Brianna Gross
Editor in Chief
Applications in Plant Sciences

April 24th, 2025

Dear Dr. Gross,

I am pleased to submit a software note titled *"BarnebyLives: an R package to create herbarium specimen labels and clean spreadsheets"* for consideration in Applications in Plant Sciences..

This package was developed to assist field botanists and collectors—particularly those engaged in large-scale federal efforts such as germplasm collection (e.g., Seeds of Success) or ecological monitoring programs (e.g., National Wetland Condition Assessment, or Assess, Inventory and Monitor)—in generating herbarium specimen labels and ensuring data quality in a reproducible, standardized way. While several tools exist for working with already accessioned herbarium data, few are tailored to the needs of collectors preparing specimens for deposit. Fewer still are designed with the realities of tight timelines and varying herbarium requirements in mind.

The software has already been used to prepare data for collections from a variety of teams deposited at approximately 15 herbaria, and the output from it has been received quiet warmly. Feedback from curators has helped shape its features and scope, and we hope that making it widely available will help empower field botanists to contribute high-quality collections with greater efficiency and confidence.

I think that APPS is a wonderful place for this paper to be published, and APPS would be happy to have this paper. Several editors of APPS have been unrelenting in their support of herbaria and that herbaria maintain their role as the center of academic and field botany. We believe that on occasion herbaria are not seen as resources for the future, but rather catalogues of the past, and would like to make our small contribution to ensure that does not become true.

We affirm that this submission is original, has not been published elsewhere, and is not under consideration by another journal. There are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for considering this submission. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
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