BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
509 Pecan Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4060 USA
Tel: 817-332-4441, Fax: 817-332-4112, E-mail: jjanovec@brit.org
http://www.brit.org & http://www.botanypages.org

Conserving the herbaria of BRIT, SMU, and VDB

Contract: Plant Identification Services

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (hereafter referred to as "BRIT") offers its services to identify plant specimens on a contract basis to businesses, corporations, conservation agencies, environmental and ecological consulting firms, nature writers, and others (hereafter referred to as "the client") needing such professional services.

BRIT agrees to spend a maximum of 30 minutes to identify each specimen to the narrowest taxonomic category that the quality of the specimen will allow. In most cases, a well-collected fertile specimen (with either flowers or fruits/seed-heads or both) can be identified to species. Certain genera may require a particular life-stage or structure to be identified to species. Sterile specimens may not be identifiable to species, genus, or even family. If the specimen cannot be identified to species within 30 minutes, BRIT agrees to consult the client before taking any further action on the specimen. This contract does not obligate BRIT in any way to prepare typed/printed specimen labels, nor to accession specimens into the herbarium. If appropriate, and agreeable to the client, BRIT might like to keep a duplicate specimen if it is unusual, threatened, rare, or endangered.

The client agrees to submit dried, pressed specimens in newsprint folders or mounted onto herbarium sheets per standard botanical practice. Accurate collection localities and dates are also to be provided by the client. Prior to signing the contract, the client agrees to state any deadlines for completion of the identification project. The client also agrees to allow BRIT to freeze the specimens for four days upon arrival.

The client may choose to pay any of the three following rates:

1) $15/specimen 2) $50/hour 3) $300/day

The client agrees to confer with BRIT concerning specimens that cannot be identified within 30 minutes. If the client agrees for BRIT to continue work on a specimen above 30 minutes to obtain a more precise identification, the work will be charged at $50/hour. If the client wishes to have the specimen sent to a specialist for identification, a flat fee of $100/specimen will be charged.

Name _____

Institution/Company _____

Address _____

Number of days expected for facility use_____

Reason for visit _____

Signature _____ Date _____

BRIT Staff Signature _____ Date _____

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