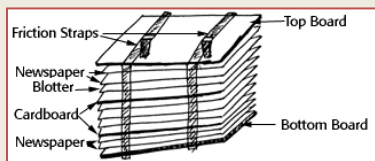


What Is An Herbarium?

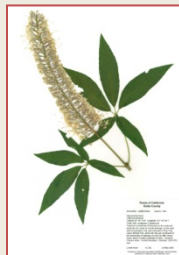
An **herbarium** is a collection of preserved specimens of plants and organisms historically considered closely related to plants. Specimens include pressed and mounted plants, seeds, cones, wood sections, pollen, tissue sections on microscope slides, DNA extracts, fossils, and fluid-preserved flowers or fruits. Although we now know that fungi are more closely related to animals than plants, fungi as well as algae and lichens (symbiotic organisms of algae or bacteria with fungi) are also preserved in herbaria. Thus, a herbarium is a reference library of these organisms, illuminating relationships and enhancing our understanding of ecology, biodiversity, ethnobotany (how plants are used by people and other animals), and changes in plant distributions over time.

Where Do Specimens Come From?

Anyone can create herbarium specimens with little more than a plant press and a field notebook. A plant press forces moisture out of fresh samples and dries them flat. A field notebook is used to record locations and information about the plant and its habitat. Some of the oldest known herbarium specimens date to around 1500 AD!

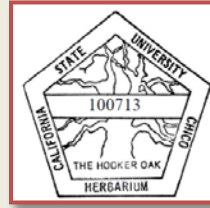


Plant Press



Pressed Specimen

The Chico State Herbarium at California State University, Chico



The Chico State Herbarium contains specimens from many parts of the world, but the emphasis is on Northern California, a biodiversity hotspot.

The Herbarium was established with specimens donated by the late Professor Vesta Holt in the 1950's. It now contains more than 107,000 specimens, the largest collection in northeastern California. Most of the specimens are flowering plants, conifers and ferns, but bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts), lichens, and slime molds (now understood to be protists) are also well represented.



The Chico State Herbarium is located in Holt Hall room 129 on the CSUC campus. The Herbarium is open on Fridays during regular business hours, 8 AM – 5 PM.

The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium



The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium is an all-volunteer organization that promotes botanical education and outreach. Our mission is to provide support for the herbarium and demonstrate and publicize the value of the herbarium to the community.

Our primary activities include:

- Raising funds to supplement University support for the Herbarium
- Conducting low cost botanical workshops (general and technical) Supporting the Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award for student research in botany and plant ecology
- Hosting annual native plant and children's photo contests
- Building an endowment for the Herbarium
- Publishing a newsletter reporting botanical news and activities
- Holding an annual meeting featuring a distinguished guest speaker

Visit the Friends' web site, and peruse the list of upcoming workshops:
<http://www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/>

Become a Member

Benefits include discounts on workshops, newsletters and events.



YES!

I would like to support the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium!

Annual Membership:

- ___ Individual\$35.00
- ___ Family\$40.00
- ___ Student\$20.00
- ___ Sustaining.....\$100.00
- ___ Lifetime Membership.....\$1,000.00
- ___ Additional Donation.....\$ _____

- ___ Total Enclosed.....\$ _____

Name _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone # _____
 Email _____

Please make checks payable to:

University Foundation
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0515

In the Memo Line please add: **Friends of the Chico State Herbarium**

Use the Herbarium

The Herbarium is used extensively for identification of plants and plant-like organisms by numerous agencies, consulting firms, academic institutions and individuals. Herbarium specimens are loaned for study through academic institutions by request.

Herbarium visitors are invited to use high-quality dissecting scopes, compound microscopes, an extensive reference library, an internet-connected computer, an internet connection for personal computers, and (with training as needed), access to the collection of specimens.



Users of the Herbarium facilities and specimens are encouraged to make plant collections during their field excursions and donate them to the herbarium. This is how the collection grows and increases its utility and importance to the community.

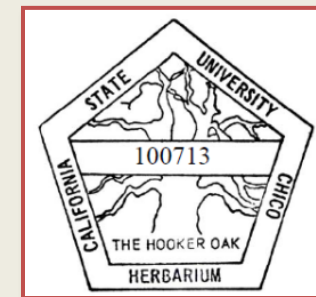
Visit the Herbarium web site, and query the database of specimen collection information:
www.csuchico.edu/herbarium



Friends of the Herbarium



**The Chico State Herbarium
California State University,
Chico**



The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium operates as a non-profit organization of California State University, Chico.