



NSW Plant
Pathology &
Mycology
Herbarium



NSW
Insect & Mite
Collection

Accessioning a specimen

These guidelines outline the steps taken when submitting a specimen to the Biosecurity Collections, Orange Agricultural Institute **for accessioning**. This is for specimens that are identified, to some degree (e.g. family, genus, species or common name), and either need to be accessioned with a recognised collection for publication (vouchering) or because you are contributing to our pest and disease records for NSW.

If you require identification of your specimen this may attract a diagnostics fee. Contact us to discuss your needs or see our diagnostic services:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/collections/collection-services/>

The Biosecurity Collections form the official pest records for the State of New South Wales (NSW) and contributes to the Australian Plant Pest Database. These internationally recognised repositories of plant pathogens and invertebrates include half a million specimens and they underpin all biosecurity related activities including diagnostics, surveillance, legislation, regulation, pest-risk analysis and trade and market access, whilst also providing a valuable resources for agricultural research and extension across all Australian jurisdictions.

The essential purpose served by these collections demands that they be continually revised, and new specimens added to ensure New South Wales plant pest and disease records remain accurate and current. By doing so the collections are better equipped to support biosecurity and market access activities for NSW and Australia.

The biosecurity collections hold specimens (species, biotype or strain) of invertebrate pests and pathogens injurious to Plant Health, Unprocessed Plant Products and Plant Beneficial Organisms. These include:

- insects
- mites
- fungi
- bacteria
- viruses
- viroids
- oomycetes and other stramenopiles
- nematodes

We also accept diseases of pests or beneficial insects, diseases of fungi, environmental pests (e.g. ants, termites), non-pathogenic organisms associated with plants (e.g. bees, pollinating beetles, fungal endophytes) and fruiting bodies of macro-fungi.

Specimens may be an individual, item or part and may be preserved, a live culture or DNA.

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A specimen can be a new species to science, new species records for NSW/Australia or new host/range extension records, samples generated during research, surveillance or diagnostic activities (including quarantine interceptions) or any sample that will enhance the collections.

Procedures

1. Contact the appropriate collections manager (see contacts section) to discuss the specimen and how it should be handled/collected, packaged and dispatched.
2. Specimens should be supplied with:
 - Collection location and date.
 - Collector details or contact details of submitter.
 - If possible, identification of pest or disease to species level; sufficient data/material to enable confirmation of the original identification.
 - If possible, host identification and host material used for identification (flowers, fruit).

If available also include the following: information relating to the ecology and pathology of the organism such as habitat, description of damage and/or disease symptoms, measurements, photographs or slide mounts, pure living cultures, DNA sequence data (the region sequenced and FASTA file or GenBank number).

The Biosecurity Collections Curators retain final decision on the suitability of a specimen.

If lodged in the collection, a voucher number will be provided.

The Biosecurity Collections currently provides lodgement of specimens free of charge. However, if you are undertaking a project that you anticipate will result in a large number of specimens to be lodged, and especially if identification of specimens is anticipated, it would be supportive if you consider the costs involved and include these in your budget. Contact a curator to discuss in detail.

Established, pre-existing, historic and orphaned collections are also welcomed. Researchers are especially encouraged to consider submission of entire collections, or duplicates.

Contacts

Insect & Mite Vouchering:	Ph. (02) 6391 3815 Email: biosecurity.collections@dpi.nsw.gov.au
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