



## **BOTANY & MYCOLOGY COLLECTIONS**

### **LOAN POLICIES, TERMS, AND PROCEDURES**

## **NYSM Botany & Mycology Policy Regarding Outgoing Loans**

### **Statement of Basic Principles**

It is the policy of the New York State Museum ('NYSM') to foster and promote research on its collections consistent with the preservation and protection of the collections for the use and enjoyment of future generations. To this end, the Museum considers requests for destructive sampling and technical analysis of objects in its care when the potential contribution to scientific knowledge outweighs the defacement or loss of a specimen. The New York State Museum considers destructive sampling on a case-by-case basis.

All sampling requests will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below.

- The scientific merit of the study
  - The appropriateness of the proposed analytical techniques and methods
  - The demonstrated competence of the researcher with the proposed methods, including the researcher's record of results using similar techniques and methods
  - The proposed dissemination of the results of the analyses and publication track record of the researcher
  - The potential to compromise future analyses
  - The availability or rarity of equivalent material
  - The suitability of the specimen for the proposed analyses and availability of potentially better suited specimens in collections elsewhere
  - The size of the requested sample(s)
  - The demonstrated experience of the researcher with use of natural history museum collections
- The researcher's faculty or staff affiliation with a recognized research institution.

**For information on specimen loans for vascular plants**, please contact Diana Hurlbut, Collections Manager, [diana.hurlbut@nysed.gov](mailto:diana.hurlbut@nysed.gov)

**For information on specimen loans for fungi, lichens, bryophytes, and algae**, please contact Lorinda Leonardi, Collections Manager, [lorinda.leonardi@nysed.gov](mailto:lorinda.leonardi@nysed.gov)

