

Herbarium Life: Shipping Cryptogamic Specimens

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Herbaria: Non-Vascular Cryptogams

- Fungi
- Lichens
- Bryophytes
- Algae
- Cyanobacteria
- Myxomycetes
- Myxobacteria



Cryptogam Preparations & Storage

Common Cryptogam Examples

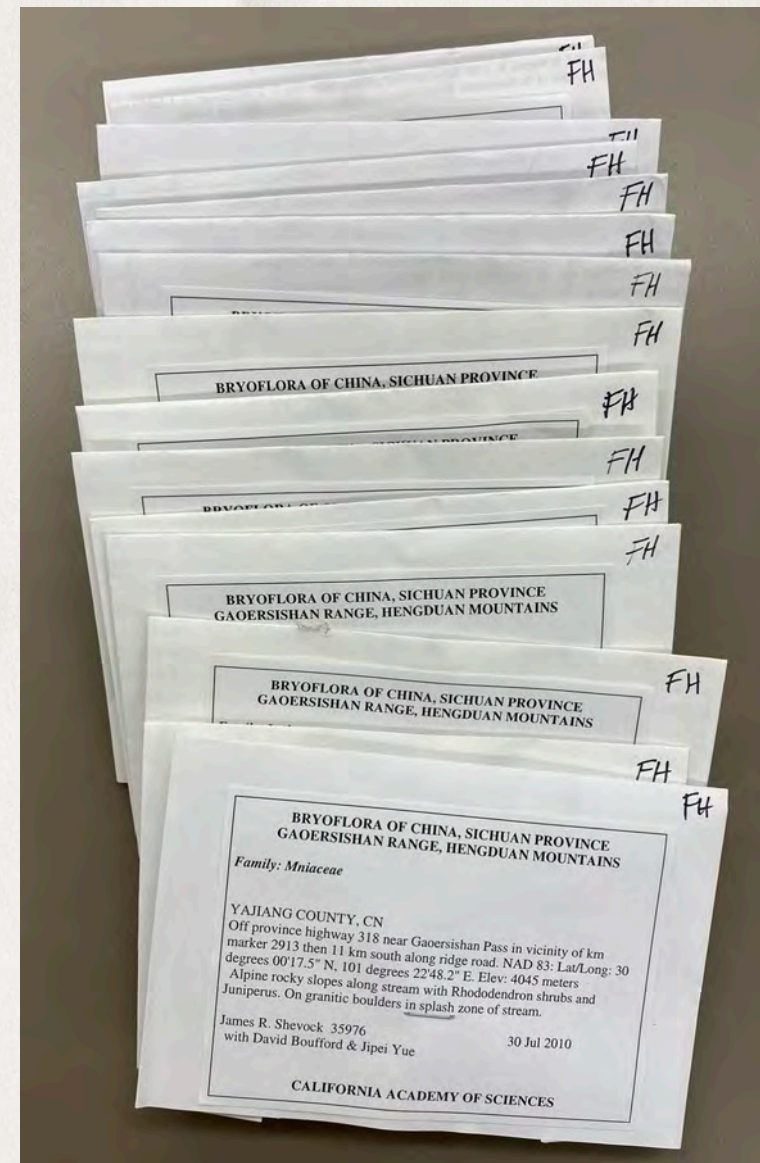
- Packets
- Boxes
- Bags
- Vials
- Slides
- Sheets
- Bound books

Focus of this Presentation

- Packets
- Boxes
- Bags
- Slides

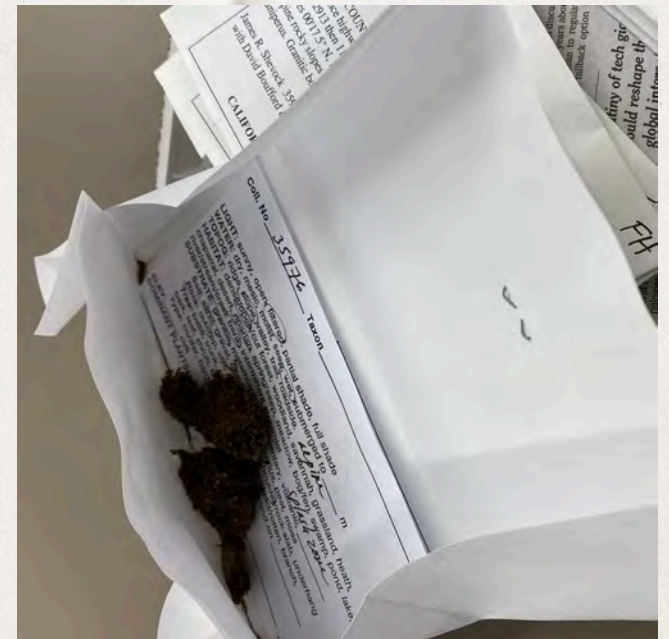
Packeted Specimens

- Lose packets or on sheets
- Specimens:
 - Lose in packet or contained
 - Degrees of fragility



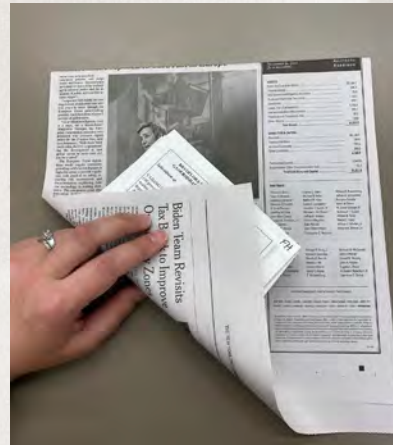
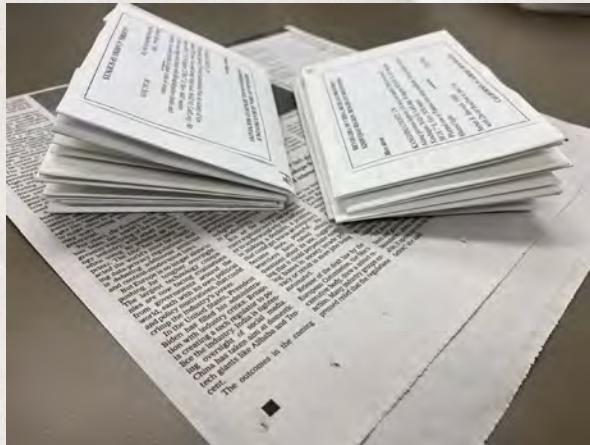
Stabilizing & Preparing Packets

- Loose packets:
 - Assess material inside packet
 - Add inner packet, archival tissue, stabilizing card, etc. if needed for shipping
 - Ensure no material can fall out of packet
 - Gather packing supplies based on fragility
- Sheets
 - do as above then treat like vascular plants



Packing Loose Packets

Less Fragile/Brittle: Wrap bundles in newspaper or other leafing paper



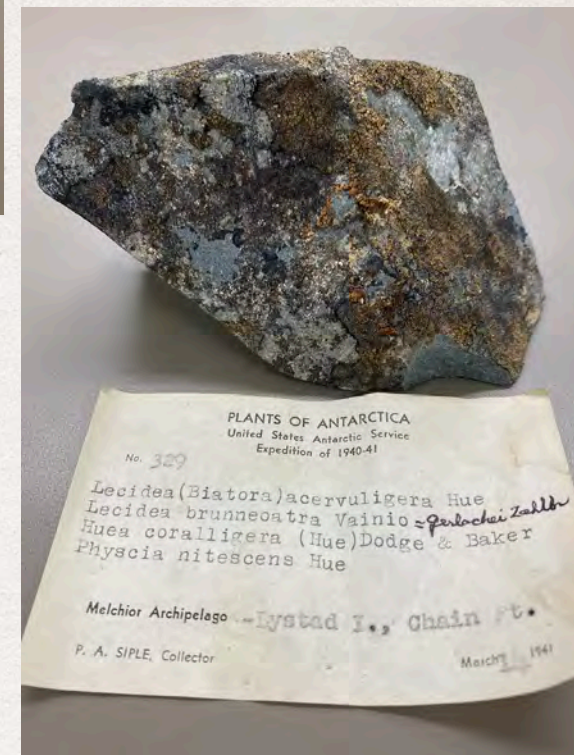
Packing Loose Packets

Fragile/Brittle: Wrap bundles in bubble wrap or something padded



Boxed Specimens

- Boxes can have loose material or material in bags/packets
- Boxes can be present in packets
- Boxed specimens are usually fragile or heavy



Stabilizing & Preparing Boxes

- Assess material inside box
- Stabilize for transit to minimize movement to prevent specimen damage
- Ensure no material can fall out
- Common solutions: archival tissue paper and small inner packets
- For very heavy specimens additional support may be needed



Packing Boxes

Standard boxes

- Wrap boxes to ensure exterior labels cannot be damaged in transit
- Padded wrapping adds cushioning for shock absorption
- Wrapping each box separately can add security, but if packing in a large box with lot of packing peanuts it is helpful to secure the inner boxes to each other

Heavy boxes

- Padded wrapping adds security to minimize movement and collision in shipping box
- Marking exterior of packing material about heavy contents helps minimize accidental damage when unpacking if box becomes unstable in transit

Bagged Specimens

- Generally used for light and fragile material
- Material can all be in a single bag or bags within bags
- Minimizing crushing risk is critical



Stabilizing & Preparing Bags

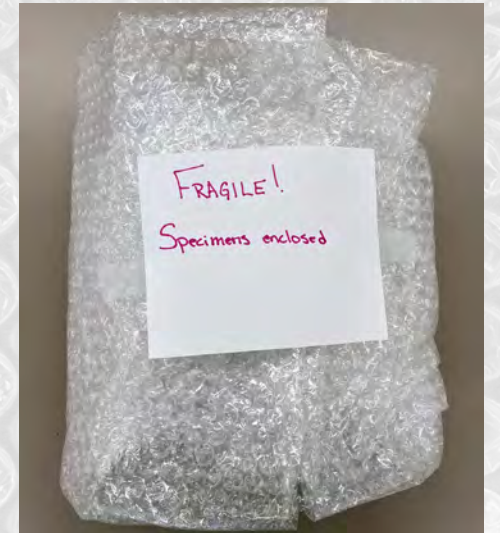
- Ensure bag is in good condition
- Assess material inside bag
- Stabilize for transit to minimize movement to prevent specimen damage



Packing Bags

Prevent Specimen Crushing

- Inner boxes may be used for very fragile or unwieldy material
- Lots of padded wrapping is recommended
- Labeling material helps to prevent damage when unpacking



Microscope Slides

- Wet mount or hard mount
- Very fragile
- Can be sensitive to temperature changes, best to not freeze (for IPM) when possible
- Can be part of another existing specimen or the entire collection



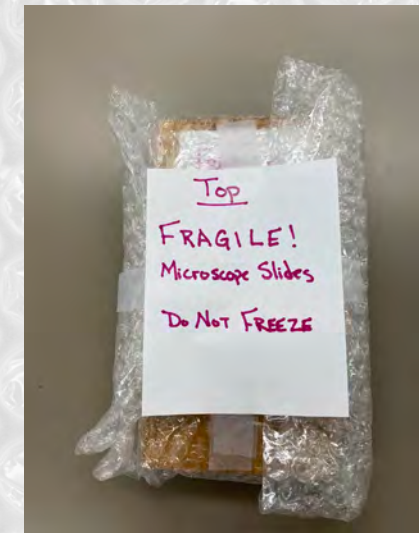
Stabilizing & Preparing Slides

- Assess condition and type of slide
- Do any needed cleaning or repairs if possible
- Make sure any ancillary data is available



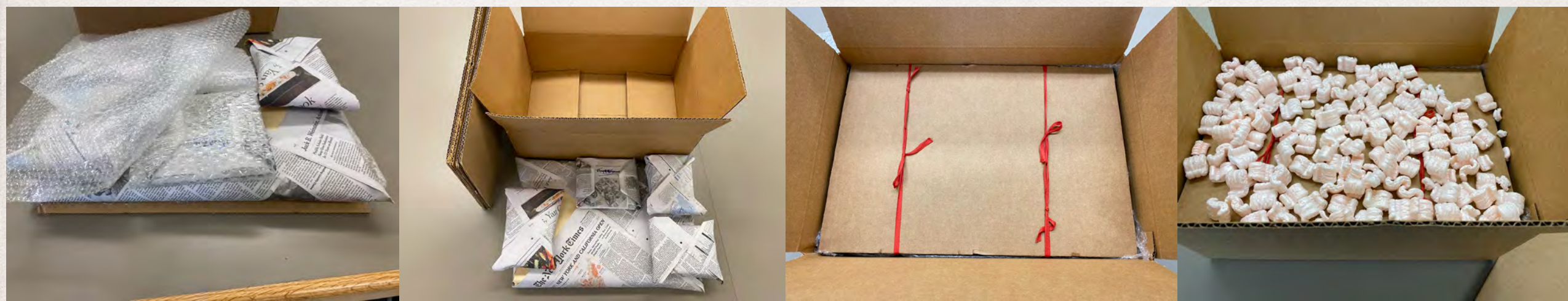
Packing Slides

Prevent bending and protect cover slips



Packing the Shipping Box

- Group things whenever possible to prevent extra jostling
- Make things easy to unpack
- Leave headspace so the packing materials can absorb shock
- Line bottom and top of box with extra corrugated cardboard



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Thank You

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