

Industry placement profile

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CSIRO Australian National Herbarium and Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra

As part of the third year of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Ecology, at La Trobe Universities Albury-Wodonga campus, students must participate in 160 hours of industry placement.

As part of my placement I spent four weeks, at the CSIRO Australian National Herbarium and the Australian National Botanic Gardens both of which are situated in Canberra. The Herbarium has an extensive collection of both Australian and overseas flora specimens. One of the most exciting specimens that I saw, was a specimen collected by Robert Brown on 11th January 1802, in Lucky Bay, east of Esperance Bay in Western Australia. The plant *Verticordia brownie* was a type (original) specimen collected on Matthew Flinders circumnavigation of Australia 1801 – 1803.



For someone who is plant orientated this was a pretty overwhelming moment!!

Work consisted of filing returned specimens from Australia and around the world and documenting specimens which needed to go on loan to other herbariums. During this placement I was also fortunate to gain experience in keying out flora from the PROTEACEAE family in Australia. The main part of this was spent identifying *Hakae* species, which have very diverse and interesting characteristics, such as leaves which are twisted 90° on their petioles (stems).