

The Department of Biology Greenhouse Facilities

Fresno's most diverse
collection of living plants

Department of Biology

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The Department of Biology Herbarium contains ~35,000 preserved plant specimens that have been collected since the 1920s from locations around the world by important botanists including Charles Quibell.



The Department of Biology Greenhouse Facilities consist of four greenhouses, a lab building with six growth chambers, and an approximately 50,000 gallon pond, all of which are surrounded by nearly a half-acre of gardens.

Botanical conservation

From the Namib Desert of Southern Africa to the tropical understory in Costa Rica, our plant collections conserve flora from around the world



The greenhouses support the instruction of many biological classroom activities and laboratories by providing plant material from the permanent collection or through propagation. One greenhouse is completely dedicated to student and faculty research, a second for the plant propagation, and two contain the majority of the living botanical collection. The growth chambers are dedicated for student and faculty research activities.

The Collection

The largest greenhouse (south east greenhouse) contains the most diverse flora. In here you can find banana trees, begonias, orchids, coffee bushes, gingers, and ferns. This greenhouse also has individual microclimate rooms for specialized plant groups including species from arid climates (Cacti and Euphorbias).

The Epiphyte Greenhouse (north east greenhouse) contains many epiphytic plants and the majority of the orchid, Tillandsia (air plant), and Bromeliad collection. This greenhouse has



large built-in tanks that are home to many types of aquatic plants and pond turtles. Above these tanks hang tropical pitcher plants (*Nepenthes* spp.) that digest insects as a nutrient source.

The native plant collection spreads around the entire property; follow the pathways and look for plant labels describing the unique features of the Central Valley Environment. Make sure to also look at the newest addition to the pond, the meadow/fen, and check out the types of plants it contains.



Other than Plants...

Birds, lizards, squirrels, fish, turtles, and a variety of insects also live at the Greenhouse Facilities. The featherwing beetles (Family Ptiliidae) are the smallest beetles known to biologists. The smallest beetle in the family has a body length of about 1/64 inches (0.4 mm). We have a representative of this family, which is a relative "giant" (about 3/64 inches long), living in the decaying vegetation near trees at the south end of the greenhouse property (image at left; scale is in mm).