

Destructive/Invasive Sampling Policy

Rocky Mountain Herbarium

The policy detailed below is intended to help the Rocky Mountain Herbarium (RM) balance the preservation and integrity of herbarium specimens with their utilization for scientific research. As a rule, no material may be removed from specimens without prior consent of the Herbarium Curator. Please read this policy statement, complete the agreement form outlined below, and send your request, along with a list of specimens to be sampled and a loan request (if needed), to the Curator via email or mail. Decisions concerning destructive sampling of collections will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Permission for removal of material, when given, is contingent upon adherence to the following guidelines:

1. It is intended that destructive sampling is conducted for purposes of scientific research and the eventual preparation of a scientific manuscript.
2. Leaf material, pollen, spores, fungal tissue, bryophyte fragments, etc. may be removed from specimens only when there is adequate material available. Care must be taken not to damage the scientific value of the specimen. Whenever possible, material from fragment packets on the herbarium sheet should be sampled.
3. Pollen should be removed from no more than one flower per sheet, and the sheet must have more than three flowers except where permission is otherwise granted. The whole flower should not be damaged or removed.
4. Material may not be removed from type collections, from historical specimens, or from taxa represented in the herbarium by fewer than five collections, except in rare instances, and then only following approval by a designated staff member.
5. Material should not be removed from a herbarium sheet for a second time, if the nature of the study is the same, except where permission is otherwise granted.
6. Any DNA sequences derived from the specimen should be deposited into GenBank or EMBL.
7. For large or complicated requests of material for DNA extractions or other studies, researchers will be encouraged to visit RM to select specimens for sampling. Removal of material from specimens selected by the researcher will be made with supervision and approval by appropriate staff. Not only does a personal visit reduce the work required by Herbarium staff, it allows the investigator to make more precise selections based on specimen age and condition, and amount of material in packets or on the sheet.
8. Each specimen sampled must be annotated, indicating the nature of the study, type of material removed, the researcher's name and institutional affiliation, and date of removal. Labels should preferably not exceed ~ 6 x 2 cm in size.
9. All policies related to RM specimens, as stated in the Rocky Mountain Herbarium Use Policies, apply to specimens used for destructive sampling.

Destructive Sampling Request Form

Rocky Mountain Herbarium

If you need to conduct destructive sampling of RM specimens, please complete and sign the form below, and send the form, along with a list of specimens to be sampled and a loan request (if needed), to the Curator, Rocky Mountain Herbarium, Department 4340, 1000 E University Ave, Laramie, WY 82071, U.S.A., or email to RMHerbarium@uwyo.edu. Upon receipt and review of your request, we will contact you concerning RM's decision regarding the request for destructive sampling.

Brief description of research:

Type of material to be sampled (e.g., leaf tissue, pollen): _____

I have read the Destructive/Invasive Sampling Policy of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium and agree to abide by the policy.

Research Investigator:

Printed name: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor (if the Research Investigator is a student):

Printed name: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For RM Records:

RM loan #: _____ Herbarium: _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____