

Official launch of www.botanicalcollections.be



Sofie De Smedt, Ann Bogaerts, Quentin Groom & Henry Engledow

herbaria in numbers

3001 active herbaria worldwide

ca. 387 million herbarium specimens

681 herbaria in Europe

ca. 178 million herbarium specimens

10 herbaria in Belgium

ca. 5.2 million herbarium specimens

Source: Thiers, B. [continuously updated]. Index Herbariorum: A global directory of public herbaria and associated staff. New York Botanical Garden's Virtual Herbarium. <http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/ih/>.



herbarium BR

13th largest herbarium

3.5 million herbarium
specimens

worldwide coverage

reference collection for

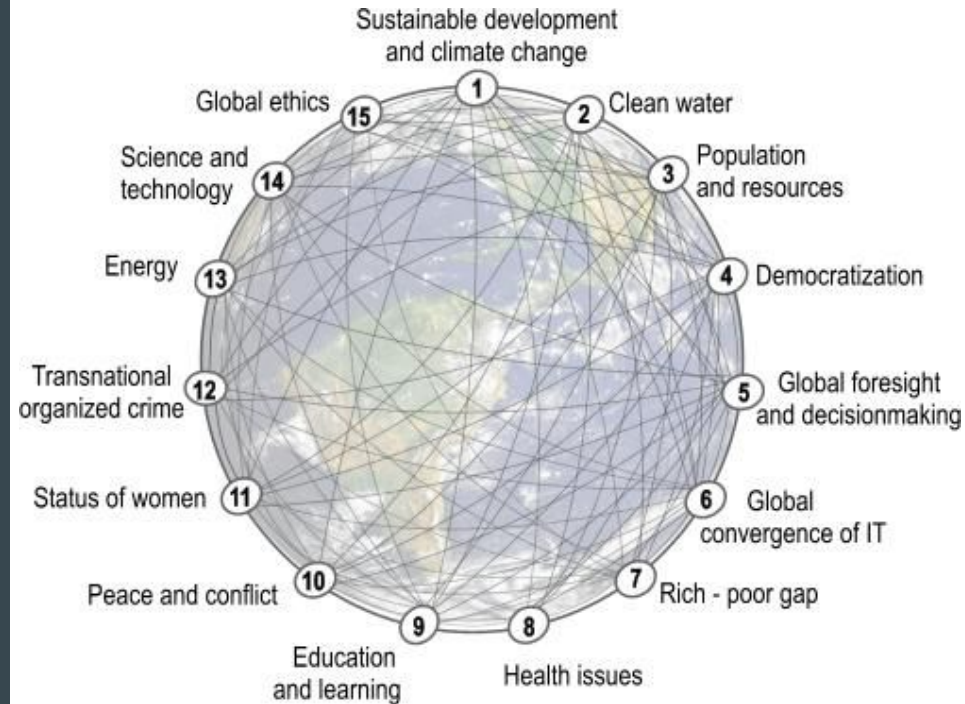
- central Africa
- South-America
- Belgium

1724 - present



Importance of herbaria

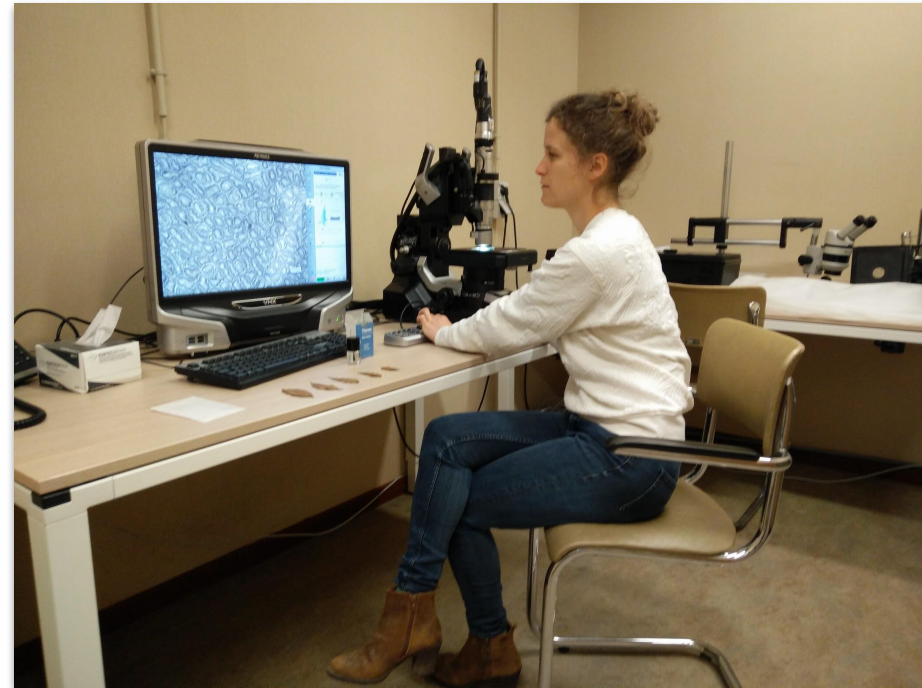
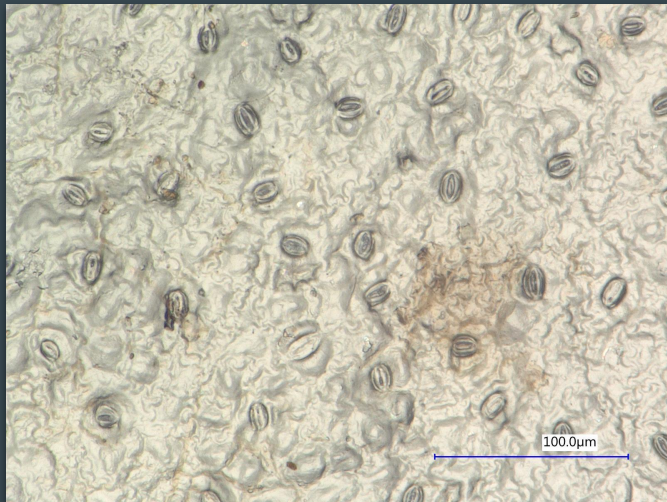
The millenium project's
15 global challenges for
humanity



<http://www.millennium-project.org/>

Importance of herbaria

1. Climate change



COBECORE (talk Sofie Meeus)

COBECORE

Congo basin eco-climatological data recovery and valorisation



Importance of herbaria

2. Protecting the world food supply

- Banana research



- Coffee research



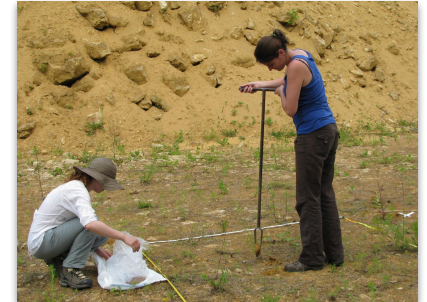
Importance of herbaria

3. Conservation of biodiversity

TrIAS (talk Sonia Vanderhoeven)



LIFE Project (Sandrine Godefroid)



Importance of herbaria

4. Sustainable development

Edible mushrooms



Importance of herbaria

5. Education & learning

Big Picnic



Importance of herbaria

Botanical research relies on herbaria as a core infrastructure of botany

Problem

- Information hidden in herbaria
- Only accessible by an elite
- Access is holding up science



Solution

Digitisation and opening up
data for everyone



2015-2017

Financed by the Flemish Government

1.65 million Euro



1. Optimize digitisation infrastructure

- 4 installations
- > 40,000 images so far
- Freely available to others



2. Outsource the digitisation of the entire Belgian and African collection

1.2 million specimens

Preparation of the collection

- 1.2 million specimens
- 15 technicians
- Many volunteers
- 1.5 years



Information Technology

- IT infrastructure
- automated quality control
- 133 TB archived at VIAA
- image back up



Imaging

PICTURAE

- 1.2 million specimens
- 5000 images per day
- finished in 1 year



In-house label data transcription

- 15 technicians
- volunteers and students
- > 400 000 specimens
- 2 years and ongoing



Outsourced label data transcription

- by Alembo - Picturae
- ± 30 000 taxon names
- ± 585 000 specimens
- 8 months



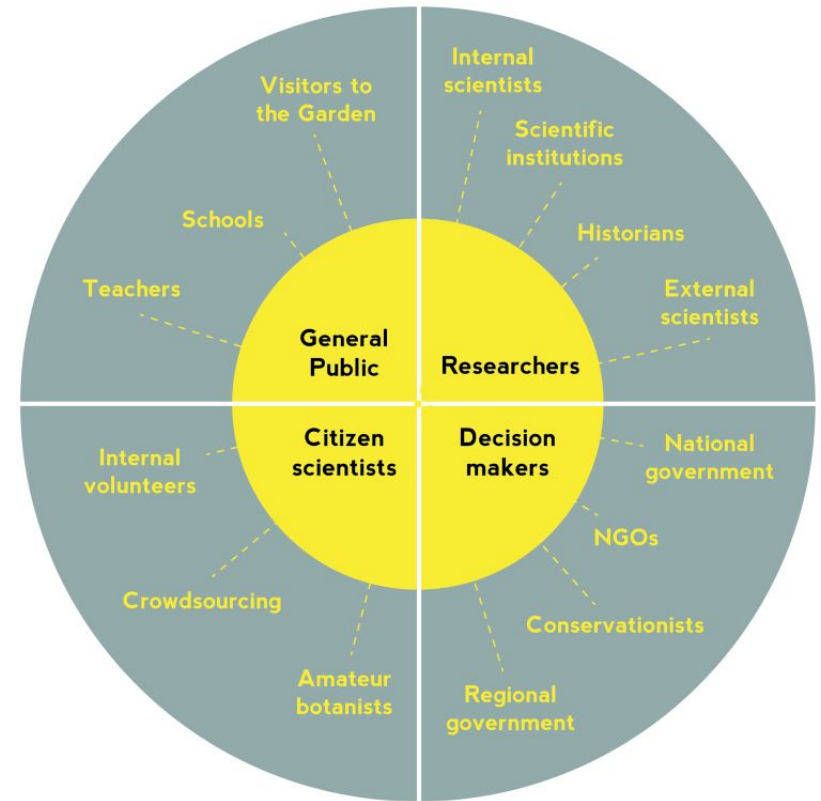
Label data through crowdsourcing

- launched in November 2017
- > 130 volunteers (and growing)
- > 16 000 tasks transcribed so far



• DOE·DAT •••

User requirement analysis



Vissers et al. 2017: Scientific user requirements for a herbarium data portal. (Phytokeys (78): 37-57)

www.botanicalcollections.be

Botanical collections

[Home](#) [Search](#) [Links](#)



[EN](#) [NL](#) [FR](#) [DE](#)

Herbaria are part of the global research infrastructure of plant sciences. They contain carefully documented specimens of plants preserved indefinitely for research. Scientists use these specimens to define and authenticate the scientific names given to plants, to identify plant species and to study the variation of characters within and between species, to help us understand plant evolution and why plants have distinct distributions.

Herbaria are now moving into the digital age. Digitization is revolutionizing access to specimens, making images and data accessible to everyone, regardless of location. Moreover, digitization also promises to expand the scope of research that can be done. Data can be gathered together from many places and analysed on a large scale. Indeed, we are only just beginning to discover all the valuable research which we can do by means of these data.

If you have any questions about the website or our collections please contact the curator team (curator@plantentuinmeise.be).

1.548.953 results found





















DOWNLOAD

CLEAR FILTERS

Q Type anything...

1.548.953 results found

- Family
 - Search...
 - Rubiaceae 101.880
 - Compositae 82.974
 - Leguminosae-papilionaceae 80.787
 - Gramineae 49.652
 - Euphorbiaceae 49.491
 - Labiatae 33.679
 - Leguminosae-caesalpiniaceae 24.700
 - Cyperaceae 24.001
 - Acanthaceae 23.159
 - Apocynaceae 22.491
- Genus
- Species name
- Image
 - Yes 840.631
 - No 708.322
- Collection country
- Type specimen
- Collector
- Collector number
- Year
- Kind of specimen

Name	Collector number	Collector	Family	Country	Date
 Abatia stellata BR0000013346263	S.N.	Lillo Miguel	Salicaceae		1908-02-17
 Abatia tomentosa BR0000013346294	482	Widgren J.F.	Salicaceae		1845
 Abatia tomentosa BR0000013475826	1101	Regnell A.	Salicaceae		1870-01-21
 Abatia tomentosa BR0000013475833	788	Raben F.C.	Salicaceae		s.d.
 Abatia tomentosa BR0000013346287	S.N.	Ackermann	Salicaceae		s.d.
 Abatia tomentosa BR0000013475840	947	Raben F.C.	Salicaceae		s.d.
 Abatia tomentosa BR0000013346300	481	Widgren J.F.	Salicaceae		1845
 Abatia tomentosa BR0000013346270	S.N.	Widgren J.F.	Salicaceae		s.d.
 Abelia grandiflora BR0000009354692			Linnaeaceae		s.d.
 Abelia grandiflora BR0000014443275			Linnaeaceae		s.d.

< BACK

ANNOTATE SPECIMEN

Adenorandia kalbreyeri (Hiern) Robbr. & Bridson

Cite as: <http://www.botanicalcollections.be/specimen/BR0000008657510>

Specimen



Herbarium Botanic Garden Meise
 Barcode BR0000008657510
 Country Democratic Republic of the Congo
 Eala
 Date 1930-05
 Collector Lebrun J.



<> RDF

Identification

Name *Adenorandia kalbreyeri* (Hiern) Robbr. & Bridson
 Family Rubiaceae
 Genus Adenorandia

Image

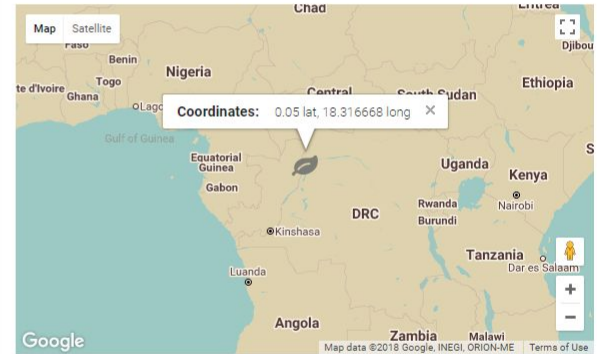


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DOWNLOAD (HIGH RESOLUTION)

ZOOM IN

Locality



Zoom specimen



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Helichrysum

Cite as: http

Specimen

Ident



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Zoom specimen



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Helichry

Cite as: htt

Specie

Ident

NL FR DE

SPECIMEN

Madagascar



Terms of Use

Zoom specimen



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our vision on the future

- Digitisation of the entire collection
- Adding other herbaria & collections
- Available on GBIF & Europeana

Botanical collections

- global reach
- new research
- new services to users
- monitoring use of our collections



Thank you!

