

### 11.3.2 How useful are photographs for identification?

Photographs never replace the need for good-quality herbarium collections. Photographs and drawings often assist the person identifying a specimen because the images can better represent features of habit, presentation of plant parts, shape, texture, and colour than is provided by the preserved specimen or the collector's notes. However, the specimen is required as an authoritative voucher of the species. Therefore, photographs and drawings should be regarded as secondary and complementary material to the botanical collection.

p. 267 Photographs of whole plant or parts of the plant may be used to supplement the information included in the notes (a note in the field notebook 'photo taken' is then useful). If additional material (e.g. photographs, separate seeds, wood, and methylated spirit- or ethanol-preserved collection) is also gathered, it should also be numbered with the same collection number as all other parts of the collection.

Figure 11.2.

The image shows a sample page from a collecting field book. The page is divided into several sections for recording information:

- Field No.:** A line for recording the field number.
- Locality (incl. Country, State/Province, Region):** A line for recording the location.
- Latitude:** A line for recording the latitude, with a scale from 0 to 90.
- Longitude:** A line for recording the longitude, with a scale from 0 to 180.
- Altitude:** A line for recording the altitude, with a scale from 0 to 1000.
- Frequency:** A line for recording the frequency of the specimen.
- Habitat (incl. vegetation type, dominant species, subdominant):** A line for recording the habitat.
- Notes (if collecting epiphytes/parasitophorous fungi):** A line for recording notes.
- Habit (incl. bark/wood/leaf features):** A line for recording the habit.
- Flowers (incl. reproductive features of ferns/mosses/vascular plants):** A line for recording flower features.
- Fruit (incl. cones of conifers):** A line for recording fruit features.
- General notes:** A line for recording general notes.
- Local name:** A line for recording the local name.
- Informant (incl. language group):** A line for recording the informant.
- Local user:** A line for recording the local user.
- Informant (incl. language group):** A line for recording the informant.
- Collector:** A line for recording the collector.
- Collection No.:** A line for recording the collection number.
- Date:** A line for recording the date.
- Other Collection:** A line for recording other collection information.

A sample page from a collecting field book showing the usual fields of information recorded when collecting botanical specimens. Other possible types of material associated with collection are listed in textbox.