

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E557_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

- a) Has any damage occurred to any of these collections- water damage, insect attack, anything?
- b) If so, what was the extent and cost? Where was it reported?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Collections

- a) Generally no. While a small amount of damage is expected in normal operation and use of a collection, there has been no damage that has been considered large or unusual.

There may be some small deterioration of items within collections due to their age, eg. some seeds within the Australian Tree Seed Collection. Also, there may be some minor damage due to handling of fragile specimens.

In order to provide an example of the types of issues that may occur in such collections, a live beetle, with the potential to cause damage to items within an insect collection, was found to be in 2 of the 15,000 drawers containing collection items within the Australian National Insect Collection. Collection management and maintenance procedures are designed to prevent and detect such occurrences.

- b) Not applicable (see above).