NATURMEDICINSK MUSEUM  
(MUSEUM OF NATURAL MEDICINE & THE PHARMACOGNOSTIC COLLECTION)

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Remarks:
Website in Danish and English.  
It is the expressed desire of the Museum of Natural Medicine to expand the network with other similar collections and engage in research projects in the area.

History of the collection (Jens Soelberg):
As a university collection, the pharmacognostic collection in Copenhagen dates back to 1892, though many of the objects are considerably older. It has been growing continuously and counts at present more than 6000 pharmacognostic objects, mainly of plant origin. In 1994, it was catalogued in a searchable database. In 2008, a curator was assigned and the collection was divided into a store-section and a public museum exhibition named Museum of Natural Medicine (or NaturMedicinsk Museum).  
The Museum exhibits ca. 600 plants and some animal drugs, organized into themes such as “Modern drugs of natural origin”, “Research”, “Danish folk medicine”, “Drugs and stimulants”, etc, and a separate section of rarities and obscurities. The museum is open to the public once a week (free entrance) and pharmacy students are employed as guides. The museum receives around 1000 visitors per year, and hosts academic lectures, events, exams as well as being part of the Faculty’s outreach program for secondary schools. The exhibited part of the collection is furthermore used in the course Pharmacognosy/Natural Products Chemistry for pharmacy students.

The stored collection is organized alphabetically by genus names within the drug categories (herba, cortex, resin, etc.), a technical reference collection and a number of special collections. These special collections include the “Reddelien collection”, which comprises the entire inventory of a Danish apothecary from 1825, the “Albert H. Riise of especially neotropical medicinal plants” (1868), the “Clemensen collection” of Brazilian medicinal plants” (1898-1918), the “Hjalmar Jensen collection” of SE Asian medicinal plants (1923), a considerable Cinchona-collection, the “Paulsen collection” of Central Asian medicinal plants (1899) as well as a new collection of Afghan medicinal plants (2010).

The special collections regularly contribute to recent as well as ongoing historical, ethnobotanical and pharmacological research.