

## **CURATING METHODS**

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### **Glueing Labels**

Labels can be glued with 1:1 Elmer's Glue: Water.

### **Preservation of Brittle Specimens**

Lichens can be soaked in glycerol to keep them from getting brittle (James Martin, pers. comm.). While it changes the appearance of the specimens somewhat and may not be desirable where chemical data or critical anatomical information needs to be obtained, this method may be good for collections for teaching or exhibits.

Various kinds of padding material, including kleenex tissues, can be used in the packets,

Fragile specimens can be protected by glueing materials such as balsa wood, styrofoam, or even cardboard to the corners of the card or around the specimen (This method has been used by Weber, Rosentreter, and others).

### **Preservation from Insects**

Damage from insects can be discouraged by using paradichlorobenzene or naphthaline.

### **Storage in Shoeboxes, etc.**

Wadded up newspapers or tissue papers can be used to fill up the empty space in the box so that the packets stay upright.

### **Storage on Sheets**

Packets should be attached to sheets by pins or staples, rather than by glue, so they can be removed easily (e.g., herbarium at Geneva).

To minimize chances of tearing a packet when removing it from the sheet to which it is glued, hold onto the packet and pull the sheet away, rather than vice-versa (this may tear the sheet, but it is easier to replace the sheet than the packet and label, and there is no danger of losing pieces of the specimen through holes in the packet (H. Robinson, pers. comm. 1987).

## **Quality of the Specimens**

Specimens in packets should, when possible, meet the following standards:  
1) Be adequate in size, 2) Have abundant fruiting structures in various stages of maturity, 3) Not be over about one half inch thick (pressed if necessary), 4) Not have sharp corners projecting such that they will tear the packet, 5) Be adequately dried.

Notes on the color of the specimens when fresh can be valuable when the specimens are examined in the future.