



Naturhistoriska
riksmuseet

Manual for collection, storage and preparation of mosses

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Mosses

Collection

In the Swedish environmental monitoring programme two moss species are collected for metal analysis, Big Red Stem Moss (*Pleurozium schreberi*) is the first choice and Stair-steps Moss (*Hylocomium splendens*) the second. The collection and analyses are accomplished every fifth year.

If the samples can be cleaned within two weeks after sampling, they may be stored in a refrigerator. Otherwise they should be either transferred to plastic bags and dried as soon as possible or stored deep-frozen until further treatment.

Drying

The moss samples are dried in boxes made of laboratory paper. Each sample is placed in a separate box and turned several times until the moss is dry and reach constant weight.

The dried material that is not used for analyses are stored in an environmental specimen bank for future investigations.

To avoid contamination, latex gloves should be used and the mosses should be handled on clean laboratory paper.

No metal tools are used.



Storage

If the moss samples can be cleaned within two weeks after sampling, they may be stored in a refrigerator. If it is not possible to clean the samples within two weeks, the whole sample - including litter, if any - is put in a polythene bag. Seal the bag and freeze the mosses as soon as possible.

For long time storage the moss samples are dried and put in sealed plastic bags together with information about the sample. Species, locality name, coordinates, collecting date, collector and other information that can be interesting.

The moss is stored in a dry place, in room temperature.

Preparation

The samples are dried and then cleaned from dead material and attached litter, so that just the green and green-brown shoots from the three latest years are included

If other moss species are collected, shoots corresponding to three years of growth is recommended to be used for analysis.