



Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**  
**Western Australian Herbarium**

## Western Australian Herbarium Identification Service

The Western Australian Herbarium (PERTH) provides a service to identify plants, with an emphasis on native and naturalised flowering plants, slime moulds, and algae. The service is used by a range of clients including the general public, government agencies, and environmental consultants.

Our ability to provide identifications depends on the quality of the plant material and associated information we receive. For more information on what we require, please refer to the guide [How to Collect Herbarium Specimens](#) which is available on the Herbarium's home page. Well-collected and well-prepared specimens are essential and are more likely to result in accurate identifications.

The Western Australian Herbarium Identification Service does not provide identifications of:

- bulk collections for commercial clients; however we will verify important or difficult identifications,
- agricultural plant cultivars,
- garden plants (refer to a local nursery or the Kings Park Identification Service),
- wood and timber,
- plant pests and diseases,
- tree roots.

The Western Australian Herbarium Identification Service also does not provide:

- medical advice; however, we will attempt to identify plants suspected of poisonings,
- advice on weed control or herbicide use,
- general gardening advice,
- recommendations on matters such as the availability of horticultural plants.

Please note that identifications from photographs or digital images alone are discouraged.

Contact the Collections Manager prior to submitting identifications of a forensic or legal nature.

### **General guidelines**

All specimen batches submitted for identification must be accompanied by a *Herbarium Submission Request* form and a specimen list.

Include the following information for each specimen provided:

- Collecting Details: as printed or handwritten labels accompanying each individual specimen.
- Collection number: a unique collecting number for each specimen provided on a tag attached to the specimen.

*The Western Australian Herbarium acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and waters from where our collections have come, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

A standard fee of \$25 plus GST per specimen is generally applied to identifications. Fee exceptions include:

- Single identification requests that are straightforward and can be provided on-the-spot.
- New, important, or quality specimen(s) that the Herbarium wishes to incorporate into the collections.
- Up to 12 specimens per year for members of the public.
- Prior approval from the Herbarium Curator or Collections Manager ([herbarium@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:herbarium@dbca.wa.gov.au)).

Please note: there is no guarantee unpaid identifications will be completed in a specified time frame due to Herbarium priorities.

Assistance from specialists at other institutions may be required to identify some taxa. This process may delay some identifications and the time required for a response will be largely outside our control.

Please note that identifying sterile specimens to species level is often problematic and the Herbarium may be unable to provide an accurate identification. Specimens we are unable to identify will still incur a fee.

### **Specimen submission**

The specimens should be protected in a cardboard box of suitable size. A small number of specimens can be tied into a bundle between cardboard and posted safely.

Fresh specimens are rarely and only accepted upon prior arrangement. Fresh plant material must be in a bag large enough to hold the whole specimen and sealed.

Specimens with all required documentation can be delivered to the Western Australian Herbarium by three methods:

- Hand-delivery to the Reference Herbarium, Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre, M-F 8:00-16:30, except public holidays and scheduled closures. Place in collection box outside door.
- Australia Post:  
Western Australian Herbarium  
Attn: Collections Manager  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983
- Courier:  
Western Australian Herbarium  
Attn: Collections Manager  
Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
17 Dick Perry Avenue  
Kensington, WA 6152

Specimens not incorporated into the collections of the Western Australian Herbarium can be returned to the collector by three methods:

- Pick-up within 1 month of notification from the Reference Herbarium 'Identification pick-up area', Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre, Monday-Friday 8:00-16:30, except Public Holidays and scheduled closures;
- Return by Australia Post (\$20 plus GST fee applies); or
- Courier (to be arranged by collector).

Any specimens not returned to the collector will be assessed by Herbarium staff for incorporation, exchange with partner herbaria, or disposed of following quarantine regulations.

#### **Across-the-Counter Service (dried or fresh specimens)**

Where a small number of specimens require identification, assistance may be requested from an Identification Botanist via the Reception Desk at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, except Public Holidays and scheduled closures.

Please note: we cannot guarantee the availability of an Identification Botanist, and if unavailable, the specimens must be formally submitted and results forwarded at a later date. To avoid disappointment, an appointment may be requested via email ([herbarium@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:herbarium@dbca.wa.gov.au)).