Just Some of the models I have built

Model labels: Mouth, Corona, Brain, Eyespot, Mastax, Flame bulb, Salivary gland, Gastric gland, Stomach, Ovary, Intestine, Anus, Foot, Pedal glands, Model by Henry Rae, ROTIFER

To see mitochondria press here

Technician Henry Rae with the talking DNA exhibit.

A FASCINATING exhibition which celebrates the discovery of the structure of DNA will open to visitors at St Andrews Botanic Garden this weekend.

To be hosted by scientists from St Andrews University's school of biology, the event is the result of teamwork between the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London.

The interactive exhibition will be open each weekend throughout the summer and autumn, from July 3 to October 24 and shows how the molecule that connects all living things on earth, from the tiniest microbe to the largest blue whale, is also responsible for the huge variety of plants found around the world today.

Visitors will be able to explore some of the latest scientific research including displays devoted to DNA research at St Andrews, which covers a host of subjects from Alzheimer's to zoology.

On alternate Saturdays, starting this weekend, there will be the chance to join workshops run by university scientists, during which visitors will be shown how to extract DNA from garden peas and bananas.

Unique to the exhibition is a talking plant cell, produced by Henry Rae and Murray Coutts, with voices supplied by university staff.

The exhibition is available for private bookings for schools and colleges on weekdays from August 16.

Interested parties should contact Dr Tobin, phone 01334 463375 or Email at6@st-andrews.ac.uk

Researchers to map sea mammals

THE SEA mammal research unit at St Andrews University will be co-ordinating a major international survey of whales, dolphins and porpoises next month.

The research unit will co-ordinate seven ships and three aircraft, which will conduct an intensive survey of the European Atlantic continental shelf.

The survey will help to map the distribution and estimate the number of whales, dolphins and porpoises living in these waters.

The survey, involving researchers from throughout western Europe, is part of the SCANS-II project (Small Cetaceans of the European Atlantic and North Sea), supported by the European Commission LIFE Nature programme and 12 European governments.

The data will also help to highlight the number of animals killed in fishing gear, and assist in other areas, including developing cost-effective monitoring methods.
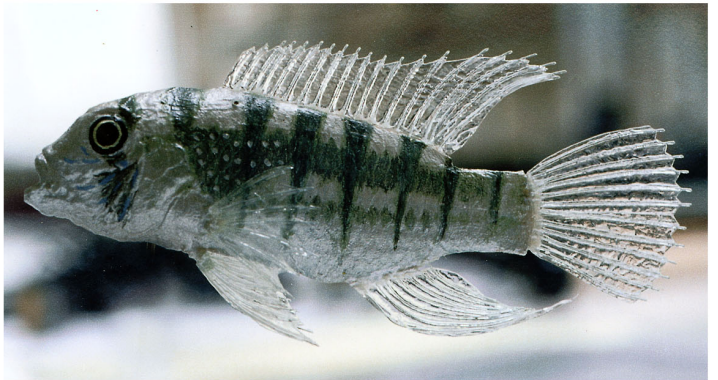
Dr Kelly Macleod, who will be on board one of the ships surveying west of the UK said: "This is an extremely important survey to assess the sizes of populations in European waters.

"Never has there been such a large scale survey in these waters. It's a huge undertaking.

"The information is crucial in assessing the impact of bycatch on porpoises and dolphins".

After the survey, data will be processed and analysed with results expected in the middle of next year.

The results will then be presented to the European Commission and participating governments in 2006.