

Research Day | March 15, 2017

Title: Comparative anatomy of branch, root and wood of NWC trees and shrubs – used in artifacts-conservation concerns

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Abstract:

Three years ago- working with a paleoethnobotany archaeological student, Jenny Cohen, at UVic; the goal was species identification of 35 finger sized , 10,000 year old woody artifacts. Tree trunk wood is easy to identify but these were mostly branch material, badly deteriorated and fragmented.

There was no literature of comparative anatomy of NWC tree branch and roots. I decided to make an illustrated book-using images from prepared microscope slides , and include conservation concerns and ethnographic use. I obtained a few samples from First Nations through Dr. Nancy Turner at UVic.

I applied for and received an American Institute of Conservation Samuel Kress Fellowship to write the book.

While writing the book I also presented at professional conservation meetings, five short papers on specific topics in the book. I did this to check their significance and clarity for the book.

The book includes, 10 chapters, 20 species, 260 colored photomicrographs, conservation concerns, deterioration, glossary, and bibliography. It is useful for conservators, curators, archaeologists, botanists , biology teachers and forestry

I perused possible ways to publish the book quickly: RBCM, UVic, professional societies, commercial publishing, self publishing, and finally UBC Digital Library at UBC. They explained everything to me and I sent a USB in early July to the Digital Repository Librarian. The book was Google searchable by the end of July 2016. After several weeks it had over 1000 hits and 600 down loads. What a joy for an author.

I will show three examples from the book: the comparison of adventitious and true roots used in weaving; the use of branch pith shapes in identification of species ; and the use of fragments such as sclereids in identification of species.

