

HERBARIUM COLLECTION OF THE CROATIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM*

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150 years ago the National Museum in Zagreb had in its possession a herbarium collection of vascular plants that numbered some 6,000 specimens. It was made by the herbalists J. Host, I. Daubači and H. Klinggräff. The collection was subsequently augmented with herbarium material by two eminent Croatian botanists J. K. Schlosser Klekovski and Lj. Vukotinović. It was stored in the Museum until 1875, when it was donated to the Department of Botany and Physiology, University of Zagreb; here it became the foundation of the present-day herbarium of the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, the most comprehensive herbarium in Croatia.

From 1987 botanical material was again collected in the Croatian Natural History Museum (part of the former National Museum), and the herbarium collection and Botanical Department were established.

Currently the collection comprises over 6,000 herbarium specimens of vascular plants collected mostly in Croatia. The entire collection is kept in a temporary storage space which is too small and situated in the attic. The specimens are kept in cardboard species covers, arranged in alphabetical order by genus and species and stored in wooden cupboards.

Key words: Herbarium collection, Croatian Natural History Museum

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Prije 150 godina u posjedu Narodnog Muzeja u Zagrebu bila je herbarska zbirka višega bilja koja je sadržavala oko 6.000 primjeraka. Činili su je herbari J. Hosta, I. Daubačija i H. Klinggräffa. Zbirka je kasnije dopunjavana herbarskim materijalom dvaju zaslužnih hrvatskih botaničara J. K. Schlossera Klekovskog i Lj. Vukotinovića. U Muzeju je čuvana do 1875. godine kada je poklonjena Botaničko – fiziologijskom zavodu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu gdje je postala osnovom današnjeg herbara Botaničkog zavoda Prirodoslovno – matematičkog fakulteta, najvećeg herbara u Hrvatskoj.

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Od 1987. godine u Hrvatskome prirodoslovnom muzeju (dijelu nekadašnjeg Narodnog muzeja) ponovo se prikuplja botanička građa, pa je osnovana herbarska zbirka i Botanički odjel. Danas zbirka sadrži preko 6.000 herbarskih primjeraka višega bilja prikupljenog većim dijelom na području Hrvatske. Čitava zbirka je smještena u privremenom depou koji zaprema premalen prostor i nalazi se na tavanu. Primjerci se čuvaju u kartonskim herbarskim ovicima koji su abecednim redom rodova i vrsta spremljeni u drvene ormare.

Ključne riječi: Herbarska zbirka, Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej

THE HERBARIUM FORMERLY

In 1846, which is regarded as the year in which the National Museum in Zagreb was founded, it possessed a herbarium of 6,000 specimens (RADOVČIĆ, 1987). The larger part consisted of a collection of 4,000 plants, compiled by Canon J. Host and presented to the Museum by Archbishop Cardinal Haulik (ŠUGAR & TRINAJSTIĆ, 1980), with the remaining 2,000 or so specimens coming from the collections of I. Daubači and H. Klinggräff. The collection was later augmented by the well-known Croatian botanists J. K. Schlosser Klekovski and Lj. Vukotinović, authors of the standard work, »Flora Croatica«. The herbarium collection was kept in the Museum until 1875, when, for want of adequate space, it was donated to the newly established Department of Botany and Physiology, University of Zagreb. National Museum's herbarium thus became the basis of the first herbarium collection in the University of Zagreb. Thanks to a great many botanists (S. Gjurašin, A. Haračić, A. Heinz, D. Hirc, I. Horvat, S. Horvatić, B. Jiruš, Lj. Rossi, R. Visiani, ...), it is now the largest herbarium in Croatia.

THE PRESENT HERBARIUM

In 1987 the Croatian Natural History Museum began once again collecting recent botanical material and a new Herbarium and Botanical Department were established. Nowadays, the collection comprises more than 6,000 mounted and identified specimens of vascular flora collected during field research, mainly inside Croatia. The collection continues to grow with the addition of new material and is looked after by one curator and a technician.

ACCOMMODATION AND ORGANISATION OF THE COLLECTION

The herbarium is housed in a loft affording inadequate space, which makes working with the material more difficult. On account of the poor insulation provided on the attic floors the contents of the herbarium are exposed to high temperatures during the summer, as well as to massive variations in temperature (the annual temperature range is in excess of 30 °C). Conditions of this kind foster the breeding of insects in spite of regular treatment with insecticides. The specimens are kept on shelves in wooden cupboards. All those of the same inventory number

are arranged on one or more mounting sheets (depending on the number of specimens), which are kept in herbarium cartridge covers. Since last year all specimens of the same genus have been kept (depending on the range of the genus) in one or more firm, transparent PVC bags. These bags make it more difficult to handle the material, and we still do not know what the chemical effect on the specimens may be, but they have proved to be an effective defence against insects, for an infected plant cannot threaten anything more than the material in the same bag.

The plants are arranged alphabetically in the cupboards according to genus and the species within each genus. The shelves in the cupboards have numbered labels and there is a list on the door of each cupboard specifying its contents. Together with specimens with the same inventory number, there is a label with basic data: inventory number, acronym of the collection, the scientific name, locality, UTM map reference, elevation above sea-level, habitat, date, name of the collector and of the person who identified the plant. On the outside of the cartridge covers there are labels with the inventory number, the acronym of the collection and scientific name of plant. All the data given are entered into the volumes of the inventory book and included in the computer base specifying the museum's holdings.

CONCLUSION

Although our collection is only in an early stage of formation, we are well aware of shortcomings in terms of location and shortage of space in the premises proposed for it. We are also aware that the collection will pose new problems as it grows in numbers of specimens. For these reasons we hope, then, that we shall be able in the near future to secure premises on a scale that will enable it to extend and improve in quality.

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SAŽETAK

Herbarska zbirka Hrvatskoga prirodoslovnog muzeja

M. Vrbek

Već 1846. godine koja se smatra godinom osnutka Narodnog muzeja u Zagrebu, u njegovom posjedu bila je herbarska zbirka za koju se navodi da je sadržavala oko 6.000 primjeraka. Najveći dio zbirke sačinjavao je herbar zagrebačkog kanonika Josipa Hosta s više od 4.000 biljaka, a ostatak su činile zbirke Huga von Klinggräffa i Ivana Daubačija. Zbirka se kasnije povećavala herbarskim materijalom kojeg su prikupili poznati hrvatski botaničari J. K. Schlosser Klekovski i Lj. Vukotinović. U Muzeju se čuvala do 1875. godine kada je zbog pomanjkanja prostora poklonjena novo osnovanom Botaničko – fiziologijskom zavodu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Herbarska zbirka našega Muzeja postala je tako osnovom prve herbarske zbirke na Sveučilištu koja je danas, zahvaljujući marljivom radu brojnih botaničara, najveća herbarska zbirka u Hrvatskoj.

Od 1987. godine u Hrvatskome prirodoslovnom muzeju ponovo se počinje prikupljati recentna botanička građa, pa je osnovana herbarska zbirka i Botanički odjel. Danas zbirka sadrži preko 6.000 inventariranih primjeraka vaskularne flore i uvrštena je u svjetski registar herbara »Index Herbariorum« pod kraticom CNHM.

Zbirka se čuva u privremenom depou smještenom u potkrovlju i zaprema premalen prostor. Primjerci se čuvaju u kartonskim herbarskim ovicima koji su abecednim redom rodova i vrsta spremljeni na police drvenih ormara. O zbirci vode brigu dva kustosa i jedan tehničar.

Iako je naša zbirka još uvijek u osnivanju, već smo itekako svjesni propusta u pogledu njenog neadekvatnog smještaja, kao i premalenog predviđenog prostora. Također smo svjesni da zbog toga uskoro nećemo biti u mogućnosti kvalitetno povećavati zbirku. Stoga se nadamo da ćemo u što skorijoj budućnosti osigurati adekvatan prostor kako bi naša zbirka osim u kvantiteti mogla napredovati i u kvaliteti.