



THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY HERBARIA

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21 June 2019

Biodiversity Collections Network
c/o American Institute of Biological Sciences
1201 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN),

On behalf of the Harvard University Herbaria (HUH) in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology of Harvard University, I am writing to express my strong support for BCoN's report on "Extending U.S. Biodiversity Collections to Promote Research and Education".

As the largest university-owned plant, fungal, and "algae" collection world-wide, the mission laid out in the BCoN report of education, research, and outreach; access to and preservation of physical and digital collections and their associated data; and advocacy for the continued support of plant biodiversity research and scholarship coincides with the vision of the HUH. The HUH are an active, integrated member of the collections community and participate in diverse collaborative digitization projects. Our data and images are made available on our website and on various portals world-wide and we look forward to supporting BCoN's efforts as a vital member of the network.

I strongly believe that a network of extended specimen data can be achieved and will be a key to better understanding complex interactions in our changing environment.

Sincerely,

Elena Kramer
Chair of the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology
Bussey Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology
Harvard College Professor

HERBARIUM OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM • FARLOW HERBARIUM •
GRAY HERBARIUM • ECONOMIC HERBARIUM AND ORCHID HERBARIUM
OF OAKES AMES