

UNIT – 5.3 Herbarium Techniques Part - 2

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Herbarium Techniques

Apart from the various field equipments discussed earlier in Part 1, following are the five more steps for the formation of Herbarium.

1. Collection of plant specimens.
2. Pressing and drying of plant specimens.
3. Mounting of plant specimens.
4. Herbarium Labels.
5. Filing of Herbarium sheets.

Collection Of Plant Specimens

The collection of plants for Herbarium is also known as plant hunting. The following things should be kept in mind while collecting the plant specimens :

- The plant specimen should be either in flowering, fruiting condition or preferably both.
- In case of woody plant a twig of about 25 cms will form a good specimen.
- Herbacious plants should be collected with underground parts.
- At least four specimens of same plant should be collected.
- Detailed notes should be entered in the field notebook about each specimen.
- The specimens should be pressed in the field as they are collected or they must be kept in Vasculum and pressed Later on.

Picture of Plant Specimen

A



Pressing of Specimens

The specimens should be carefully displayed on the pressing sheet avoiding foldings or hiding of parts.

Extra leaves or branches should be cut if necessary.

The larger specimens which cannot fit easily on the sheet can be bent into “V”, “N” or “W”.

The aquatic plants should be taken first on the newspaper and then these newspapers should be placed in the pressing sheet.

The specimen should be placed for pressing in such a way that the bundles are of uniform thickness in the middle and on the sides.

The pressing sheets are placed one above the other and then bounded tightly.

Specimens in V and N Shapes

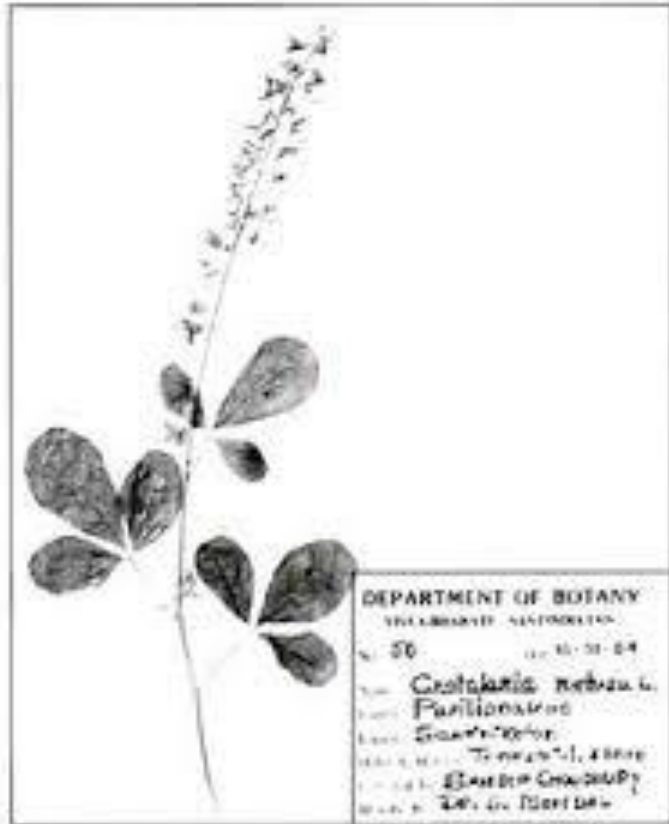


Fig. 4.5 : Single Herbarium sheet with label

[Photo courtesy : Dr. Subrata Mondal, Viveka-Bharati]



Drying of Specimens

- In drying the press containing the specimens is placed in Sun.
- Press is opened after 24 hrs and specimens are rearranged, placed between the fresh bolters and then again tightly bound in the press.
- The Specimens are changed daily or after 2-3 days until they are dry.
- The process of drying sometimes is accompanied by artificial heat also.