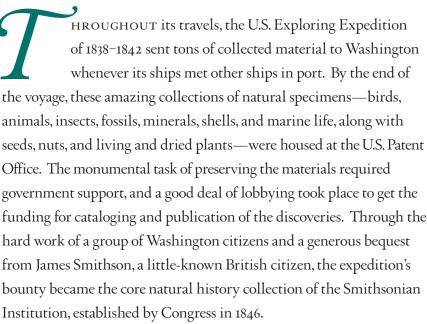
The U.S. Botanic Garden and the Smithsonian



The plant materials from the expedition were divided: preserved plant specimens (called herbarium specimens) and botanical art went to the Smithsonian; live plants and propagation specimens went to the Botanic Garden. In the years since, these two independent institutions have benefited and complemented one another. Today a formal relationship recognizes the common origins and unifies the strengths of both entities. The Department of Botany at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, is an international research and education center in the botanical sciences, specializing in plant taxonomy and classification. It also has become an international center for plant biodiversity studies and conservation. The U.S. Botanic Garden is a major botanical exhibition center that displays the biodiversity of world plants to more than 750,000 visitors each year. It also oversees a twenty-fiveacre production nursery facility where live plants can be cultivated and studied. The Botanic Garden is able to educate visitors about the Smithsonian's botanical work and plant collections by highlighting the actual plants that result from the exploration and conservation efforts of Smithsonian scientists. Together these institutions are developing a number of programs for research and exhibitions.





(ABOVE)

Dissection of the titan arum (Amorphophallus titanum).

Smithsonian botanist Dr. Dan Nicolson prepares to dissect the Botanic Garden's titan arum in front of a group of visiting science teachers. The dissected and pressed plant was preserved at the Smithsonian as a herbarium specimen.

 $(\,{\scriptscriptstyle L\,E\,F\,T}\,)$

GINGER (Smithatris myanmarensis).

Smithsonian scientists launch expeditions to remote areas of the globe, where they continue to discover new species of plants, such as this ginger identified by Dr. John Kress in Myanmar. These rare plants are cultivated at the Botanic Garden Production Facility and put on display in the Conservatory.