

Lichen Project: Make a personal Herbarium - Due: February 12, 2010

A 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 what species have disappeared from an area over time and replace them.

The project:

Each student is to make a herbarium of 6 different species of lichens.

Each lichen specimen must be dried and pressed, each in its own envelope, with a data that includes correct identification, usage and collection information.

You will be shown in class how to dry specimens, make a collection envelope, and a data label.

Data must be written on envelope, and have the following information:

- Name of lichen: Scientific and common name if there is one
- Habitat: Give the kind of area it was found in (oak or ash swale, for example) and what it was growing on
- Date
- Collector: Who picked the lichen?
- Location: Give the location by State, county, city, nearest road or nearest intersection.
- Your Name and your collection number: Sometimes collectors keep track of their collections in a field notebook and have a lifetime numbering system. If you don't have any other collections, then your numbers for this project will be 1 through 6. You cite a collector number as "Smith-01".

A 3 x 5 note card will be included in each envelope

The card must have the following information:

- Your name
- The name of the lichen
- Information about the lichen – See required research below

Required Research –

You can get this information from books and research on the internet. Information must include the following:

- Medicinal uses
- Use as a dye
- Use in perfumes
- Use in personal products, such as powders, toothpastes
- Sensitivity to air pollution or used as an air pollution biomonitor
- Known to be poisonous.

You may use more than one card if you wish, but please staple all cards together for a specimen.