

Unit 7: Identification process in Plant systematic

- **Preparation of herbarium specimen** (cont--)
- **Botanical gardens**

Herbaria serve as major source of information on plants and vegetation. Mounted, labelled and treated (to kill insect pests) specimens are finally incorporated in a herbarium, where they are properly stored for future studies.

Annotation of herbarium specimen

- The value of herbarium specimens are improved by careful annotation. Annotations bring the scientific names of specimens up-to-date to conform with current species concepts.
- **An annotation Label** – It verifies or changes identity of specimen. An expert visiting a herbarium may want to correct an identification, or record a name change. Such correction is never done on the original label but on a small **annotation label** or **determination label**, usually **2 by 11 cm** and appended left of the original label.
- This **annotation label**, in addition to the correction, **records the name** of the person and the **date on which the change was recorded**.
- Such information is useful, especially when more than one annotation label is appended to a herbarium sheet. The last label is likely to be the correct one.

**Botanical gardens**

Most of the well-known herbaria of the world made their beginning from **botanical gardens**.

Botanical gardens act as an educational institution for researchers, conservators, and also for teaching and awareness to public and tourists. Botanical gardens maintain living plant species belonging to wide categories viz. ornamental species, wild-cultivated plants, water plants, tropical and temperate species. e.g- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

Book to be referred for this topic: **Singh, G. (2012). Plant Systematics: Theory and Practice. Chapter#5** (Process of Identification)