

Understanding and improving the conservation of the intraspecific variation of imperiled plants in ex situ collections

This project focuses on six priority plant species of conservation concern in the ex situ conservation program at MBG, representing a diverse array of plant life-histories, geographic ranges, and curation challenges in botanical garden collections. In each species, we are measuring adaptive and neutral intraspecific variation, both in genotypes and phenotypes. We are using this information along with computational approaches (simulated annealing), to design ex situ collections that maximize the representation of different kinds of intraspecific variation under real-life limitations of living collections.

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