

How to take good and bad photos of plants for online identification

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Rutgers University

Magnification & photography – lenses, lenses...



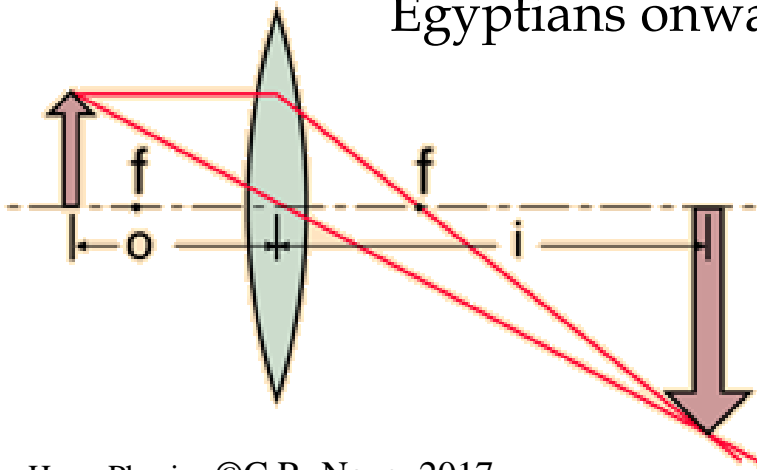
© Jason R Grant, 2001



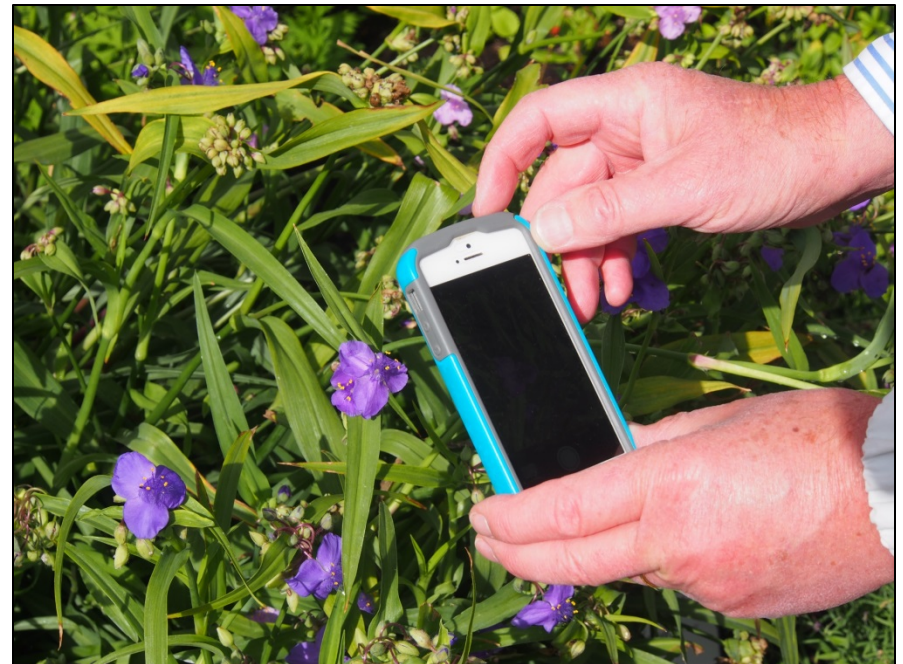
Magnifying glass at Linnaeus' Hammarby, Uppsala, Sweden © Lena Struwe, 2017.

Magnification & photography – lens history

Egyptians onwards...



HyperPhysics ©C.R. Nave, 2017



Magnification methods at Linnaeus' Hammarby, Uppsala, Sweden © Lena Struwe, 2017.

Macrolens for smartphones



Bryonia alba at Linnaeus' Hammarby, Uppsala, Sweden, © Lena Struwe, 2017.

15x microscope lens for smartphones



Bryonia alba at Linnaeus' Hammarby, Uppsala, Sweden

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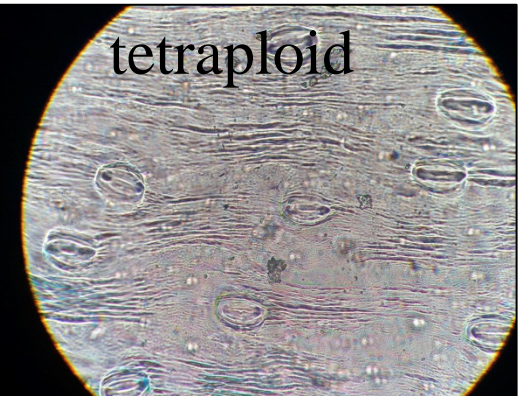
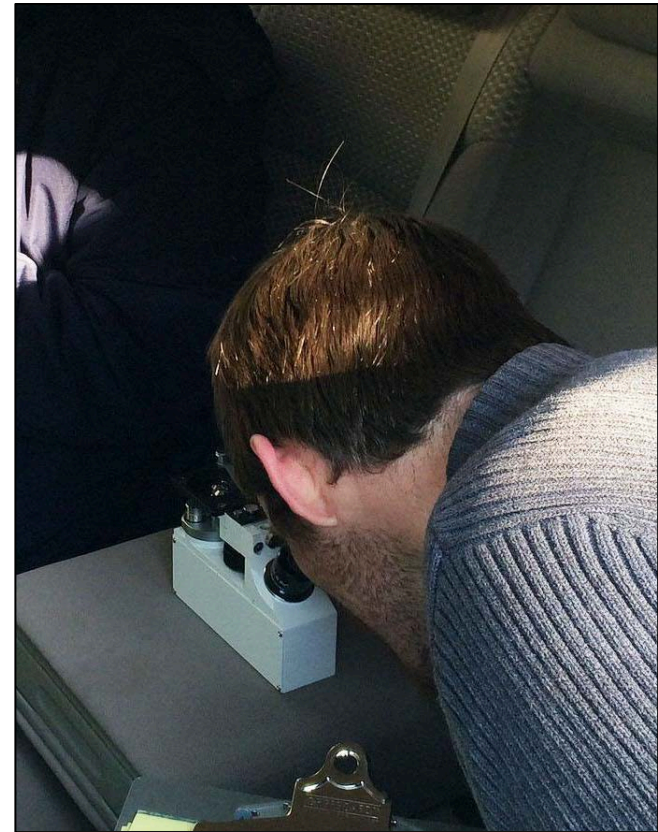
Field microscopes



Elizabeth Britton using a microscope , 1890
© NYBG library.



Collapsible field dissecting
microscope © Nikon



40x field microscope used in car in the field to check ploidy levels using stomata sizes, with photos taken by iphone. © Alan Prather

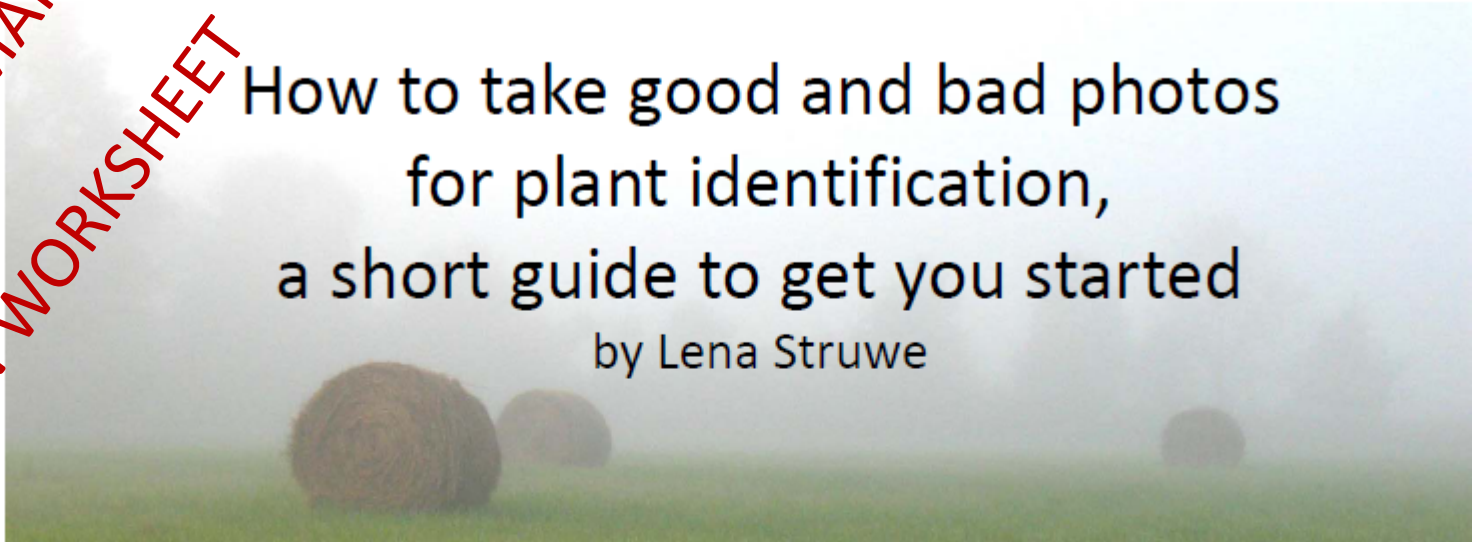
Measuring – biggest, tallest, smallest



Homemade weatherproof business card-sized ruler made in lamination machine.
© Lena Struwe, 2017.

Ruler, grayscale, and color indicator at Linnaeus' Hammarby, Uppsala, Sweden
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How to take good and bad photos for plant identification, a short guide to get you started by Lena Struwe

Digital photos are useful for plant identification using digital and online tools (Facebook, iNaturalist, EoL, Flickr, etc.), as proof of scientific observations, and as a learning and memory aid for yourself and others. However, many photos posted as part of identification questions are not only bad, but sometimes horrible. To take good plant ID photos, follow these general guidelines:

The goal is to take photos that are:

INFORMATIVE and **CONTENT-RICH**: photograph all parts of the plant, several photos of same plant; upper and lower sides of leaves, special detail close-ups.

CLEAR and **NOT MESSY**: avoid lots of other 'green things', if possible, have a uniform background

IN FOCUS: be aware of what your camera focuses on, don't get too close with the camera, be aware of your settings and the focal depth of your camera, do not focus on the background, for small parts hold them in your hand to help with focus, avoid shaky hands which leads to out of focus (hold still!).

ZOOMED/CROPPED: zoom in when needed, but often better to take a photo at less zoom with good focus first, instead of zooming in with the camera, and

Good or bad
photo for ID?

Discuss.



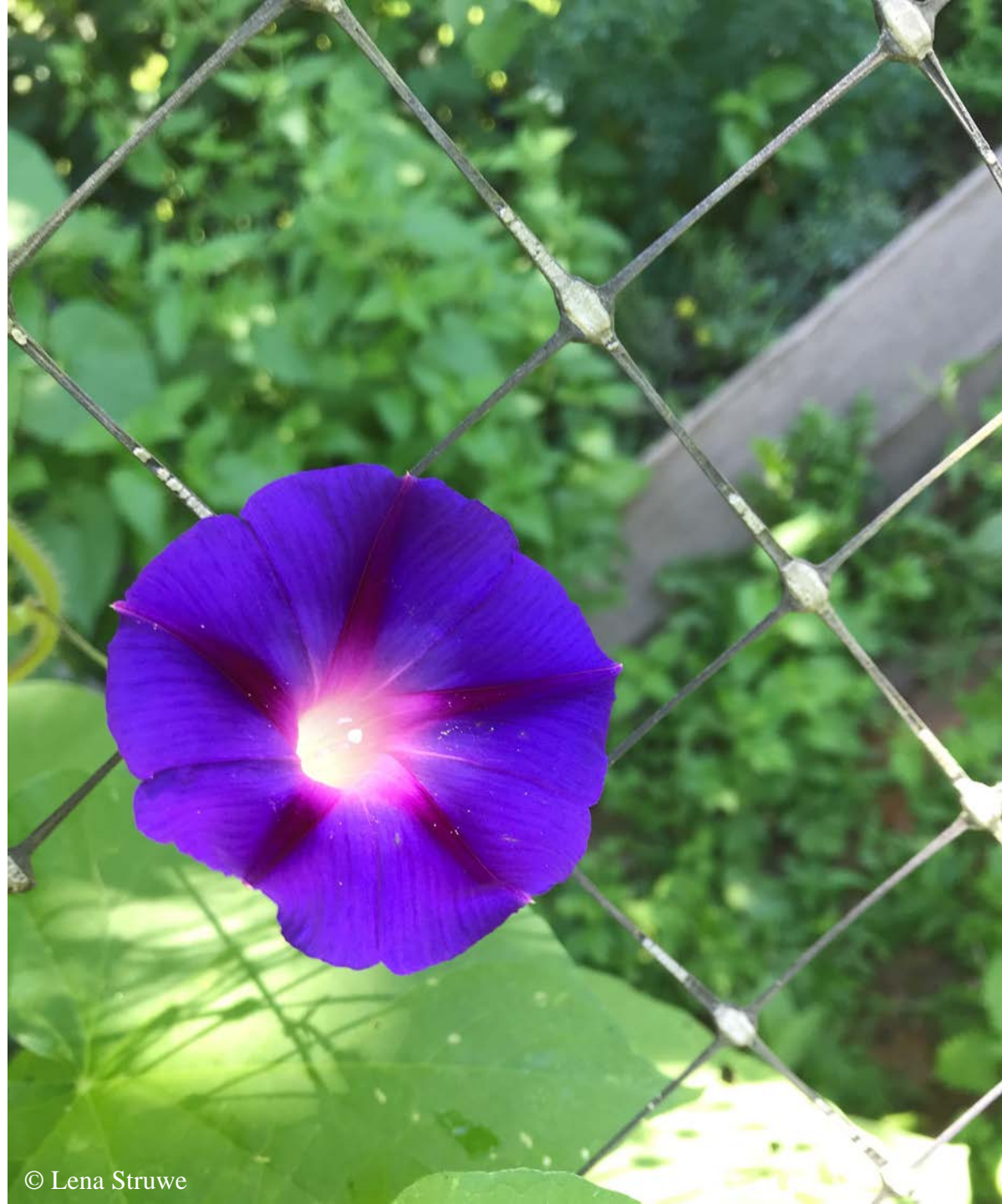
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