

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E901_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

National collections

Are they stored in facilities that reflect accepted museological standards for collection storage? For example, do they all have climate-controlled facilities such as temperature and humidity controls? What are the ambient temperature and humidity ranges recommended for each of the collections?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

National collections

CSIRO's National Biological Collections are stored in facilities with appropriate climate control for the specimens contained in them. Temperature is controlled at all National Biological Collections. Humidity is also controlled in the Australian National Insect Collection but is not required at the other three collections.

The table below describes the temperature and humidity for CSIRO's four major collections:

Collection	Temperature (°C)	Humidity
Australian National Insect Collection	20 – 24	47% – 53%
Australian National Herbarium	20 – 22	Ambient (generally 40% – 60% and can be as low as 25%)
Australian National Fish Collection	15 - 20	Ambient
Australian National Wildlife Collection	18 - 20	Ambient