Designation	'381 claim element or limitation
[1.P]	1. A container system for releasably storing a substance, comprising:
[1.1]	a) a vial comprising
[1.2]	a first open end for receiving a sample,
[1.3]	a second end comprising a sample storage chamber and
[1.4]	a piercing member,
[1.5]	wherein said piercing member comprises a side wall, a first cutting edge extending from a first pointed corner to a second corner that defines the intersection between said cutting edge and said side wall; and
[1.6]	b) a lid configured to removable engage said vial, said lid comprising
[1.7]	a reservoir for holding the substance, and
[1.8]	a pierceable membrane sealing the substance within said reservoir,
[1.9]	wherein, when said system is closed by removable engagement of said vial with said lid, said vial and said lid are movable to a piercing position in which the piercing member disrupts the pierceable membrane to allow fluid communication between said reservoir and said chamber,
[1.10]	wherein the chamber is sealed against leakage to the outside of the container system in the piercing position.

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[2.1]	2. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said lid comprises a wall defining all or a portion of the perimeter of said reservoir, said wall having a sealing surface for sealingly attaching said pierceable membrane.
[3.1]	3. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said reservoir is configured to retain about 1 ml to about 4 ml of said substance.
[4.1]	4. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said pierceable membrane is inert.
[5.1]	5. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said pierceable membrane remains intact and pierceable at temperatures of from about -80ºC. to about 70ºC.
[6.1]	6. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said pierceable membrane is sealingly attached to said sealing surface by an adhesive, a heat-sealing treatment, a fastener, or any combinations thereof.
[7.1]	7. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein the width of said first end is equivalent to the width of said second end.
[8.1]	8. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said first end is generally wider than said second end.
[9.1]	9. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said chamber is configured to receive about 1 ml to about 16 ml of said sample.
[10.1]	10. *The container system of claim 9*, wherein said chamber is configured to receive about 1 ml to about 4 ml of said sample.
[11.1]	11. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein the said piercing member extends from a base surface of said chamber.
[12.1]	12. *The container system of claim 11*, wherein said piercing member extends approximately perpendicularly from said base.
[13.1]	13. *The container system of claim 11*, wherein said piercing member is angled inwardly or outwardly toward said first open end of said vial.

Designation	'381 claim element or limitation
[14.1]	14. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said side wall further includes a second cutting edge.
[15.1]	15. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said vial comprises a plurality of piercing members.
[16.1]	16. *The container system of claim 15*, wherein said vial comprises three piercing members.
[17.1]	17. *The container system of claim 15*, wherein said vial comprises two piercing members.
[18.1]	18. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said system comprises sealing means for sealing said chamber against leakage to the outside of said container system following movement of said container system to said piercing position.
[19.1]	19. *The container system of claim 18*, wherein said sealing means comprises a sealing wall about the interior circumference of said lid that sealingly engages a surface of said vial when the system is in said piercing position.
[20.1]	20. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein said vial and said lid are sized for shipping in both an unattached state and an attached state.
[39.1]	39. *The container system of claim 1 or 21*, wherein said substance is a composition for the stabilization and recovery of a nucleic acid from a biological sample.
[40.1]	40. *The container system of claim 39*, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA or RNA.
[41.P]	41. A method of combining a substance with a biological sample, comprising:
[41.1]	(a) providing the container system of claim 1;
[41.2]	(b) providing the sample to the chamber in the vial; and
[41.3]	(c) closing said container system by removably attaching said lid to said vial; and
[41.4]	(d) piercing said membrane to release said substance into said chamber by moving said lid and said vial to said piercing position.
[43.1]	43. *The method of claim 41 or 42*, wherein the substance is a nucleic acid preserving substance.
[44.1]	44. *The method of claim 41 or 42*, wherein the sample is a

Designation	'381 claim element or limitation
	biological sample.
[45.1]	45. *The method of claim 41 or 42*, for archiving the sample.
[46.P]	46. A kit for sample collection and storage, comprising:
[46.1]	a) a container system of claim 1 or 21; and
[46.2]	b) instructions for the use thereof.
[47.1]	47. *The container system of claim 1*, wherein the substance is a liquid.
[49.1]	49. *The container system of claim 1*, additionally comprising a solid or semi-solid material within said vial and maintained separate from the substance in the reservoir of said lid until said pierceable membrane is disrupted.