Sylvan

13 April 2003

Dr. Dennis E. Desjardin
Director, H. D. Thiers Herbarium
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94132

Dear Dennis,

It is with pleasure that I write to support your proposal to upgrade the specimen storage facilities in the Thiers Herbarium. From the considerable time I've spent in those cabinets I know that improvements in hardware and efficiency are possible and desirable.

Although I have not been a member of the herbarium since 1982, I have continued to deposit significant collections at SFSU over the last 20 years. When I describe new species I send the holotype (occasionally an isotype) collection to SFSU, where they join my 11 other published types and several unpublished type-designates. Further, as Director of the *Agaricus* Resource Program, I chose (in 1988) SFSU to house the voucher collections for this germ plasm resource collection, and have supported the herbarium with numerous modest contributions of ARP funds and/or equipment. Finally, as current work on *Agaricus* phylogeny progresses, vouchers for sequenced material are also being deposited at SFSU.

The Thiers herbarium may well be the most important and most vital of the few fungal herbaria in the western U.S. I believe it has one of the best collections of *Agaricus* of any modern herbarium. Your proposal to upgrade the storage hardware, the protection afforded to this valuable scientific resource collection, and the storage efficiency of the facility is commendable. I wish you success and urge those reviewing this funding proposal to support needed improvements to one of the most significant, and most active, fungal herbaria in America.

Sincerely,

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