

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL &  
THE DIVISION OF SPONSORED RESEARCH  
Office of the Dean & Director

223 Grinter Hall  
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January 18, 1979

Dr. R. A. Bryan  
Vice President  
for Academic Affairs  
235 Tigert  
Campus

SUBJECT: Herbarium Committee Report

Dear Dr. Bryan:

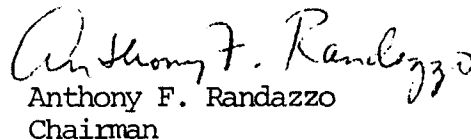
Attached is the report on the Herbarium.

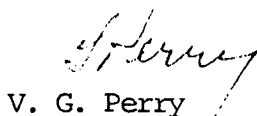
The members of the Committee unanimously concur with its findings. We believe that the mission and thrust of the Herbarium should be changed and the Herbarium should be moved physically and administratively to the Florida State Museum.

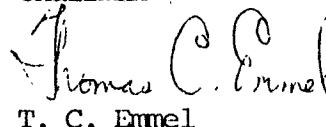
If the conclusions and recommendations of this report are acceptable to you, we urge that rapid implementation of the transfer occur. We also urge that you assemble the parties concerned, not to debate, but to describe and explain your actions. The sensitivity and emotionalism surrounding the Herbarium require that this report be submitted as a privileged communication to be made public in whole or in part as you desire. Any inquiries made to Committee members concerning the preparation or content of this report will be directed to you for a response.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. L. App

  
Anthony F. Randazzo  
Chairman

  
V. G. Perry

  
T. C. Emmel

AFR/ddo

Enclosure

FEB 14 1979

## INTRODUCTION

The Herbarium Committee assembled in early November to identify its goals and to plan strategy in order to achieve them. The Committee decided to pursue the following goals:

- 1) To define the mission of the Herbarium in terms of present and future needs of the University.
- 2) To determine the most appropriate location for the Herbarium.

The History of the Herbarium was carefully reviewed from reports, correspondence and oral descriptions received from numerous sources. The present status was determined by visiting the Herbarium, inspecting its physical location and condition, and interviewing various scientists and administrators. In order to determine future actions, the Committee considered questions concerning staffing, available space, maintenance and supervision of the collection, and the political ramifications to various campus units.

The Committee quickly recognized the intimate relationship between Dr. Dan Ward and the Herbarium. In order to maximize the input of knowledge, we invited Dr. Ward to express his thoughts by an expanded interview process. The Committee concluded that a third goal was appropriate to establish, namely,

- 3) To make a recommendation concerning the future relationship of Dr. Ward to the Herbarium.

## MISSION OF THE HERBARIUM

The Herbarium is a REPOSITORY of flora which should FUNCTION as a REFERENCE SOURCE:

- 1) For the identification of flora, especially by Florida's Cooperative Extension Service, (to include the application of identifications, i.e., eradication of problem plants, toxicity information, etc.).
- 2) For the teaching requirements of the entire university community.
- 3) For the research needs of the entire university community.

4) For the sustenance of a high level of scholarly dialogue among members of the university community and with others off-campus.

Organized growth and effective management through maintenance and preservation of the collection are critical to its functions.

The Committee feels that a greater balance among these functions is critical. While continuing its identification-service function at its present high level, the Herbarium should place considerably greater emphasis on research and teaching. One specific way of achieving balance would be in the area of routine identifications. Keys and illustrations for self-identifications should be prepared and made available to those seeking help whenever possible. With regard to the teaching function, smaller teaching collections containing duplicate specimens could be utilized for instructional programs at the undergraduate level.

In view of the limited resources available and the unique geographic setting of Florida, the Committee believes that the collection should emphasize the importance of the flora of Florida, the southeastern coastal plain, and the Caribbean region. A broad spectrum of users, from IFAS Extension Agents working with introduced weeds, to University of Florida Ecologists working in Latin America, would benefit. This shift in scope from primarily the provincial "political boundaries of Florida" approach could produce one of the world's finest collection of plants from Florida and the associated southeastern United States and the Caribbean area.

#### LOCATION OF THE HERBARIUM

After intensive review of the information and opinions of a great many interested parties, the Herbarium Committee has the following recommendations

concerning the most appropriate location and functional status of the Herbarium:

1) The University of Florida Herbarium should be considered a resource of university-wide importance and should be located where it can be perpetuated with the greatest care and with the maximal contribution to education, research, and service functions.

2) The Committee concluded that the University of Florida Herbarium will be perpetuated best by placement in an institutional unit that is devoted to the preservation and exhibition of biological resources, namely, the Florida State Museum. The University and indeed the State University System has the responsibility to safeguard and perpetuate this institutional resource where its present missions can be continued on a long-term basis. The Florida State Museum location will obviate the risks attendant to physical location in Rolfs Hall and administrative location in a single department where changes in faculty-hiring philosophy or support for taxonomic work may occur.

3) This recommended move has the support of both IFAS and E&G units, and the Florida State Museum. In order to build a truly first-rank Herbarium of national and international stature, and provide a balanced excellence in service, teaching, and research, this verbal support will have to be translated into specific commitments. Among them, we list the following:

(a) The Florida State Museum will have to provide appropriate floor space for the present Herbarium cases and associated equipment, and office space for the newly transferred curatorial staff and Herbarium library.

(b) The Plant Identification Service Office, recommended for continuation under the direction of Dr. David W. Hall, Associate Research Scientist, will need to be physically located with the Herbarium in the Florida State Museum.

(c) IFAS should continue its present level of support for the Herbarium staff concerned with identification and extension functions.

(d) E&G should provide a new line for a full-time senior Curator in the Florida State Museum to oversee the plant collections and be responsible for the growth of the Herbarium, as well as oversee the staff's research and extension activities, and coordinate proposed teaching activities. The Curator should hold a joint appointment in the Department of Botany.

(e) E&G should also provide a new Biologist II Career Service line to work with the new Curator in curating and improving the Herbarium holdings. The non-Extension portions of the OE, OCO, and OPS needs of the Herbarium should be included in the annual Florida State Museum budget requests.

(f) The present three sections of the Herbarium could be headed by Associate Curators or Curators under the over-all direction of the new curatorial line.

(g) Public exhibits of replicas of significant species would allow a greater population to appreciate the functions of the Herbarium and are recommended by the Committee. The Florida State Museum should encourage the new botanical curatorial staff to work with their exhibits personnel in preparing botanical displays for the public portion of the museum. Additionally, the Florida State Museum's full-time Biological Illustrator and other support services (secretarial, bookkeeping, etc.) should relieve past Herbarium problems in these areas.

(h) The Herbarium space in Rolfs Hall should be released for research and teaching functions.

#### FUTURE RELATIONSHIP OF DR. WARD TO THE HERBARIUM

Professor Daniel B. Ward is a recognized authority on botanical classification. IFAS, the University of Florida, and the public of Florida have

benefited from his expertise and research efforts in the taxonomy and classification of vascular plants. Every effort must be made to more fully utilize Dr. Ward's knowledge and energies. We recommend that IFAS continue to fund his research program at the same or higher level, even though funding for the Herbarium will be provided from the E&G budget and the identification and extension service from the IFAS budget. The proposed move of the Herbarium and the new Curator would relieve Dr. Ward of the tremendous responsibility for maintenance and additions to the Herbarium. This move would then provide more time for Dr. Ward to devote to research, teaching, and the supervision of graduate students. His research efforts are very much needed and increases are appropriate.

The Herbarium is vital to numerous programs in IFAS and E&G, and ready access must be made available to meet the needs of any interested scientist.

We recommend that Dr. Ward be commended for past contributions, that he be relieved of further responsibility as Curator of the Herbarium and then allowed to further develop programs of research and teaching as agreed to by IFAS Administration and the chairperson of the Department of Botany.

Dr. David Hall is on an appointment by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and is in the Department of Botany. He is responsible for making plant identifications for personnel in IFAS, the University of Florida, and others in Florida. This is a most important service and must be continued and even expanded. Dr. Hall must have continuous day-to-day access to the Herbarium specimens and library. Therefore, we recommend that he be housed in the Florida State Museum to establish a central location for the invaluable service in plant identification. IFAS can not lose this capability. Dr. Hall must be provided laboratory, secretarial, and technical help.