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CURATORIAL NEWS FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND HERBARIUM

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The Department of Biology at the University of Richmond maintains an herbarium of approximately 15,000 specimens. In an effort to make this collection better known to Virginia botanists, this note describes some recent curatorial improvements upon the UR Herbarium and outlines its contents.

In 1977 the UR Herbarium was moved from its previous campus location in Maryland Hall to the new Gottwald Science Center. Perhaps readers of *Jeffersonia* may have seen the collection during the Virginia Academy of Science meetings which were held in Richmond in 1979. Although physically relocated when the Department of Biology moved into its present quarters, the move for the Herbarium was not completed, in a sense, until 1981 when the vascular plant specimens were transferred to five new full-size cabinets; at the same time a Cronquistian filing system was instituted for the angiosperms.

Since 1981 renovation and general upgrading of the collection have proceeded as time and student assistance were available. New family dividers have been installed for bryophytes and vascular plants. Presently all worn genus and species folders have been replaced, except for the algal collection. A great many specimens have been reglued or otherwise repaired; unfortunately a number of Asteraceae and Brassicaceae are beyond repair due to the ravages of insects which are now, hopefully, under control. A large backlog of unmounted specimens has been reduced, and approximately 850 or 10 percent of the vascular plant specimens have been nomenclaturally updated or have been correctly redetermined.

A general census of each major category of plants in the UR Herbarium was taken in the course of the above-described curatorial work. The results of this census, with notes on major collectors represented, are as follows:

Algae: ca 2,000 specimens; primarily freshwater Myxophyceae of Virginia and Jamaica, collected by J. C. Strickland.

Bryophytes: ca 450 specimens.

Fungi: ca 1,000 specimens; mostly Virginia collections of D. H. Linder and R. F. Smart.

Lichens: ca 1,450 specimens; mostly Virginia Cladoniaceae collected by E. S. Luttrell, also a series of lichens collected by K. L. Poff.

Myxomycetes: ca 1,400 specimens; primarily collections of R. F. Smart from Virginia and other regions in the southeast.

Vascular plants: ca 8,500; major collectors include M. L. Fernald and E. S. Luttrell.

When next in Richmond, Virginia botanists are invited to visit the UR Herbarium. Inquiries regarding loans and/or exchanges are also welcome.