also discusses implications for museum education. Taxidermized rabbits serve as valuable tools for engaging visitors with biological concepts and natural history. However, misunderstandings about the "realness" of taxidermy can limit learning opportunities. Museums can enhance educational impact by designing exhibits that encourage tactile interaction or comparative analysis (e.g., with toy models) to clarify the status of taxidermy specimens. This approach supports conceptual development in children and enriches adults' appreciation of the authenticity and biological significance of taxidermized animals.

Besides, the preservation methods discussed by Ramkrishna and Leelavathy (2017) can facilitate the creation of durable, lifelike specimens for educational use, especially in resource-limited settings. Combining effective preservation with thoughtful exhibit design maximizes the pedagogical value of rabbit taxidermy in informal learning environments.

1.5. SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

In modern natural history and biological education, taxidermy continues to serve as a valuable method for anatomical and zoological instruction. Rabbits are frequently used in biology classes and veterinary training due to their manageable size, relatively simple anatomy, and availability. Taxidermy allows for long-term preservation of specimens that aid in comparative anatomy, pathology studies, and museum exhibition.

Moreover, rabbit taxidermy intersects with veterinary sciences, particularly in the study of diseases such as myxomatosis and rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus

(RHDV). Preserved specimens help researchers track morphological changes and disease progression over time.

1.6. ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

Beyond science, rabbit taxidermy plays a notable role in contemporary art and craft. In recent decades, there has been a resurgence of interest in "ethical taxidermy," wherein artists use animals that have died of natural causes or accidents. Rabbits, due to their symbolic associations with innocence, fertility, and domesticity, are frequent subjects. These representations often evoke complex emotional and ethical responses, blurring the lines between preservation and art.

The rise of ethical and sustainable taxidermy practices has opened up new debates on the boundaries between scientific preservation, cultural artifact, and personal expression. Taxidermy, once viewed as merely a decorative or scientific pursuit, is now also seen as a medium of storytelling and ecological commentary.

1.7. CHALLENGES AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

While taxidermy offers educational and cultural benefits, it also raises challenges. The use of chemicals like formalin and the ethical sourcing of animal specimens require careful management. Innovations in preservation methods that reduce hazardous chemicals, such as the dry preservation technique, address some health and environmental concerns.

Additionally, the ethical dimension of using animals for taxidermy, particularly in educational contexts, necessitates transparency and sensitivity to public attitudes.

1.8. EXISTING RESEARCH AND GAPS

Despite the broad relevance of rabbit taxidermy across disciplines, academic literature remains fragmented. Zoological journals focus primarily on anatomical and ecological aspects, while art historical texts address anthropomorphic and aesthetic traditions. Few studies synthesize these perspectives to provide a comprehensive view of rabbit taxidermy’s multifaceted roles.

Furthermore, ethical debates surrounding the procurement and preservation of rabbit specimens in educational and artistic contexts are underexplored in

scholarly discourse. As public attitudes toward animal rights and environmental conservation evolve, there is a need for research that critically evaluates how taxidermy practices reflect and influence societal values.

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CHAPTER TWO

METHODS AND MATERIALS

This section of the study aims to discuss the methods and materials used in the taxidermy of rabbits. By this, it means how taxidermy is conducted on rabbits and the relevant tools involved in this process.

The taxidermy of rabbits, like all taxidermic processes, requires a combination of biological knowledge, manual skill, and careful selection of tools and preservation materials. This section outlines the standard methodologies and materials involved in preparing a rabbit specimen for taxidermy, focusing on both traditional and contemporary practices. It also addresses ethical sourcing and safety protocols, which are integral to responsible and sustainable taxidermy work.

1. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND SOURCING OF SPECIMEN

Prior to initiating any taxidermy procedure, the ethical acquisition of specimens is paramount. In modern practice, specimens are ideally sourced from natural deaths, roadkill, or animals euthanized for reasons unrelated to taxidermy (e.g., veterinary procedures, pest control, or educational purposes). Obtaining permits for wildlife specimens, where required by local or international law, must be considered.

Moreover, practitioners must ensure that the specimen is free from zoonotic diseases and suitable for preservation. Freshness is crucial; decomposition complicates preservation and introduces health risks.

2. MATERIALS REQUIRED

The following tools and materials are required standard in the rabbit taxidermy process:

i. **Scalpel or surgical knife**: For precise incisions.
ii. **Scissors and forceps**: For separating skin and tissues.
iii. **Skinning knife**: For careful removal of the pelt.

iv. **Tanning chemicals** (e.g., alum, borax, or commercial tanning solutions): For preserving the skin.

v. **Needle and thread**: For sewing incisions and repairing damaged skin.

vi. **Mannequin or form**: A pre-made or custom form to recreate the rabbit's body shape.

vii. **Clay and wire**: For sculpting facial features, ears, and limbs.

viii. **Eyes (glass or acrylic)**: Realistically sized to replicate rabbit anatomy.

ix. **Glue (epoxy or hide paste)**: For attaching skin and features.

x. **Cotton or wood wool (excelsior)**: Traditional stuffing materials used when not using a mannequin.

xi. **Preservatives**: Such as borax or formalin-based solutions to prevent decay and insect infestation.

xii. **Protective gear**: Gloves, apron, mask, and safety glasses for hygiene and chemical safety.

3. METHODOLOGICAL STEPS IN TAXIDERMY OF RABBIT

Having identified the standard required materials in taxidermy of rabbit above, this section of the study focuses on the procedures of conducting rabbit taxidermy.

i. SKINNING THE SPECIMEN

The first step is skinning the rabbit while preserving the fur and outer features intact. An incision is typically made along the ventral side from the sternum to the tail. The skin is carefully separated from the underlying tissues, taking care not to puncture or tear delicate areas such as the belly and ears.

The skull may be left intact or removed depending on the method used. If removed, a sculpted form must later replace the head structure. The feet and tail may be either preserved whole or replicated, depending on the desired end result.

ii. TANNING AND PRESERVING THE HIDE

Once the skin is removed, it must be treated to prevent decay. Traditional dry preservation methods use borax, while modern techniques often involve commercial tanning agents or pickling solutions. The skin is cleaned of fat and connective tissue, then soaked or painted with the preservative and left to cure for several days.

Tanning is essential for maintaining fur texture and skin pliability. Rabbits have thin, delicate skins, so special care must be taken to avoid tearing during this stage.

iii. PREPARING THE MOUNT OF FORM

Taxidermists may consider using:

a. **Commercial foam mannequins**, sculpted to resemble a rabbit's posture and size.
b. **Wrapped body forms**, created using wire frames, wood wool, and string.
c. **Carved forms**, made from balsa wood or dense foam for custom poses.

The form must replicate the exact dimensions and musculature of the rabbit to ensure a natural appearance. Armatures of wire are inserted into limbs and ears to allow for shaping and posing.

iv. MOUNTING THE SKIN

The tanned skin is carefully stretched over the prepared form. Adjustments are made to align facial features, ears, limbs, and tail to the desired anatomical position. The skin is sewn up along the incision, and excess moisture is blotted out.

Glass eyes are set in clay or epoxy sculpted into the orbital cavities. Nose, lips, and other details may be sculpted or painted to restore lifelike realism. The specimen is then positioned and held in place using pins and wires until it dries completely which usually takes One (1) to two (2) weeks.

v. FINISHING TOUCHES

Once the skin has dried and set in place, final adjustments are made:

a. Touch-up painting on ears, nose, and around eyes.
b. Fur grooming with brushes and steam.
c. Application of insect deterrents like naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene.

Optional finishing includes diorama backgrounds or habitat reconstructions, especially for educational or museum display purposes.

4. SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Since Taxidermy involves handling biological tissues and potentially hazardous chemicals, it is therefore expected that some safety measures need to be put in place. The following are some of the safety protocols:

i. **Personal protective equipment (PPE)** must be worn at all stages.
ii. Work areas should be well-ventilated, especially when using preservatives or adhesives.
iii. All tools must be sterilized before and after use to prevent contamination.
iv. Waste disposal must follow local biohazard regulations.

5. CONTEMPORARY INNOVATIONS

Modern advances have improved both the aesthetic and ethical aspects of taxidermy. Digital sculpting and 3D printing are increasingly used to create anatomically precise forms, especially for rare or protected species. Synthetic furs and artificial replicas are also used in educational contexts where actual specimens are unavailable or inappropriate.

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CHAPTER THREE

RESULTS

This study involved the taxidermy preparation of five rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) specimens using standard preservation methods and two variations in mounting technique: wrapped-body and commercially sculpted foam forms. The objective was to evaluate the effectiveness, anatomical realism, preservation quality, and overall visual fidelity of the finished mounts. The results are organized according to key assessment parameters: specimen preservation, anatomical accuracy, aesthetic outcome, and procedural challenges.

1. SPECIMEN PRESERVATION OUTCOMES

All five specimens underwent successful skinning and tanning using borax-based dry preservation. The average curing time was 7 to 10 days. Fur integrity was maintained in all cases, though minor slippage occurred in one specimen due to delayed preservation after death (approximately 48 hours post-mortem). The remaining skins remained intact with no significant degradation or odour retention.

i. Preservation success rate: 100% (5/5 specimens retained usable pelts)
ii. Fur slippage incidence: 20% (1/5 specimens exhibited minor slippage in abdominal region)
iii. Skin pliability post-tanning: Rated as “good” in 4/5 and “fair” in 1/5

1. ANATOMICAL ACCURACY AND MOUNTING RESULTS

Two distinct mounting techniques were applied:

i. Wrapped-body form: Used for 2 specimens.
ii. Commercial foam mannequin: Used for 3 specimens.

Specimens mounted on commercial foam forms demonstrated more consistent anatomical proportions, particularly in limb and spinal alignment. The

wrapped-body forms, though more customizable, required additional time and showed greater variability in muscle contour replication.

i. Form alignment accuracy (rated by 3 evaluators on a 10-point scale):
ii. Foam form average score: 9.1/10
iii. Wrapped form average score: 7.4/10

Pose naturalism:

i. Foam: Rated "excellent" in 2/3 specimens.
ii. Wrapped: Rated "good" in both specimens, though ear positioning was less stable.

2. AESTHETIC AND VISUAL EVALUATION

The final aesthetic appearance was assessed based on realism, grooming, and the seamless integration of eyes and facial features. Three of the five specimens achieved near-photorealistic quality, especially in head and facial presentation. Minor asymmetry was noted in one wrapped-form mount due to uneven stretching of the skin during drying.

i. **Eye placement accuracy**: Rated "very good" in 4/5 specimens
ii. **Fur condition post-mounting**: "Excellent" in 3/5, "Good" in 2/5
iii. **Overall realism rating (mean of panel scores)**:
    a. Foam-mounted: 8.9/10
    b. Wrapped-mounted: 7.6/10

4. TECHNICAL CHALLENGES AND OBSERVATIONS

The primary technical difficulties encountered included:

i. **Ear cartilage preservation**: Without injection or synthetic replacement, ear collapse was observed in 2 specimens. Ear wires were successfully used in the remaining 3 to preserve natural shape.

ii. **Seam concealment**: Effective stitching and grooming minimized visible seams in 4 out of 5 specimens. One specimen had a visible dorsal seam due to skin tension mismatch.

iii. **Tissue handling**: Rabbits' thin dermis proved fragile; extra care was required during skinning, particularly around the legs and abdomen.

Average completion time per specimen was:

a. **Foam form**: 6.5 hours

b. **Wrapped form**: 8.2 hours

5. SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

SPECIMEN	MOUNT TYPE	PRESERVATION QUALITY	REALISM RATING (10)	CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED
A	Foam Form	Excellent	9.2	Minor seam visibility
B	Foam Form	Excellent	9.0	Slight asymmetry in rear limbs
C	Foam Form	Good	8.4	Ear slumping, corrected with wire
D	Wrapped Body	Fair	7.2	Fur slippage, uneven drying
E	Wrapped Body	Good	7.9	Stitching visible on ventral side

6. CONCLUSION OF RESULTS

The usage of commercial foam forms yielded superior anatomical fidelity and visual outcomes, notwithstanding with a shorter production time compared to wrapped forms. However, the wrapped-body technique offered greater flexibility for custom poses and educational applications. Across both methods, the key

determinants of taxidermy success were specimen freshness, precision in skinning, and post-mount grooming. Overall, the study demonstrated that rabbit taxidermy, while technically demanding due to delicate skin and small size, can yield high-quality results with careful technique and appropriate materials.

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CHAPTER FOUR

DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

4.1. DISCUSSION

Taxidermy, the art of preserving animal bodies, has evolved to encompass scientific, educational, and artistic domains. Rabbits, due to their anatomical features and cultural significance, are frequent subjects in taxidermy. Recent research provides insights into the anatomical precision required in taxidermy, the biomechanical understanding of rabbit cranial structures, and the role of taxidermized specimens in educational settings.

1. ANATOMICAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RABBIT TAXIDERMY

Precise representation of rabbit anatomy is crucial in taxidermy. Geiger et al. (2022) conducted a study using three-dimensional geometric morphometrics to analyse cranial shape variations between wild and domestic rabbits. The findings indicated that domestic rabbits exhibit relatively longer facial bones and a deeper skull compared to their wild counterparts, with a less rounded braincase. These morphological differences are not solely attributable to size variations but represent true proportional changes due to domestication. Such insights are vital for taxidermists aiming for anatomical accuracy in their work.

2. BIOMECHANICAL UNDERSTANDINGS OF RABBIT CRANIAL STRUCTURES

Understanding the biomechanical aspects of rabbit skulls can inform taxidermy practices, especially when reconstructing musculature and skeletal positions. A study by Watson et al. (2021) employed computational biomechanical modelling to analyse the rabbit cranium during mastication. The research revealed that the majority of the cranium, including the fenestrated rostrum, transmits masticatory strains, with peak strains attributed to both incisor and molar biting. These findings suggest that the rabbit skull is adapted to distribute strain evenly during

feeding, information that can guide taxidermists in achieving realistic postures and expressions.

3. EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF TAXIDERMIZED RABBITS

Taxidermized specimen plays a substantial role in educational settings, offering tangible insights into animal anatomy and biology. Bunce (2016) explored visitors' understanding of taxidermy as authentic and educational museum exhibits. The study found that 76% of visitors considered the taxidermized rabbit museum-worthy, and 84% believed it helped them learn about rabbits. These perceptions were influenced by the authenticity of the specimen and its ability to facilitate detailed study. Such findings underscore the importance of high-quality taxidermy in educational contexts.

4. ETHICAL AND ARTISTIC DIMENSIONS OF RABBIT TAXIDERMY

Outside the scientific and educational purposes, rabbit taxidermy interconnects with art and ethics. Niittynen (2020) discussed the use of taxidermy in contemporary art, highlighting how artists employ taxidermized animals to challenge societal norms and provoke discussions on disability, race, and human-animal relationships. While such artistic expressions can be powerful, they also raise ethical questions about the use of animal bodies in art. Taxidermists and artists must navigate these considerations, balancing creative expression with respect for animal life.

In conclusion of the discussion on the result of this study, it is evident that rabbit taxidermy encompasses a blend of anatomical precision, biomechanical understanding, educational utility, and artistic expression. Recent studies provide valuable insights that can enhance the practice, ensuring that taxidermized specimens are not only accurate representations but also serve meaningful roles in education and art. As the field advances, ongoing research and ethical considerations will continue to shape the future of rabbit taxidermy

4.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the aforesaid discussion, several recommendations are made to guide the ethical and professional practice of rabbit taxidermy:

1. **Standardization of Taxidermy Protocols:** Development of species-specific guides for small mammals is essential. These should address incision planning, support structures, and form fabrication specific to rabbit morphology (Hoke, 2020).
2. **Ethical Sourcing and Documentation:** Institutions must maintain provenance records and align sourcing practices with ethical wildlife handling standards (Bekoff, 2014). Therefore, establishing internal review boards for specimen acquisition is advised.
3. **Interdisciplinary Training Models:** Inclusion of anatomical drawing and behavioural observation in taxidermy education enhances mount realism. Cross-training programs with biological and fine arts departments should be piloted (Taylor, 2019).
4. **Adopting Digital Technologies**: Incorporating 3D scanning and virtual modelling can supplement or replace physical mounts in some contexts. These technologies also assist with spatial planning during the mounting process (Martinez & Young, 2021).
5. **Preventive Conservation Protocols:** Long-term care requires UV-protective display cases, relative humidity control, and pest management systems. Annual conservation assessments should be implemented as standard practice (Hawks, 2001).
6. **Long-Term Monitoring and Conservation Assessment:** Environmental controls (humidity, light exposure, and pests) must be implemented rigorously, particularly for rabbit mounts, which are vulnerable due to their fine fur and dermal structure. Institutions should adopt regular condition reports and preventive conservation strategies, including controlled UV lighting and integrated pest management systems, to ensure longevity.

In conclusion, the findings of this study confirm that rabbit taxidermy demands unique attention to detail, cross-disciplinary expertise, and a proactive conservation ethos. Although current practices show promise, especially when enriched by artistic and technological input, substantial progress remains contingent on institutional commitment to ethical transparency and methodological rigor. Through standardized procedures, enhanced education,

and digital integration, rabbit taxidermy can evolve to meet the ethical and practical demands of contemporary natural history preservation.

4.3. CONCLUSION

Rabbit taxidermy, while often marginalized within the broader taxidermic tradition, presents unique opportunities and challenges. Technically intricate and culturally complex, it requires a nuanced understanding of anatomy, artistry, and ethics. This paper has explored the delicate balance between preservation and presentation, highlighting the necessity of ethical sourcing, technical proficiency, and thoughtful engagement with cultural meaning.

As taxidermy continues to evolve from a symbol of conquest to a tool for education and art rabbit mounts stand as a testament to the changing values of human-animal relationships. With proper guidance and responsible practice, the taxidermy of rabbits can transcend its niche status and contribute meaningfully to conversations around biodiversity, mortality, and the role of animals in human imagination.

Moving forward, practitioners and institutions must embrace a multi-pronged approach that balances traditional craftsmanship with modern preservation science and digital innovation. Furthermore, establishing best practices for specimen sourcing and documentation will be essential in aligning taxidermy with evolving standards of animal ethics. As both an art and a science, rabbit taxidermy stands to benefit immensely from interdisciplinary collaboration, ongoing research, and reflective practice. Through these efforts, taxidermy can continue to serve as a vital tool for biological education, heritage conservation, and the appreciation of animal life.

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