

Policy on Destructive Sampling of Herbarium Specimens

The US National Herbarium

1. All requests on sampling from herbarium specimens should be made to the collections manager at USNH@si.edu.
2. We expect the investigator to have made diligent efforts to sample material from non-herbarium sources.
3. Material may be removed for DNA, pollen, spore, other anatomical (vegetative and reproductive), and other studies with care.
4. Sampling can only be done when adequate material is available. The sampling procedure will not diminish the scientific value of the specimen. Whenever possible, material from the packet on the specimen should be sampled.
5. Permission for sampling type specimens will only be granted under rare and compelling circumstances with review and approval of the Botany Collections Advisory Committee.
6. Historical collections and collections made before 1900 may not be sampled.
7. Any given specimen may not be sampled a second time for the same study
8. Sampled specimen must be clearly annotated with the name of the taxon, the name of the annotator, date, type of study, and institution where the study is conducted.
9. DNA sequences generated from the sampling must be deposited in GenBank or EMBL.
10. The US National Herbarium must be acknowledged in any publication resulted from the data generated from the sampling. A reprint of the paper(s) should be provided to the Herbarium.

Revised: April 1, 2016