

For plants with large leaves or massive fruits, do not limit what makes up the collection because it may be difficult and/or take a great deal of time. It is more important to have a complete, useful specimen than to conform to arbitrary rules (but see below about storage of large specimens).

11.2.1 What to collect

The features most important for identification vary between different plant groups. The major plant groups and some specific requirements for collecting these groups are listed below. 4

Figure 11.1.



Selecting material from a flowering branch for the botanical specimen using secateurs.

11.2.1.1 Vascular plants

Vascular plants (also known as 'higher plants') are plants that have specialized tissues (often woody) for conducting water, minerals, and photosynthetic products through the plant. Vascular plants include the ferns, clubmosses, flowering plants, and conifers. There are many useful publications on the collection of vascular plants (see references cited in Taylor 1990). Additional practical advice for working in tropical regions is provided by Hyland (1972), Kajewski (1933), Mori (1984).