

Dry mount of plant

Preserved plants specimens provide us with important information about plant diversity and distribution, and represent an observable.

The steps of plant preserving:

- 1- Collecting of plant materials
 - 2- Pressing and Drying plant specimens
 - 3- Writing label (Voucher specimen)
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1- Collecting of plant materials

The plants are collected for reasons like:

- A.** Allow and support accurate identification of plants, algae, lichens and fungi.
- B.** Provide a permanent record for a species occurring at a particular time and place.
- C.** Provide the Form the basis of reliable distribution, habit and habitat information.
- D.** Provide basic biological material for taxonomists, ecologists and other researchers.
- E.** Serve as vouchers for seed collections, toxicological cases, biochemical analyses and biodiscovery.

The main equipments for plant collection are:

- 1- A field press with newspapers for plant pressing



2- Secateurs to cut and trim specimens



3- GPS for recording an accurate latitude and longitude. Alternatively, mark the position on a topographic map.



4- Small brown paper bags for collecting fruits, seeds, bryophytes and lichens.



5- Hand lens.



6- Gloves, for handling prickly plant material or plants with corrosive sap.



2- Pressing and Drying plant specimens

Specimens are pressed in a **plant (field) press**, which consists of a wooden frame (for rigidity), corrugated cardboard ventilators (to allow air to flow through the press), blotter paper (to absorb moisture), and folded paper, typically a newspaper (to contain the plant material).

This process is essential to dry the specimens fairly quickly, to prevent the onset of fungal attack. Fungus affected specimens are of limited value to a Herbarium.

The drying of plant specimens have been usually done in field by placing the presses topmost in the sun during the day appears to have little drying effect except for the bottommost specimens. However, the sun is invaluable for drying the damp papers and corrugates once they have been removed from the press.



3- Writing label (Voucher specimen)

The data that accompanies a herbarium specimen is just as important as the specimen a very good quality specimen is of no use to a Herbarium unless it has a itself. Even written label with the information detailed below:-

Collector's name: the name (s) of the person/people who collected the specimen preferably no more than 2 people. Don't include everyone who was on the Trip.

Collector's number: A unique number, usually sequential, given by the collector as a private record.

Date of collection:

Botanical name: If you are unsure of the identity it is still helpful to suggest a name, or at least a genus.

Locality: A written description of the precise collection locality is necessary as well as a latitude and longitude reading.

Habitat: Copy the information from the field note book.

Habit: This information is copied from the field note book, for example “spreading shrub to 2 m “.

Abundance: A comment on the frequency (number of individuals) of the plant at the site where you collected.



Label



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONSERVATION DATA CENTRE
- Flora of British Columbia -**

***Alisma gramineum* Lej.**

LOCALITY: Carnation Creek estuary, ca. 14 km NE of Bamfield

HABITAT: Dominant on tidal mud flats with *Plantago maritima*, *Honkenya peploides*, *Spergularia*, and *Salicornia virginica*; slope 1%; asp W

UTM: 10U 353300 5419600 **NAD** 83

LAT_LONG: 48°10'/125°00' **ELEV** 0 m

COLLECTOR: G.W. Douglas, J.L. Penny & N. Alexander

COLL NO: 13298 **COLL. DATE:** 98-06-30

PLOT NO.: _____ **DET.:** GWD /98

NOTES: ca. 500 plants/1 ha.; flowers reddish-tinged