



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HERBARIUM

A world-class facility for teaching and research, home to some of the finest botanical collections in the world

The University of Michigan Herbarium (UMH) has maintained an internationally renowned collection-based research program on plant and fungal biodiversity for nearly two centuries. UMH is the steward of more than 1.7 million specimens, including algae, lichens, bryophytes, fungi, and vascular plants, which form the basis of species descriptions, evolutionary classification, and biodiversity analyses. UMH researchers are committed to analyzing and sharing the information contained in the vast collection with the broader scientific community. Undergraduate and graduate students are a vital part of the Herbarium's organization as well. As a unit within the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB), UMH plays an important role in training undergraduates, graduate students, and post-docs in museum studies and biodiversity science.

Students and researchers derive inestimable benefits from using the Herbarium's collections to study first-hand the diversity of organisms from a wide variety of habitats and regions of the world. Students have the opportunity to work closely with faculty, curators, and collection managers and receive training in plant systematics, museum curation, lab research, and field research. Those working as museum assistants help with the preparation, shipping, and processing of specimens and also assist curators and collection managers with special projects. Students gain experience in herbarium and museum techniques and insight into the importance of museum collections for studies on plant diversity, ecology, evolution, and classification. The Herbarium has been instrumental in the careers of many leading biologists, both inside and outside academia, and is an essential component of the life sciences research and teaching at the University of Michigan.

To continue to grow and flourish, the Herbarium must be able to offer students—both undergraduate and graduate—opportunities to learn by experience through curatorial assistantships during the academic year and in the summer months. Awards for study for both faculty and students will also allow us to add to our collections and acquire more information from different sources, enhancing our department and the field at large.

BIODIVERSITY EXPLORATION FUND

The Biodiversity Exploration Fund is a new initiative of our museums that furthers understanding of biodiversity through continued fieldwork, collections building, and collections-based research and publications. A fundamental mission of museums is to ensure they maintain a record of biodiversity and its changes through time. While maintaining and studying existing collections is an essential part of that work, ensuring that new collections are made and properly cataloged is equally essential. Likewise, properly communicating our growing knowledge of biodiversity and its changes through timely, and accessible publication of new findings is also at the core of our mission. Gifts of all sizes are needed to make this work possible. A gift of \$1,500 could fund a domestic field collection trip, while \$5,000 might cover an international trip to collect the specimens needed to advance this mission.

“The Herbarium...is not designed to be a public-facing museum. However, if one is graced with the opportunity to work among the cabinets, this museum offers an accessible view of the natural history of the world, a history of the study of botany at the University of Michigan, and even provides personal connections.”

–Chad Machinski, MSP Graduate Fellow, SEAS graduate student

DR. EDWARD G. VOSS FUND

Gifts to this endowment provide support of students, acquisition of library or research materials, preparation and production of publications, and related needs appropriate to the Herbarium. Gifts of all levels provide essential resources for this work.

STRATEGIC FUND

Gifts of \$5,000 or more will help UMH curators, staff, and students who wish to focus attention on new specimen and data collection, whether in Michigan or in other geographical focal areas. This fund will provide the resources for innovative approaches to incorporate new collections and associated information into informatic tools that will be quickly available to the public and scientific community to see and use.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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