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Importing live fungi to the US (UF Forest Entomology Lab)

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Bark Beetle Mycobiome Research Coordination Network

ABSTRACT

This protocol describes how to hand-carry live fungi through airport customs into the United States for 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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These are the conditions on our USDA permit for hand-carrying live fungi through airport customs into the United States. All fungi have to be on minisants.

1. Notify PPQ Permit Compliance Officer by email (redandwhitelabelrequest@aphis.usda.gov) to provide specific information on the

trip and who is travelling. The Compliance Officer will notify Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture Specialist at the port of entry to facilitate the entry.

2. Indicate that the samples are being imported under a USDA permit on the Customs Declaration form.

3. Show CBP officers the following: Passport or Visa and a valid hand carry PPQ Form 599 Red/White label corresponding to the permit.

4. Samples need to be securely packaged as the permit conditions. Usually, seal the minislants and the slant box.

5. After CBP confirmation and clearance through the first port of entry into the United States, samples must be transported directly to the facility authorized in the permit. Do not preserve it in the other places (such as hotel and personal locality)

6. Upon arrival at the facility, the PPQ Compliance Officer must be notified within 24 hours that the organisms arrived. Notification may be by fax (301-734-5392) or email (redandwhitelabelrequest@aphis.usda.gov), by an independent third party (e.g. containment facility director, departmental chair, campus biosafety officer, etc.). Include the permit number, label number, date of arrival, the specific organisms that were imported, their origin, and quantity.

7. Only people listed in the permit are authorized to carry samples.

8. An authorization to hand-carry includes only the organism in the permit.