



NTNU

Museum of Natural History
and Archaeology

Policy of Destructive Sampling of Herbarium Specimens

The policy is meant to help us to preserve the integrity of herbarium specimens with their utilization for scientific research. Decisions concerning destructive sampling of collections will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Requests for removal of samples from herbarium specimens should be addressed to the Curator of the collection.

Permission to remove material, when given, follows these guidelines:

1. Material is not to be removed from type collections, except in rare instances, and then only following approval by the Curator.
2. Each specimen must be annotated, indicating the type of material removed, the date of removal, the name of the researcher, and the identification of the specimen accepted by the researcher.
3. Leaf material, pollen, spores, fungal tissue, stem segments, 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.
4. Pollen should be removed from no more than one flower per sheet. If possible, the whole flower must not be damaged or removed.
5. For anatomical and morphological studies, the researcher must return to TRH either a duplicate slide or photograph (SEM, other microscopes, etc.) of pollen, spore, or tissue. The slide or photo should be labelled with the name of the taxon, and the TRH specimen number.
- 6. For molecular studies, sampling requests should indicate the amount of material needed. Specimens must be annotated with the identification for the specimen accepted by the researcher and accession numbers in GenBank, Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD), etc. Results must be reported in the form of a list of specimens sampled (taxon name, collector's name and collection number) and an indication of the negative or positive results obtained from the sample. Samples obtained in this way must be properly stored and curated, and material may be provided to others for further study.**
7. Use of specimens from herbarium TRH must be cited in any resulting publication, a copy of the publication must be sent electronically to TRH.