Lichen Herbarium

Field Biology

An herbarium is a collection of dried specimens, used by scientists and researchers as a kind of biological library to refer to when studying different groups of plants. When properly maintained, herbarium specimens have been known to last for hundreds of years. These specimens can be also useful when ecologists want to re-construct the kinds of species that once grew in an area. By referring to the herbarium of dried specimens found in an area many years ago, they can learn how the species composition of lichens has changed over time and potentially address any issues that have caused this change.

Your goal:

1. Individually, make an herbarium of 7 different species of lichens.
2. Each lichen specimen must be dried and pressed in its own envelope.
3. Each envelope should include a data label that includes correct identification, usage and collection information.
4. Each specimen will include a 3 x 2.5 note card with additional information about the lichen.
5. Your collection should be neatly held together with string.

The data label on each envelope should have the following information:

- Collector: Your name
- Name of lichen: Scientific and common name if there is one
- Date: The date the specimen was collected
- Location: Your location should start with “Crescent Valley High School campus, Corvallis, Oregon” and should also include a short description of where on campus your specimen was collected (for example, “just east of the tennis courts”)

The 3 x 2.5 note card in each envelope should have the following information:

- The scientific and common name of the lichen
- At least three pieces of information about the lichen – among other things, you might document three of the following:
  - Any medicinal uses of the lichen
  - What kinds of dyes or perfumes it might be used for
  - How it is used in personal products, such as powders, toothpastes
  - Its sensitivity to air pollution or use as an air pollution biomonitor
  - Any known nutritional value or toxicity