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Shipping beetles to the UF Forest Entomology Lab

Jiri Hulcr¹¹University of Florida

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Works for me

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bnunmeve

Bark Beetle Mycobiome Research Coordination Network

ABSTRACT

This protocol describes how to send specimens to the UF Forest Entomology Lab.

This protocol is part of the Bark Beetle Mycobiome (BBM) Research Coordination Network. For more information on the BBM international network: Hulcr J, Barnes I, De Beer ZW, Duong TA, Gazis R, Johnson AJ, Jusino MA, Kasson MT, Li Y, Lynch S, Mayers C, Musvuugwa T, Roets F, Seltmann KC, Six D, Vanderpool D, & Villari C. 2020. Bark beetle mycobiome: collaboratively defined research priorities on a widespread insect-fungus symbiosis. *Symbiosis* 81: 101–113 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13199-020-00686-9>.

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Thank you for allowing us to take a look at your beetles! Rest assured that they will be treated professionally.

If you are sending them to be identified for your research, please make sure you provide all the information regarding collection date, country, locality, collection method, collector, and institution.

If you are depositing the beetles into the UF Forest Entomology collection, here is how they may be used :

– If your samples are of high quality (preserved in high-concentration, non-denatured ethanol from the moment of beetle death, and refrigerated) they will be deposited in -80C and in 99% ethanol, which will preserve them for molecular analyses of the beetles or the

fungi vectored by the beetles. They may be used by our team or by anyone else in the global bark beetle research community.

– If your samples are of lesser quality but still morphologically intact, they will be used in teaching, such as in the [Bark Beetle Academy](#).

Packaging

- 1) Please put your specimens in ethanol in a plastic, screw-top vial. Do not use snap-top vials (sometimes called Eppendorf tubes) because they invariably pop open in high altitudes and leak. Do not use glass vials – they break.
- 2) Add a piece of soft napkin or cotton; this prevents the beetles from thrashing around and breaking their legs and antennae.
- 3) The ethanol is important to dehydrate, clean and preserve the specimens. However it is flammable, so you can't ship it legally. So after the specimens soak and dehydrate, we recommend pouring off about 90% of the ethanol so you can declare the shipment "dry".
- 4) Place your vials on a sheet of paper and attach them with a sticky tape.
- 5) Put the whole thing into a padded envelope.

Shipping

You can send your package with regular mail. Or feel free to use our lab's Fedex account, so you don't have to pay anything. We will happily provide the account on request.

Our lab address is:

Jiri Hulcr

UF School of Forest Resources and Conservation

1745 McCarty Drive

Gainesville, FL 32611

USA

Phone: 517-256-1894

Permits

If you are shipping beetles from overseas, we strongly recommend that you attach a document, confirmed by your institution, stating that the beetles were collected with the appropriate permits issued by the country of origin, and that the sample is provided for mutually beneficial research. (Obtaining permits for dead, dry, common pests should not be difficult.) On the US side, you do NOT need a permit to send such specimens into the us (US regulation 7CFR 330.200).