The Rutgers Mycological Herbarium has been estimated to contain more than 40,000 fungal collections. The Collection dates back to the period when Dr. Byron D. Halsted began as chairman of the, then newly founded, Rutgers Botany Department in 1889. The department was and still is housed within the framework of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

There are over 3000 specimens in the Rutgers collection of North American Uredinales. This group known as rust fungi, contain many species that cause diseases on plants of economic importance. This particular species, Puccinia desmanthodi Diet. & Holw was described from this very collection.

The history of the collection and its relation to agriculture is reflected by its abundance of plant pathogenic species. The collection is an accumulation of specimens acquired through exchange with collectors and by receiving exsiccata from around the world.

Many specimens of New Jersey macro-fungi come from the collections of the New Jersey Mycological Association. These contributions are helping to build a representative collection of the many species that grow in New Jersey.

Mycological research is strongly represented in the Plant Biology and pathology department. Researchers conduct diverse studies on a wide range of topics including:

- Inheritance of fungal resistance cell death in the hypersensitive response of plants to pathogens
- Evolution in Clavicipitaceae (Ascomycetes)
- Fungal-plant symbiotic interactions
- Defense of grasses using plant endophytes
- Phylogenetic relationships within and between *Epichloe* and *Neotyphodium* endophytes
- The mycorrhizal endosymbiosis
- Phenology of the mummy berry fungus
- Apothecium development for populations of *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*
- Variation and heritability of phenology in fungus *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi* on blueberry
- Identification of epiphyllous mycelial nets on leaves of grasses infected by clavicipitaceous endophytes
- Genotype responses and plant characteristics associated with dollar spot resistance in creeping bentgrass.

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