

Virtual Herbaria

<http://herbarium.univie.ac.at/database/search.php>

A common initiative of the herbaria

- GJO Steiermärkisches Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria
- GZU Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria
- HAL Schlechtendal Herbarium, Martin Luther-Univ. Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- JE Haussknecht Herbarium, Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena, Germany
- W Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria
- WU Herbarium der Universität Wien, Faculty Centre for Biodiversity, Austria

Two private collections, Peter Pilsl and the Austrian Apothecary Museum in Vienna, also joined in 2008.

These institutions together host c. 12.000.000 specimens and are extremely rich in historic and rare specimens, probably 30 % collected before 1850. The number of type material is calculated to approximately 500.000 specimens.

Data basing started in 2004, at the moment serving 140.000 records online, including 27.000 types which are accompanied by digital images. The database-system is built on international biodiversity standards (TDW Group – www.tdwg.org) and connected to global (GBIF – www.gbif.org, Catalogue of Life – www.catalogueoflife.org), and national initiatives (GBIF-Austria – www.gbif.at). A nomenclatural / taxonomic backbone guarantees consistent data keeping. Authoritative files are provided for persons and geographical names (www.geonames.org). Data entry and maintenance is realized via web tools and facilities for geo-referencing are built-in. All records are kept distinct for each participating institution but can be utilized jointly as references.

Any institution which wants to join this initiative is most welcome.

For getting an idea about the content of the database and possibilities of data exposure and download *Androsace* can be used illustrating the geographic distribution of a genus along the alpine regions of Europe or select Bromeliaceae for a taxonomic group or China for geographic region to visualize a representative set of type specimens.

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