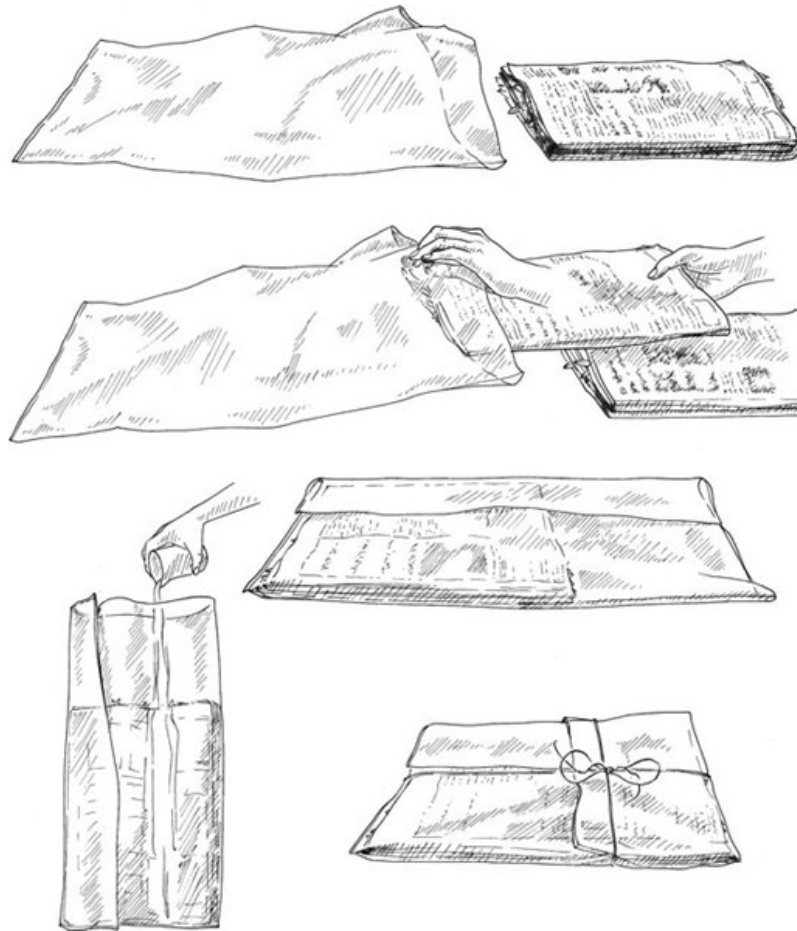


Figure 11.6.



Partially pressed specimens can be preserved for later drying by sealing specimens and drying papers in a plastic bag after saturating the papers with methylated spirit or ethyl alcohol. These sealed bags of specimens can usually be kept for two or three months without deterioration. However, the specimens should be sent to a herbarium as soon as possible so that the drying process can be completed.

11.6 What you Need for Plant Collecting: Pre-Fieldwork Planning

Botanical collecting in foreign countries, especially in remote areas, requires considerable pre-fieldwork planning to ensure that all the necessary collecting permits and other legal documents have been obtained, appropriate equipment is available, all the personnel have been fully briefed on the social and civil status of the area being visited, and the physical and health risks have been thoroughly assessed. Although some aspects of this planning may not be as necessary when undertaking field studies within the collector's own country, the following points should be considered carefully prior to undertaking any field studies. Cochrane et al. (2009) provide a 'collection checklist' that summarizes important issues to be considered when undertaking botanical collecting.