

used by professionals and amateurs from many walks of life for a number of purposes as follows:

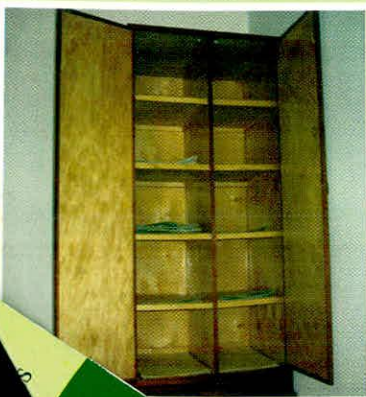
- To identify plants
- To certify plant names
- As a source of information about plants
- To validate scientific observations
- Provide material for teaching (botany, taxonomy, field botany, plant communities; ethno botany Agriculture; dendrology, forestry etc.)

Specimen Preservation

To preserve their form and color, plants collected in the field are spread flat on sheets of newsprint and dried, usually in a plant press, between blotters or absorbent paper.

The specimens, which are then mounted on sheets of preserve their form and color, plants collected in the field are spread flat on sheets of newsprint and dried, usually in a plant press, between blotters or absorbent paper.

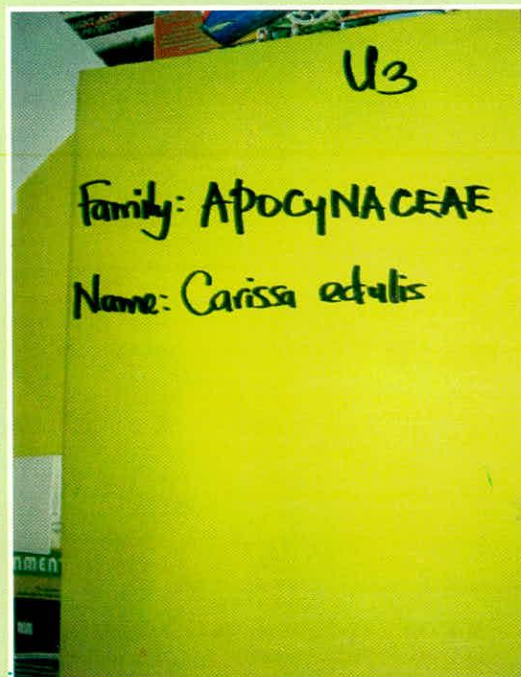
In a herbarium pressed and dried plant specimens mounted on sturdy paper. Each sheet, with the attached plant, is referred to as a herbarium specimen.



Information, such as the name of the specimen, where it was collected, who collected it, and when it was collected is recorded on the herbarium label, which is usually mounted in the lower right-hand

corner of the sheet. Herbarium specimens are arranged in folders according to their family and stored in a specimen cabinet

Locating a specimen filed in the herbarium requires knowing the nomenclature and classification used by the herbarium. It also requires familiarity with possible name changes that have occurred since the specimen was collected, since the specimen may be filed under an older name.



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NaFORRI

The NaFORRI Herbarium



NARO

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

(MAAIF)

UGANDA



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Back ground

Uganda is rich in plant diversity, ranging from large trees, shrubs and small plants like herbs. However; their full potential has not been utilized due to scanty knowledge in the country of what is available and where they are distributed.

A number of collections were made mainly in the colonial times, but most of them are held in foreign collections (Herbaria and Natural History Museums) with limited access to Ugandans. Such collections are invaluable not only for education and conservation purposes, but also for research, species – site matching during domestication of wild species, control of Invasive plants as well as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The few collections that had been left in Uganda after independence are in a sorry state due to inadequate storage facilities, low curation capacity and low priority granted to such collections.

Of recent, however, due to challenges faced by the country in Conservation, Pest management and Invasive plant management, the importance of collecting and maintaining well preserved and curated plant and animal collections is once again gaining popularity. This project aims at enhancing NaFORRI's capacity for Biodiversity research, through creation of facilities for plant collection and curation as well as collecting and curating representative samples of plant species representative of Uganda's natural and agro-ecosystems that are of relevance to the mandate and research interests of NaFORRI.

Project objectives:

1. To establish a herbarium, (with an office, specimen a preparation room and a store).
2. To equip the herbarium with the essential materials and equipment and hence boost capacity for them to handle incoming accessions
3. To collect plant specimens representative of all Uganda's natural and plantation forests and trees on farm
4. To carry out monitoring of plant populations in the country
5. To enhance capacity for the herbarium and handle community education programs.
6. To establish a biodiversity databank for Uganda involving storage and easy retrieval of all the currently available knowledge of the country's biological diversity.

What is a herbarium?

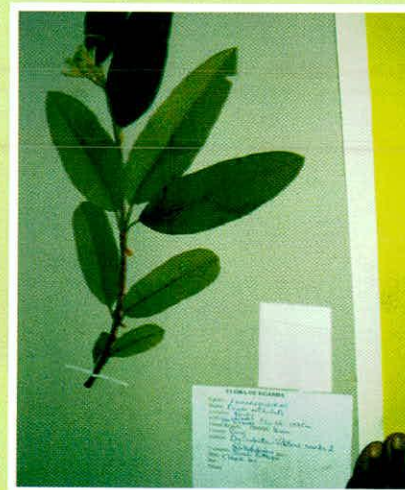
A herbarium is a collection of preserved plants stored, catalogued, and arranged systematically for study by professionals and amateurs from many walks of life. It acts as a source of information about plants - where they are found, what chemicals they have in them, when they flower, what they look like. Preserved plant specimens can be used to provide samples of DNA and to validate scientific observations.

A herbarium is therefore of immense practical use and of fundamental importance to science.

Individual plants or parts of plants, are preserved in various ways, stored and cared for over time so that current and future generations can identify plants, study biodiversity and use the collection in support

of conservation, ecology and sustainable development.

In Herbarium specimens systematically, by family,



genus and species, serve as a working hypothesis of a classification of all plants. Specimens from related species are found close to one another thus facilitating their comparison.

What is collected?

A specimen may consist of a whole plant (in the case of small herbs) or parts of a plant (in the case of large trees or bushes). They will include samples of the leaves, stem, and bark and ideally should include



flowers and/or fruits, since these are of most use later when identifying plants or using the specimens to study relationship between plants from different regions.

Importance

The Herbarium is