



## HERBARIUM: PLANT IDENTIFICATION SERVICES

As a non-profit institution that promotes botany, conservation, research, and education, an important part of the mission of California Botanic Garden is to serve the public.

In keeping with this mission, the California Botanic Garden Herbarium provides plant identification services. Plant identifications include determination of plant name, geographic distribution, and if necessary, library research. A number of factors influence our ability to provide an accurate and timely identification. A complete specimen prepared according to our specifications **below** will be more likely to include the characteristics necessary for an efficient identification.

The main focus of our specimen collection and taxonomic literature is the native and naturalized flora of California and Mexico. We are most likely to be successful in providing identifications for plants from this region. In general, we do not identify cultivated plants, which can come from anywhere in the world. In some cases, however, we may be able to assist you if the cultivated plant is also native to our focal region.

### Plant identification fees:

- Plant identifications are free of charge to researchers from non-profit and public sector institutions, government organizations at all levels, and the general public.
- For-profit organizations that wish to use our services, fees are determined on an hourly basis, with a 1-hour minimum charge of \$50. Fees charged for plant identification services are used to improve the Herbarium and its ability to serve the public.

### Specimen preparation:

- Please remove all dirt from roots. Please include the roots of herbaceous plants, when possible.
- Each specimen should consist of a stem with attached leaves, basal leaves (if any) and flowers and/or fruits, when present.
- Include information on where the specimen was collected, including habitat information, county, nearest town or major landmark, and approximate elevation.
- Additional information about the plant is often critical in its identification. Include whatever comments or facts that you think may be useful: time of flowering; flower and/or fruit color, size, fragrance; etc.
- Please number each specimen collection if more than one plant specimen is submitted for identification. These numbers will then be used for reference in our reply to you.

### Send specimens by mail:

1. Plant specimens mailed to us for identification should be flattened between a fold of newspaper and securely fastened between two pieces of cardboard and sent in a padded envelope or box. Please do not crumple up the specimen.
2. Never send plants in plastic. Do not send them in a plastic-lined mailer. Plants placed in plastic bags and sent through the mail often mold.





3. Include the following contact information: name, address, telephone number, and email address.
4. Mail specimens to Mare Nazaire, California Botanic Garden Herbarium, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711-3157.
  - Upon arrival at the Herbarium, dried specimens will be frozen for a minimum of three days before they are examined.
  - Once the plant specimen(s) have been identified, you will be contacted. The specimens, a list of determinations, and an invoice will be mailed to you. Payment will be due within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

**Use our convenient drop in service:**

1. Please call and schedule an appointment with Mare Nazaire (909) 625-8767 ext. 268 or send an email to [mnazaire@calbg.org](mailto:mnazaire@calbg.org).
2. Samples dropped off in person for identification can be fresh or dried. Dried specimens MUST be frozen for a minimum of three days prior to your visit. Fresh specimens MUST be brought in a sealed bag and may not enter the main collection. Depending on the number of specimens dropped off for identification (e.g., one or two specimens) and availability of herbarium staff for identification, you may be able to wait for identifications.
3. When you come to the Herbarium, please bring with you the specimens and all of the information requested above.

**For more information, please contact Mare Nazaire (909) 625-8767 ext. 268 or [mnazaire@calbg.org](mailto:mnazaire@calbg.org)**