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Spotlight on USC: A.C. Moore Herbarium

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SPOTLIGHT ON USC

// A.C. MOORE HERBARIUM



Open to scholars and the general public for botanical research, the A.C. Moore Herbarium dried plant specimens are collected and maintained. Biologist and USC President A.C. Moore founded the Herbarium in 1907 by donating his personal collection of plant specimens. The Herbarium added 6,000 more specimens to its holdings when it acquired the collection of Henry William Ravenel, nineteenth century botanist. Today, the Herbarium preserves over 100,000 specimens, the largest assortment of plant species in South Carolina.

Botanists are able to use specimens within an Herbarium in a number of ways, such as the infrastructure and microscopic surface feature studies of various plant parts. Studies using electron microscopy imaging have made improvements in our understanding of plant taxonomy. Pollen, spore, and seed structure, stomatal patterns, and pubescence (plant hairs) characters are examples that become beautiful images as well as fascinating botanical study.

A John Nelson examining herbarium specimens // Image courtesy of John Nelson, A.C. Moore Herbarium, University of South Carolina

B Ron Hughes (left) and Vito Wonsicz performing fieldwork for the Herbarium // Image courtesy of John Nelson, A.C. Moore Herbarium, University of South Carolina

C SEM image of *Stachys caroliniana* // Image courtesy of Electron Microscopy Center, A.C. Moore Herbarium, University of South Carolina