Specimen Digitization @ the Botanical Research Institute of Texas: Imaging Equipment & Protocols

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TORCH VIII – iDigBio Workshop



Plant to planet.

Imaging workflow

Specimen pulled



PRE-IMAGING CURATION

- Barcode applied
- Accession stamp
- •"Imaged + date" stamp
- Other annotations

LABEL DATA CAPTURE

•ROIdata captured using Apiary, Excel, or entered directly into Atrium



IMAGE CAPTURE

- •Specimen imaged using scanner on herbscan/S4 (TIFF) or camera using ebox (RAW)
- •Imaging log (image metadata)

IMAGE PROCESSING & ARCHIVING

- Conversion of RAW to .dng (camera images)
- Conversion to JPEG2000 (scanned images)

DATA DISSEMINATION

- Atrium
- JSTOR Plants
- •GBIF
- •iDigBio (soon)
- Dropbox (dig loans)
- External harddrives



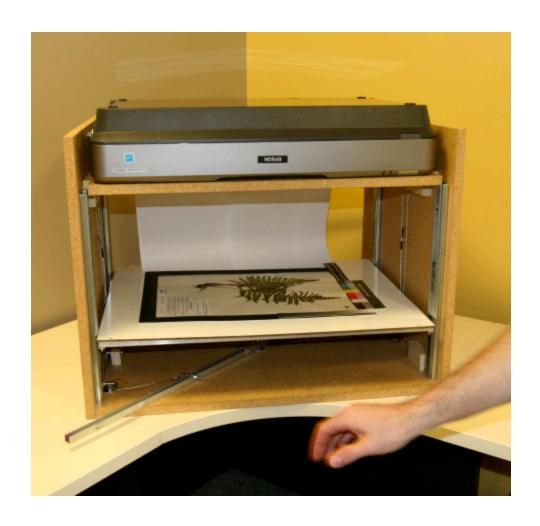
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Capture device: scanners

Epson Expression 1640 XL on Herbscan (Kew RBG)



Epson Expression 10000XL-GA on S4 (J. Best, BRIT)



Capture device: camera & eBox

Canon 5D MarkII body with a 50mm f/2.5 macro lens, using a Photo-eBox Plus unit for lighting



ADDITIONAL CAMERA EQUIPMENT

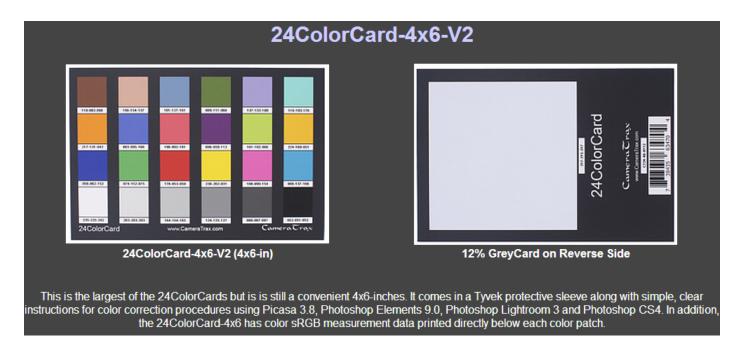
- Wooden supports for placing under lightbox, to sides of copystand
- •Level for assuring camera lens and specimen are on parallel planes
- AC adapter
- Colour bar/grey scale
- •USB tether to computer
- Capture software: Canon provided
- •Image Processing: Adobe Lightroom

ADDITIONAL SCANNING EQUIPMENT

- Colour bar/grey scale
- •Black photo mat to ensure correct placement of specimen and consistent placement of colour and scale bars
- Capture software: EpsonScan

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT USED IN BOTH

- •Scale bar: Forensics scale (#6-3813), flat color, no-glare plastic, no advertising, 15 cm & 6 in. (redwop.com, ~US\$10 for 10)
- Dedicated desktop
- External hard-drives for back (~3TB)
- Central server
- •Image metadata capture: Microsoft Excel

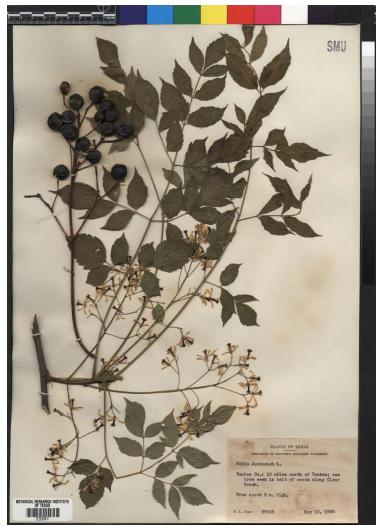


CAMERA COLOUR BAR: 24ColorCard-4x6-V2 (http://www.cameratrax.com/color-balance-4x6.php)





SCANNER COLOUR BAR: Kodak Q-13 Color Separation (w/ grey scale) adorama.com (~US\$24)



CAMERAS? SCANNERS? BOTH?

- •Original setup and installation of imaging equipment
- •Configuration of equipment immediately prior to imaging
- •Image acquisition







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Plant to planet.