

NYBG/125

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A HERBARIUM? IMAGES—ONLINE PRESS ROOM CAPTION INFORMATION

NOTE: The file names of the images in this online gallery are the scientific names of the plant species. In the information below, the common name of the species is given in parentheses.

Adiantum raddianum (DELTA MAIDENHAIR FERN)—This delicate fern, collected in Brazil in 1910, still retains its color after more than 100 years. With more than 200,000 herbarium specimens, NYBG's fern collection is one of the most extensive in the world.

Castanea dentata (AMERICAN CHESTNUT)—This specimen was collected in the Bronx's Van Cortlandt Park in 1891, only a few years before an NYBG scientist diagnosed chestnut blight on trees in the Bronx Zoo. The blight soon decimated populations of American chestnuts in eastern America, reducing this once-common tree to isolated pockets.

Castilleja scabrída (INDIAN PAINTBRUSH)—Indian Paintbrush forms beautiful red carpets in wild desert areas of the American West in spring. It was collected as part of a nine-decade project to document the plants of the Intermountain region (the area between the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada Mountains).

Chondrodendron tomentosum (CURARE)—An extract from this tropical Amazonian vine is the poison used on blow darts, one of which is included on the specimen sheet.

***Congea* (species unknown)** (CONGEA)—NYBG scientist Dr. Kate Armstrong collected this tropical vine on a recent expedition to northern Myanmar, where the Garden is conducting a major research project to document the plants in one of southeast Asia's least-explored forests.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis (CHINESE HIBISCUS)—This beautiful hibiscus was collected as part of an ethnobotanical study of tropical medicinal plants in the Caribbean.

Lythrum salicaria (PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE)—This beautiful temperate flower is actually a highly invasive European weed that has crowded out native American species since it was introduced in the U.S. in the 1830s.

Nymphaea lotus (EGYPTIAN WHITE WATER-LILY)—The arrangement of flower and leaf in this specimen mimics how this water-lily grows in nature.

Rosa palustris (SWAMP ROSE)—NYBG scientist Daniel Atha collected this lovely rose specimen in New York City's Central Park, where he is working to document all of the park's naturally occurring plants.

Photo Credit for all photos: Courtesy of The New York Botanical Garden

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