Our Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algae</th>
<th>Bryophytes</th>
<th>Fungi</th>
<th>Lichens</th>
<th>Vascular Plants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The Duke Herbarium contains more than 825,000 specimens of vascular plants, bryophytes, algae, lichens, and basidiomycete fungi, including more than 2000 types. The collection is especially rich in specimens from the southeastern United States but has synoptic representation worldwide.

Our Curators & Staff

**HERBARIUM DIRECTOR:** Pryer  
**ALGAE:** Searles (Curator Emeritus)  
**BRYOPHYTES:** Shaw (Curator); Aquero (Coll. Manager; ¼ time)  
**FUNGI:** Vilgalys (Curator); Robertson (Coll. Manager; ½ time)  
**LICHENS:** Lutzoni (Curator); LaGreca (Coll. Manager, full-time)  
**VASCULAR PLANTS:** Windham (Curator); Manos (Assoc. Curator); Pryer (Assoc. Curator); Huiet (Coll. Manager; ¾ time)

The Duke Herbarium was closed to visitors during Covid-19 from March 2020-August 2021

Current Collection Holdings

**Duke Algal Herbarium:** ~20,500 specimens of macro marine algae from the southeastern US, Caribbean, and Mexico, including over 100 types.

**L. E. Anderson Bryophyte Herbarium:** ~260,000 specimens, including over 900 bryophyte types. With about 50,000 collections from the southeastern US.

**Duke Fungal Herbarium:** ~15,000 specimens with special emphasis on Agaricomycetes. Significant collections from southeastern US, Thailand, Australia.

**William Louis & Chicitia F. Culberson Lichen Herbarium:** ~125,000 lichen specimens including 600 types. Geographic focus on southeastern US, Iceland, Europe, western Australia, South Korea.

**Duke Vascular Plant Herbarium:** ~408,000 specimens, including more than 800 types. Especially rich in accessions from the southeastern US, in particular for the Carolinas, and Mesoamerica.

Significance of Collection

The DUKE Herbarium is a collection of preserved plant specimens (irreplaceable physical and temporal records of biodiversity) with associated structural, chemical, molecular, biogeographical, and ecological metadata. It comprises critical DNA vouchers and primary evidence for global change and other human-mediated modifications of the environment. The Herbarium is a “Research Resource” within the Biology Dept. similar to the greenhouse, informatics resources, and microscopy facilities, and supports research activities, classroom activities, and provides identification services.
Databasing & Digitization

In the past 15 years, the DUKE Herbarium has greatly benefited from digitization efforts, spurred by the Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC) Program at NSF, in making its specimen data available worldwide (ca. 30% of DUKE’s collection is available through online portals, see below). Consequently, our collection is actively expanding into new, important areas of basic research and practical application.

Embedded Weblinks to Online Portals

ALGAL PORTAL
BRYOPHYTE PORTAL
FUNGI PORTAL
LICHEN PORTAL

VASCULAR PLANT PORTALS:

SERNEC [SouthEast Regional Network of Expertise and Collections]

PTERIDOPHYTES [Pteridophyte Collections Consortium (PCC)]

Sponsored Research Funding

New Awards


Continuing Awards


Past Awards (since 2004)


**Specimen Loan Activity**

Sharing data conserved in the Duke Herbarium has been central to our mission since its foundation 100 years ago. Researchers obtain specimen data by visiting the herbarium or through specimen loans (or through our online portals, as available). Herbarium loans to DUKE are initiated at the request of a Duke researcher. In addition, outside researchers from herbaria around the world regularly request herbarium specimen loans from Duke. Herbarium collection managers (analogous to librarians working for a library) carry out these activities.

**A typical annual summary of loan activity in the Duke Herbarium**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection size</th>
<th>Algal</th>
<th>Fungal</th>
<th>Bryos</th>
<th>Lichen</th>
<th>Vascular</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans <em>to</em> Duke</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(specimen total)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>3292</td>
<td>1649</td>
<td>5934</td>
<td>11027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans <em>from</em> Duke</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(specimen total)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2639</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>4190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Publications that Cite the DUKE Collection**

The steady flow of loans into and out of the Duke Herbarium results in an average of 80 peer-reviewed publications that cite the DUKE collection annually (cf. Google Scholar). This helps ensure the global relevance of the collection for a wide spectrum of research needs.

**A typical annual summary of publication numbers that cite the DUKE Herbarium**

- **Outreach and public scholarship**

  Most herbarium collections staff are involved in the pursuit of outreach activities, locally, nationally and globally, see herbarium website for details.

- **Statement of diversity, inclusion, and belonging**

  The DUKE University Herbarium community denounces all forms of racism, harassment, and discrimination. We recognize the painful legacy of prejudice in which marginalized groups, especially scientists of color, who work across plant biology and academia have been made to feel unwelcome. With our colleagues across Duke and in the
botanical science and natural history communities, we stand ready to confront systematic racism and are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming community.