

# The University of Melbourne Herbarium Fund

Built up over nearly a century, the University of Melbourne Herbarium houses 150,000 specimens of plants, fungi and algae. Named MELU, it is part of Australia's network of herbaria, is represented on the Council of Heads of Herbaria and is registered with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and Australian Quarantine.



## Why the Herbarium is valuable

The University of Melbourne Herbarium:

- **Provides factual records of plant distributions over time**, informing the impacts of climate change and habitat loss that may have led to increased rarity or extinctions.
- **Supports taxonomic research**, increasing knowledge of Australian biodiversity and plant classification for conservation biology and biosecurity.
- **Is a source of plant DNA**, extractable from historical and modern collections for genetic analyses.
- **Engages with international researchers**, facilitating scientific exchanges through specimen loans and images.
- **Provides specialist teaching to students**, undergraduate courses, graduate research and training in curatorial skills.
- **Contributes to the cultural and engagement program of the University**, through a volunteer program, tours, exhibitions and alumni events.
- **Complements the National Herbarium of Victoria**, through collaborative research and student training.

## Why we need your support

The University of Melbourne Botany Foundation has established an endowment to support the capacity building of the Herbarium, located within the School of BioSciences in the Faculty of Science.

Annual income from the trust fund will be directed at:

- Digitising significant collections for greater accessibility
- Greater output of taxonomic research by staff and training of students
- Coordination and expansion of the volunteer program.



## Donate to the Herbarium Fund

For further information, to view our annual report or to find out how to donate, please visit the University of Melbourne Botany Foundation: [science.unimelb.edu.au/botany-foundation](http://science.unimelb.edu.au/botany-foundation)  
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THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE