



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**

Western Australian Herbarium

Western Australian Herbarium Exchange Policy

Most herbaria in the world and within Australia have a long-standing tradition of exchanging herbarium specimens. An exchange program may be based on a formal agreement which can include an expectation that each Herbarium will exchange a comparable number of specimens each year. PERTH will enter into informal arrangements only, based on this policy, and generally only with Australian herbaria.

Exchanging specimens is an efficient way of increasing a herbarium collection's geographic and morphological range, but can only work to the advantage of the herbarium if specimens received through exchange add significant value, as the cost of shipping and processing a specimen that duplicates existing knowledge is a poor investment.

Western Australia has a very large flora with high endemism. As with all herbaria, growing and maintaining the PERTH collection is limited by resourcing; targeting of available resources is required to adequately deal with within-state taxonomic and floristic issues. For these reasons, PERTH's acquisition and exchange policies deliberately focus on Western Australian taxa; PERTH does not see its role as assembling a national or international collection, except in limited circumstances.

The Policy

PERTH will be pleased to receive duplicate specimens of:

- 1) Western Australian taxa that represent a significant addition to the PERTH collection (particularly range extensions, new populations of conservation taxa, possible new taxa, poorly collected taxa, specimens cited in recent publications and specimens in difficult taxonomic groups with specialist determinations). Refer to the PERTH Acquisition Policy for further information at <http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/wa-herbarium>.
- 2) non-WA taxa in certain specialist groups as listed on the Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections (MAHC) website.
- 3) non-WA taxa that are believed likely to occur in WA (including native taxa occurring in neighbouring parts of South Australia and the Northern Territory, and weeds occurring in temperate, monsoonal and arid climates that may become established in WA).

In addition to these, it is appropriate that:

- 4) holotypes of taxa that are endemic in WA should be lodged at PERTH, and
- 5) isotypes of species and infraspecies taxa that occur in WA but are not endemic should, if possible, be lodged at PERTH.

We would also welcome isotypes of non-WA taxa belonging to genera that occur in Western Australia.

We do not wish to receive general collections of non-WA taxa that are not covered by the above.

Note also that collectors planning field work in WA are required as a condition of their license to discuss specimen vouchering and lodgement with the Collections Manager prior to conducting their field work.

PERTH will be pleased to forward duplicate specimens to:

Australian Herbaria, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and other international herbaria negotiated upon request.