



Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide (Essential Forensic Science)

By David W. Hall, Jason Byrd

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Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide is an accessible introduction to the way in which botanical evidence is identified, collected and analysed in criminal cases. Increasingly this form of evidence is becoming more important in forensic investigation and yet there are few trained botanists able to assist in such cases. This book is intended to show how useful simple collection methods and standard plant analysis can be in the course of such investigations and is written in a clear and accessible manner to enhance understanding of the subject for the non-specialist.

Clearly structured throughout, this book combines well known collection techniques in a field oriented format that can be used for casework. Collection of evidence differs from formal plant collection in that most professional plant collectors are gathering entire plants or significant portions of a plant for permanent storage and reference. Evidence frequently consists of fragments, sometimes exceedingly tiny. Exemplars (examples of reference plants) are collections of plants made in the manner a botanist would collect them. These collections are necessary to link or exclude evidence to or from a scene. Various methods that allow easy collection, transportation, and preservation of evidence are detailed throughout the book.

This book is written for those who have no formal background working with plants. It can be used as a practical guide for students taking forensic science courses, law enforcement training, legal courses, and as a template for plant collection at any scene where plants occur and where rules or laws are involved. Veterinarians, various environmental agencies, anthropologists, and archeologists are examples of disciplines that are more recently in need of plant evidence. Veterinarians are becoming more active in pursuing cases of animals that have been abused or are victims of illegal killing. Anthropologists and archeologists are often called to help with body recovery in outdoor environments. Environmental agencies are increasingly forced to adopt rules for resource protection, are in need of a guide for procedures for plant evidence collection and application.

The format of the book is designed to present the reader with all the information

needed to conduct a botanical analysis of a crime scene; to highlight the forensic significance of the botanical evidence that may be present; how to collect that evidence in the correct manner and preserve and store that evidence appropriately- also shows how to conduct a laboratory analysis of the plants.

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Editorial Review

Review

“This book entitled **Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide** is an excellent guide and teaching tool for biological evidence training, a resource for scientists, law enforcement and attorneys alike, and review material before trial. Forensic guidelines for plant material are limited and training is specialized; therefore, this truly is an excellent, readable scientific guide for the forensic community.” (*Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 1 July 2013)

From the Back Cover

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- An accessible practical guide to the collection, analysis and presentation of botanical evidence within forensic investigation.
- Aimed at the non-specialist looking for an introduction to the field.
- Written in a clear and logical manner; what is it? Where can you find help? How can you use plant evidence? Why is this kind of plant important? Where to look for evidence; Evidence collection made easy; evidence preservation; evidence transportation; Chain of custody.
- Includes evidence collection data sheet and a laboratory analysis data sheet for use in the field.
- Includes key chapters on microscopy analysis of plant evidence and on DNA collection, use and relative costs.
- Numerous relevant case studies included to show forensic botany in practice and how to present botanical

evidence in court.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold Graham:

This Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide (Essential Forensic Science) book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide (Essential Forensic Science) without we know teach the one who looking at it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide (Essential Forensic Science) can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide (Essential Forensic Science) having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Leigh Brown:

This Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide (Essential Forensic Science) is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it facts accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Forensic Botany: A Practical Guide (Essential Forensic Science) in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no guide that offer you world within ten or fifteen minute right but this reserve already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

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