
The Valdosta State Experience

Mobilizing Small Herbaria for Digitization

Workshop sponsored by iDigBio, Florida State
University, Tallahassee

December 9-11, 2013

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Size & Scope of Collection

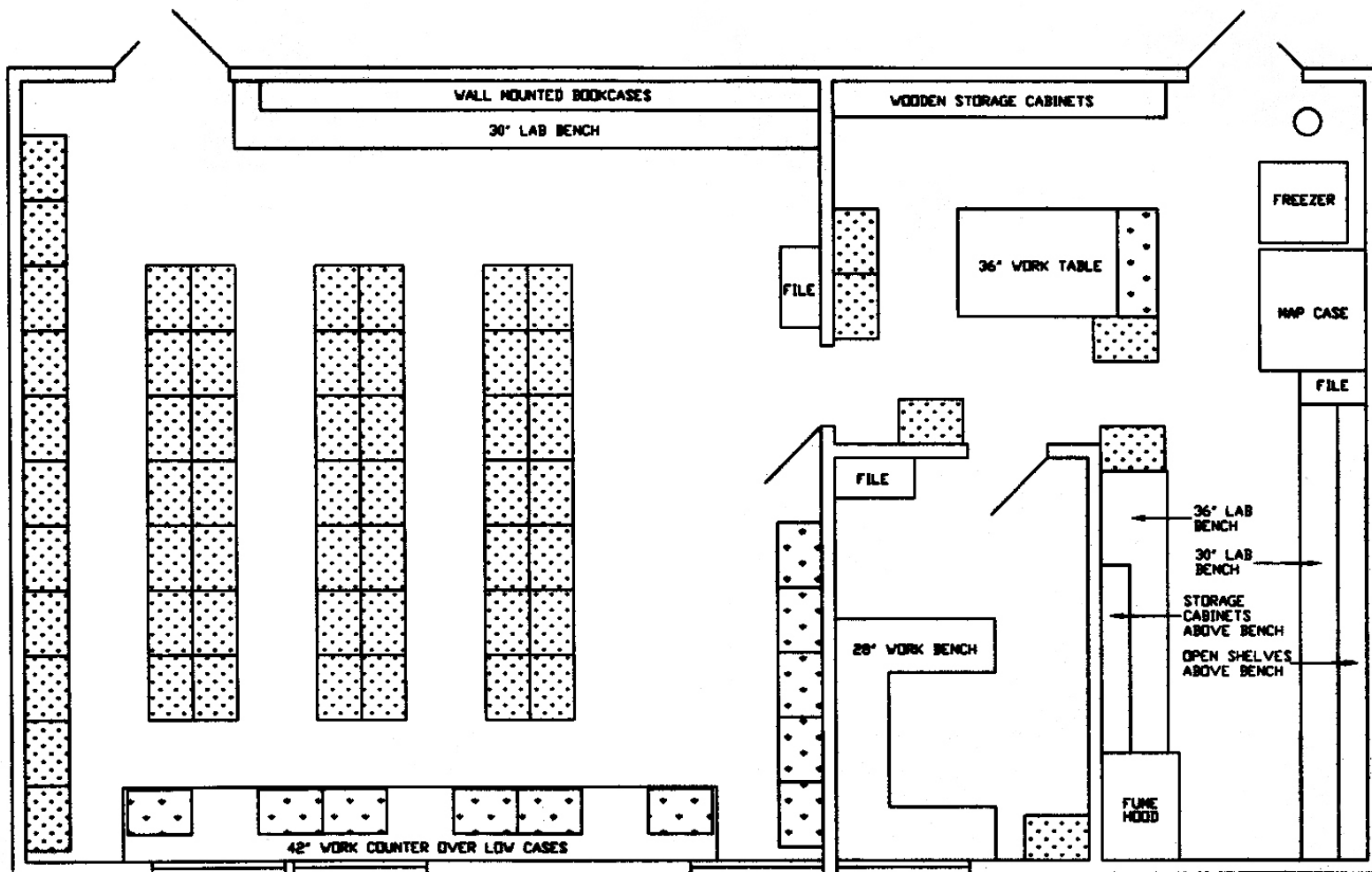
- Regional collection of >65,000 accessioned specimens
 - Particularly rich in plants of Georgia coastal plain
 - Extensive collections of graminoids, ferns, bryophytes
- Significant collections
 - W. R. Faircloth
 - R. K. Lampton (bryophytes, lichens)
 - R. Carter
 - R. Kral
 - C. T. Bryson
 - S. T. McDaniel
 - R. K. Godfrey

History

- Pre-1960, Dr. Beatrice Nevins accumulated a teaching collection of several hundred specimens.
- In 1961, Dr. Wayne Faircloth began to accumulate a research collection.
 - The herbarium comprised ~30,000 specimens when Dr. Faircloth stepped down in 1984 to become department head.
- In 2001, the herbarium moved into a new building providing
 - Greatly improved ventilation and air quality,
 - More than double the space.




Current Facilities

- ~1500 sq ft with climate control
 - 68°F
 - 50% RH
- Separate rooms
 - Herbarium proper
 - Specimen preparation room to isolate incoming materials
 - Curator's office
- 2005: -40°C freezer for pest control



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM [VSC]

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-00"

-  - HERBARIUM CASE
-  - SAFETY SHOWER
-  - HALF SIZE HERBARIUM CASE

Valdosta State University Herbarium (VSC)



Digitization: Getting Started

- 2005: *Deep South eFlora Workshop* hosted by Austin Mast, Florida State University
 - 2006: *Herbarium Cyberinfrastructure Workshop* in Chico, California, sponsored by Yale University
 - 2008: *Opportunities and Challenges of Small Collections Workshop* hosted by Alan Prather, Research Coordination Network, Michigan State University
 - 2009: *Specify “How to” Workshop* hosted by Herrick Brown at University of South Carolina, sponsored by SERNEC, Zack Murrell, Appalachian State University
-

Collaborative Research: The GA-VSC Herbaria Collaborative: Phase I of a Statewide Consortium (NSF-1054366)

- April 2011 the Valdosta State University Herbarium (VSC) received funding from the National Science Foundation.
 - Major outcomes
 - Digitization of the collection
 - General herbarium enhancement
-

Specific outcomes

■ Digitization

- ❑ Prepare high-resolution images of herbarium specimens
- ❑ Build an associated database from specimen label data
- ❑ Contribute VSC images and data to produce on-line atlas of the state's flora, in collaboration with University of Georgia Herbarium (GA)

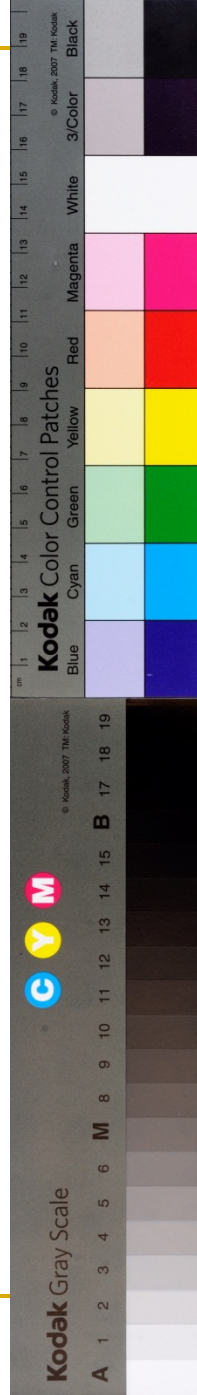
■ General herbarium enhancement

- ❑ 10 new herbarium cabinets
- ❑ Replacement of door seals in old cabinets
- ❑ Replacement of old genus folders with geographically color-coded archival folders
- ❑ Processing of specimen backlog (Label Merge)

Results – digitization

>61,000 vascular
plant specimens
imaged

>4,000 non-vascular
specimen packets
imaged



Results – digitization

Specify 6.5.03

File Edit Data System Tabs Help

Welcome Data Trees Reports Interactions Statistics Query Workbench SGR Lifemapper Attachments

VSC0059724 Search

Charts

- Top 5 Species
- Cataloged Last 10 Years
- Specimens by Country

53,410 vascular plant specimens databased

Collection Statistics

Holdings	
Specimens	53410
Type Specimens	33
Families Represented	256
Genera Represented	1521
Species Represented	...

Loans	
Items on Loan	0
Overdue Loans	0
Open Loans	0

Taxonomic Tree	
Classes	33
Orders	195
Families	815
Genera	7774
Species	62631

Data Entry	
Cataloged Last 7 Days	1006
Cataloged Last 30 Days	3051
Cataloged Last Year	26001

Locality/Geography	
Localities	54462
Geography Entries	27517
Countries	51
Percentage Georeferenced	0

Type Specimen Counts	
isoparatype	9
isotype	8
paratype	7
topotype	9

Specify

Update

Botany | Valdosta State University Herbarium | rcarter | 2:21 PM 12/7/2013

Results – digitization

<http://bryophyteportal.org/portal/index.php>

Consortium of North American Bryophyte Herbaria Valdosta State University Collection Profiles - Windows Internet Explorer

http://bryophyteportal.org/portal/collections/misc/collprofiles.php?collid=13

AVG Search Safe Do Not Track Facebook

Google Search Share More >>

Favorites Main Authors Life The Excitem... Research.gov - NSF User L... Georgia Health Insurance ... Georgia Health Insurance ... Georgia Health Insurance ... Consortium of North Am... BlazeVIEW Entry Page Application Launched Suggested Sites >>

Consortium of North American Bryophyte Herba...

Photos by M. Von Konrat

Consortium of NORTH AMERICAN BRYOPHYTE HERBARIA

Home >> Collection Search Page >> Valdosta State University Details

Valdosta State University (VSC)

The Valdosta State University Herbarium (VSC) provides a repository for the preservation of voucher specimens that document the flora of the Coastal Plain region of Georgia and specimens from a broader geographical area that might be useful in the study of the flora of this region and that enable specialized research on particular groups of plants carried out by faculty and students in residence at Valdosta State University and by taxonomic specialists at other institutions. VSC also provides specimens for use in teaching, and its staff responds to requests from the general public, natural resource managers, agricultural scientists, and others by providing information about plants and service determinations of unknown plants and, where appropriate, preserving vouchers relating to such.

Contact: J. Richard Carter, Jr. Curator (rcarter<at>valdosta.edu)

Home Page: <http://www.valdosta.edu/~rcarter/herbintro.htm>

Management: Data snapshot of central database

Last Update:

Global Unique Identifier: 8597eef0-025d-4213-a346-403051ecb406

Collection Statistics

- 4069 specimens
- 1% georeferenced
- 100% with images
- 98 families
- 276 genera
- 836 species

Extra Statistics

Show Family Distribution

Show Geographic Distribution

4,069 specimens

100% with images

HERBARIUM OF ROBERT K. LAMPTON

Tortella humilis (Hedw.) Jemm.

Locality. Carroll Co., Georgia. Yellow Dirt. Creek in southern part of county.

Habitat. On rotting wood.

Date. January 27, 1968

Collector. R.K. Lampton No. 2471

Remarks.

VSC-L 03868

Symbiota Promoting Bio-Collaboration

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Results – general enhancement

- New herbarium cabinets enabled the secure storage of backlog specimens and provided space for growth.



Results – general enhancement

- Worn out herbarium cabinet gaskets were replaced with rubber foam weather-seal.



Results – general enhancement

- Old genus folders were replaced with geographically color-coded archival folders.



Results – general

- Protocols developed
 - ❑ Proper handling of herbarium specimens
 - ❑ Housekeeping in the herbarium
 - ❑ Pest management
 - ❑ Preparation of genus folder labels
 - ❑ Attachment of bar-code labels
 - ❑ Imaging
 - ❑ Data entry
 - ❑ Label Merge preparation of specimens labels
-

Results – educational outreach, etc.

- 10 undergraduate students trained in herbarium curation
 - Herbarium tours for local garden clubs, VSU classes, Georgia Governor's Honors Program, Georgia Academy of Science, etc.
 - Hosted digitization workshop sponsored by iDigBio September 2012, ca. 30 participants
-



10 undergraduate students
trained in herbarium and
digitization techniques

Unanticipated outcomes

□ VSU Virtual Herbarium

- Internal funding from the VSU administration
- Collaborative effort with the VSU Odum Library (Michael Holt)
- Code generously provided by Dr. Austin Mast, Director, FSU Godfrey Herbarium
- Dedicated server managed by VSU Odum Library
- Local presence promotes integrity of VSC

<http://herb.valdosta.edu>


Unanticipated outcomes

Firefox ▾ Valdosta State University Herbarium - Sp... +

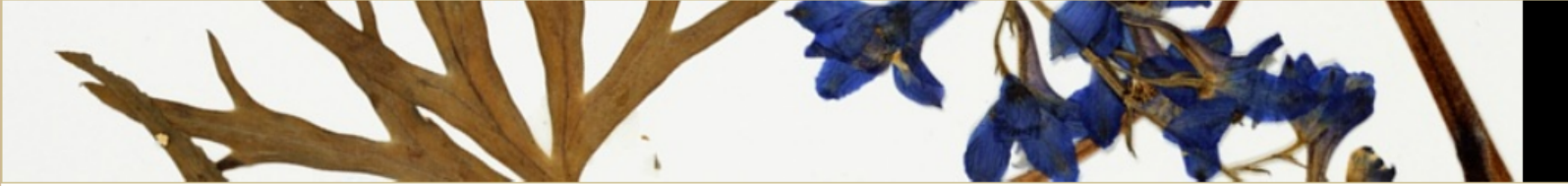
herb.valdosta.edu/search-specimens.php

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines IT Helpdesk Self Service Portal PeopleSoft Financials

Search Hot 108 IMnews Block popups

 **THE VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**
VIRTUAL HERBARIUM

Virtual Herbarium Home Page
About
People
Contact Information
Loans and Exchanges
Visits
Links
Database
Login



Specimen Database Search

Please cite!

Submit Query Undo Changes Clear All

Search Criteria Show: ☒ Hide: ☐

Family:

Genus:

Species: The scientific name (e.g., Pinus palustris).

Common Name:

Collection Date: [=] (YYYY-MM-DD or MM-DD)

Collection Date: [=]

Collector Name:

8:58 PM 11/17/2013

Acknowledgments

- VSU Student Assistants
 - ❑ Jessica Bartek
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 - ❑ Amy Vardeman
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- Michael Holt, VSU Odum Library, for adapting the FSU code for the VSU Virtual Herbarium web interface
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- Valdosta State University

