University of Florida Herbarium (FLAS), Florida Museum of Natural History

1659 Museum Road, Dickinson Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611, U.S.A.
Email: herb@flmnh.ufl.edu, Website: https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/herbarium/

Destructive Analysis - Policy Statement and Contract

The University of Florida Herbarium (FLAS) maintains its collections for the public good, with the aim of preserving specimens in perpetuity. The judicious dissection of specimens is normally permitted (all dissected material returned to fragment packet). Destructive sampling requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis (e.g., permanent removal of material for DNA, anatomical studies, chemistry, etc.). Please carefully read the destructive analysis standards discussed in Davis et al. (2024).

- **Material may be removed from specimens only with prior approval from the curator or collections manager at the University of Florida Herbarium (FLAS),** including a signed destructive analysis contract. The project must be for scientific research and have a specific, well-defined scope with proven methodologies.
- **The University of Florida Herbarium (FLAS) and each specimen must be fully acknowledged and cited in any publication.** Citations need to include the collector & collector number, accession/catalogue/barcode number, and our accepted herbarium acronym: "FLAS". Please provide us with a copy of any publication.
- **DNA sequence data derived from these specimens must be deposited in NCBI** (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/), along with the voucher information (collector & collector number, accession/catalogue/barcode number, and our accepted herbarium acronym: "FLAS"). Provide FLAS with NCBI accession numbers as annotations. Please consider providing FLAS with copies of any microscopy photographs using the material.
- Commercial use of materials, data, and by-products obtained from destructive analysis is not allowed. Material may not be transferred to third-parties without express permission. Material obtained from CITES and U.S. Fish and Wildlife listed taxa, including endangered species and noxious weeds, may not be transported without obtaining necessary legal permits. Material is provided without express or implied warranty, including the implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.
- **Standard protocol is to remove 1 cm^2 of material per specimen and no more.** Vegetative material in fragment packets and from obscured portions of the specimen are often ideal. Do not remove poorly represented parts. Take great care not to damage the specimen when removing material. Material may not be removed from a herbarium sheet for a second time if the nature of the study is the same. Material is normally not removed from type collections, historic, or rare material.
- **For large projects** (e.g. >10–20 specimens) requiring significant staff efforts, researchers should invite herbarium personnel as collaborators on the project.
- **Each sheet must be annotated** to indicate the material removed, the name of the researcher and their institutional affiliation, title of the project, and the date of removal. Visiting researchers are expected to arrive with prepared annotation slips. Email requests should send an editable document with the annotations.

- Failure to adhere to this policy contract may result in the refusal of sampling requests.

PROJECT DETAILS (attach file if needed)

Title of project: _____

List of specimens to be sampled (be specific; attach list if needed): _____

_____

_____

Specific material to be removed (e.g. pollen, 1 cm^2 leaf): _____

_____

Methodology: _____

_____

I agree to abide by the University of Florida Herbarium destructive analysis policy.

Researcher's Signature _____

Researcher's Name Printed _____ Date: _____

Signature of Responsible Party (PI, advisor, etc.) _____ Date: _____
(if applicable)

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

ANNOTATION LABELS: provide annotation labels with your name, project title, institution/affiliation.

SAMPLE ANNOTATION LABELS

Anther removed for: Ljutic Springer. Genetic diversity of pollen cells in Asteraceae. Ph.D. dissertation. Wright State University. – 13 April 2026, Alan R. Franck.
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HERBARIUM (FLAS)

NCBI SRA no.: SRX14397378 (voucher *Majure 7046*, FLAS)
Majure, L.C., D. Barrios, E. Díaz, L.F. Bacci, & Y.E. Piñeyro. 2022. Phylogenomics of the Caribbean melocacti: Cryptic species and multiple invasions. Taxon 71:993-1012.
Lucas C. Majure 18 August 2022
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HERBARIUM (FLAS)