

Line 1 – Plants biodiversity, Evolution and systematics

TITLE

Historical herbaria

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Project description

Natural history collections are an invaluable source of biological data. Since there are many disputes about taxonomy, nomenclature, and phylogeny, the use of herbarium specimens could be useful to solve many systematic problems.

The Herbarium Patavinum (PAD) of the University of Padova (Italy) stores numerous important historical herbarium collections, representing an useful genetic resource in taxonomic studies. Among these collections, that of Achille Forti is composed of about 100,000 algal samples, in a good preservation state, and 7,900 slides of marine and freshwater diatoms.

The main aim of this project is to use molecular methods based on DNA barcoding to amplify and sequence as many selected specimens of Forti's historical collection as possible, in order to allow an accurate identification of important samples and make their sequences available for comparison with molecular data produced by freshly sampled algae.



Voucher from Forti's historical collection