

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E532_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

- (a) When was the purpose built Herbarium there constructed?
- (b) How large are the collections held there?
- (c) I understand that much of the material, including rare 18th century material was originally transferred from the Queensland Government in order to create an extensive northern Australian collection? Is that correct?
- (d) How many staff are employed there?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Atherton Herbarium

- (a) The Herbarium was built in 1970 and opened in 1971.
 - (b) Circa 125,000 specimens.
 - (c) The specimens in the Atherton collection come from a wide variety of sources, being lodged by a broad range of scientists. However, the vast majority of specimens have been collected by CSIRO staff. The collection does include the Dockerill orchid collection and material donated by the Queensland Forestry Research Institute. There will be discussions about the future location of these collections, with possible movement to Canberra to be negotiated. The Australian National Herbarium, of which the Atherton annex is part, has a policy of avoiding restrictions where possible on collections that it accepts.
- It should also be noted that the 18th Century material is duplicate Banks & Solander material donated by the Natural History Museum in London to the Australian National Herbarium in Canberra. That material is on loan to the Atherton collection.
- (d) Currently two staff members are employed in the Herbarium. This will reduce to one in January with the retirement of one staff member.