

# UNIT – 5.3 Herbarium Techniques Part - 1

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# Herbarium Techniques

- The collection or depository of dried plant specimens is known as **Herbarium**.
- The main objective of making an Herbarium is to preserve for all times a series of specimens and notes that will yield the maximum information about the plant collected.
- The techniques employed for collection and preservation of flowering plants include :
  1. Field Equipments.
  2. Collection of plant specimens.
  3. Pressing of plant specimens.
  4. Mounting of plant specimens.
  5. Herbarium Labels.
  6. Filing of Herbarium sheets.

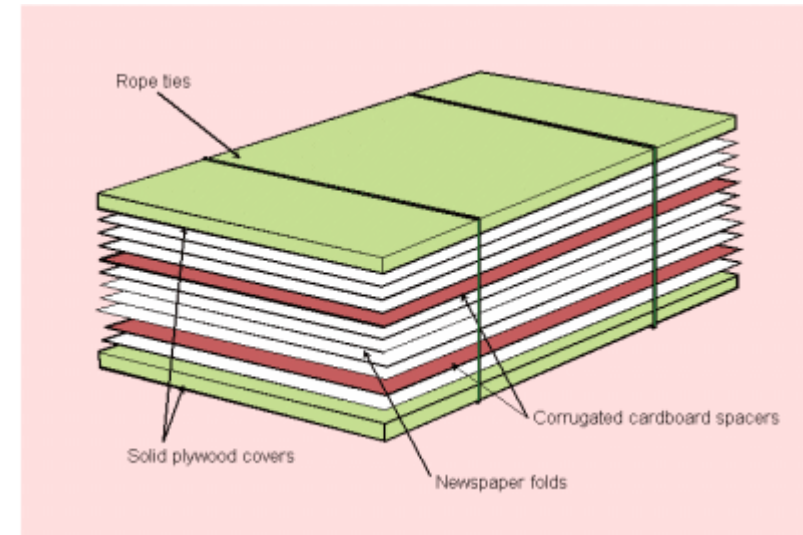
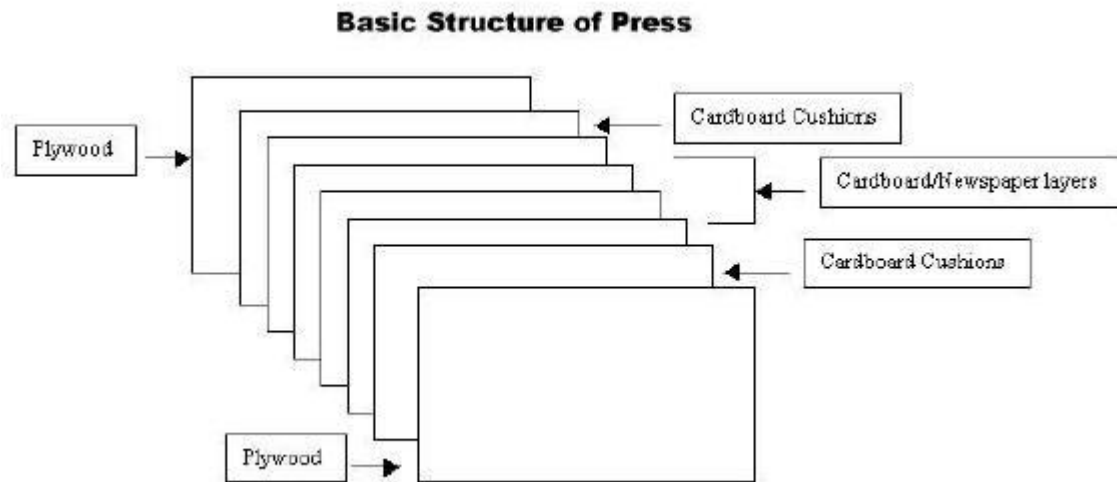
# Field Equipments

The Various field equipments used for the formation of herbarium are :

- Plant Press.
- Field notebook.
- Vasculum.
- Digger.
- Secateur and pruning shears.

# Plant Press

Plant Press comprises of a pair of metal, wood or plyboard frames of 30-45 cms. Between the frames are kept old newspapers which absorb moisture from the plant specimen. Corrugated sheets are used between the bolters as ventilators when plants are dried by artificial sheets. The press is then tied up tightly by means of heavy straps. It is used to dry and press the specimens.



**PLANT COLLECTING  
AND DOCUMENTATION  
FIELD NOTEBOOK**

by  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Field Notebook

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- Field Notebook is used for recording the field data at the time of collection. For this special type of permanently bound pocket size notebooks are Used.
- Each book has 100 leaves which are serially numbered.
- There are 4-6 detachable tags of each page which has same number. These tags are tied to the specimens of the same kind which are collected at the same time.
- The data such as field number of specimen, date of collection, locality, Habitat, Binomial name of plant(if known), the flower color, abundance, Variation, associated plants, vernacular names and the uses if any are recorded in the field notebook at the time of collection.



# Vasculum

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As shown in the picture, the Vasculum is a container made of Aluminium sheet (45-60cm long) and it has a hinged tight Lid. It is used to preserve the freshness of the plants until they are pressed. However in the absence of Vasculum, Plastic bags can also be used.



# Digger

The metallic digger is required to take out the underground parts of herbaceous plants.

Root system, Bulbs, Rizome, corms etc should be made part of the specimen.

# Secateur and Pruning Shears

**Secateur** is required for cutting twigs of trees and shrubs for herbarium specimen.

**Pruning Shear** is Used for Cutting twigs of large trees.

**Picture A – Secateur.**

**Picture B – Pruning Shear.**

