



Form for use by Ethnomedica Collectors

Collector's Name
Address
Date of birth

Date of interview

Contributor's Name
Address
Date of birth *or* category (20-30, 30-40 etc.)
Place of birth

For each plant remedy mentioned, the following information needs, ideally, to be recorded:

Name/names by which plant is known to contributor
Part of plant used, and time of year
Where the plant was obtained (wild, cultivated, dried from herbalist etc.)
Manner in which plant was used (fresh, dried, infused, poultice etc.)
Does the contributor have first-hand experience of the remedy
If so, do they remember the result
Where were they living at the time
What age were they, approximately, when the remedy was used
Where was knowledge of the remedy obtained (from family, friends or from books etc.)
Have they passed on knowledge of the remedy to anyone else

Identity of the plant

If there is doubt in the collector's or contributor's mind concerning the plant's identity, this should be stated. Sometimes it is possible to confirm a plant's identity by looking at a sample of the plant with the contributor, but this is by no means 100% reliable. Where there is reasonable certainty, collect this sample as a voucher specimen and keep it with the records.

Preparation of a voucher specimen

To help with identification, the specimen collected should show as many characteristics of the plant as possible, flowers and/or fruit are particularly useful for identification. Notes can be made on characters that are not preserved after collection such as flower colour and habit. Notes on where it grows e.g wood, hedge, lawn etc and geographical location should also be made. Date of collection and collector's name(s) should be given.

Arrange the specimen (in the best way that shows its characters) between sheets of absorbent paper to dry it out (Newspaper is fine), then press it flat under books/carpet or in a plant press.