



Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium of Vascular Plants (KHD)  
Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi (DBG)  
1085 York Street Denver, CO  
80206, USA

## **DESTRUCTIVE SAMPLING OF HERBARIUM SPECIMENS**

### **Policy Statement**

Herbaria are cared for and maintained in conditions intended to preserve and extend their physical integrity. The Gardens seeks to manage and mitigate this risk while balancing the need for reasonable access. Destructive sampling will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Head Curator or Director of Research and Conservation. No material may be removed from specimens without prior consent of the Head Curator or Director of Research and Conservation. The Gardens reserves the right to refuse to provide samples from collections in its care for any reason, at its sole discretion.

Destructive sampling is allowed only for supporting scientific research. Samples taken from herbarium specimens are not available for commercial gain, for example bioprospecting endeavors, screening for genes of agricultural interest, or any other potential commercial application. The researcher must have made a diligent and good faith effort to obtain appropriate material for extraction from other sources (field collections, horticultural sources, other herbaria, etc.). The researcher must have experience with laboratory techniques and characteristics of their group to insure a reasonable probability of success with the material.

As a condition of release of any material, each applicant agrees to abide by the conditions stated below.

- 1.** Leaf material, pollen, spores, fungal tissue, flowers, fruits, etc. may be removed from specimens only when adequate material is available. Care must be taken not to damage the scientific value of the specimen.
  - a.** If material is available in packets, this material should be used first.
  - b.** Only the minimum amount of material needed may be taken.
- 2.** Material may not be removed from type collections, historical specimens, or from taxa represented in the herbaria by less than three collections, except in rare instances, then only by herbaria staff.
- 3.** Each specimen must be annotated indicating the material removed, the nature of the study, the researcher's name and institutional affiliation, the date and identification of the specimen accepted by the researcher.
- 4.** Material may not be removed from a specimen for a second time if the nature of the study is the same. Exceptions may be made when there is additional leaf material or fungal tissue for DNA studies associated with the specimen.
- 5.** Approval to pass material provided by the Gardens or extracted DNA from said material to third parties must be obtained in advance. This action will require a new material transfer agreement with the third party approved by the Head Curator.
- 6.** Acknowledge the Denver Botanic Gardens or using the appropriate herbarium acronym (KHD or DBG) and each individual collector of the material provided in each publication in which data is used. An electronic copy of the publication should be sent to the Head Curator or Director of Research and Conservation.
- 7.** Register DNA sequences with GenBank/EMBL accession numbers. If no publication results from the study, accession numbers must be reported to the Head Curator.
- 8.** Acknowledge the material is provided by the Gardens without any warranty of any kind whatsoever.
- 9.** Denver Botanic Gardens reserves the right to request, at no cost to Denver Botanic Gardens, full access to DNA or sequence material or images originally obtained from Gardens specimens.



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Authorization Form**

I certify that I have read and understood the above restrictions and agree that I  
will conform to all of the regulations of Denver Botanic Gardens.

**Accepted:**

[Printed Name of Institution]

[Printed Name]

[Signature]

[Date]

[Specimens to be sampled]

Please complete and return to: (email is acceptable)

Jennifer Ackerfield  
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Head Curator of Gardens' Herbaria  
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Denver, CO 80206  
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