

# Herbarium Linnaeanum

## Digitization of Linnaean specimens

### The Linnaean herbarium (Introduction)



Scanning room at the Natural History Museum, London

The herbarium contains some 14,300 specimens many pre-dating Linnaeus' seminal work, *Species Plantarum* (1753). More than 4,000 of these are type specimens for Linnaean names. Previously, specimens could only be studied by a personal visit to the herbarium, or examined remotely via microfiche. This project aims to facilitate the Society's aim of making all the specimens freely available on-line, whilst at the same time, creating an electronic archive of the herbarium on behalf of the Society.

### Quality of images

Technical specifications.

The specimens are scanned at a resolution of 600 dpi and saved as TIFF files on two external hard drives.



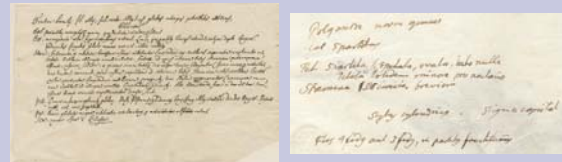
Linnaean specimen 595.5, *Sedum reflexum* L., showing details of the flowers

The high quality images enable us to see plant parts in specific detail, such as hairs, stamens, styles, etc. Small parts of the specimen which are either loose, or have been removed for study, are being placed within an archive quality capsule during the imaging process. These are also scanned together with the specimen.

### Type of images

Recto and verso images.

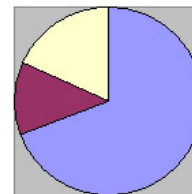
Some specimens will have more than one image if they are heavily annotated. Some bear inscriptions on the reverse of the sheet, whilst others have additional notes attached to the front of the sheet which may obscure the specimen itself. In both cases such annotations are imaged separately.



Recto and verso images of a Linnaean herbarium sheet.

### Progress so far...

The total number of images completed so far (May 2007), is 13,000, which equates to 80% of the herbarium. 86% of these represent whole specimen images, 13% verso and 0.5% recto annotations. A further c. 3,000 specimens remain to be scanned by July 2007.



■ Specimens scanned  
■ Verso & recto images  
□ Remaining specimens

