

# About the author



**Celeste Dufour**

## ...and the making of Michigan Trees

I'm Celeste Dufour, a 3rd year Biochemistry/Biotechnology student at Michigan State University and intern at the MSU Herbarium. I have been interested in digital art and design for many years. When I started at the Herbarium in September of 2019, I was drawn to the aesthetic value of plants and wanted to find ways to use the MSU Herbarium's specimens as art. I completed some smaller projects that merged art and botany and also spent many hours on digitization projects; these both helped me learn how to work with specimens as digital media.

COVID-19 meant our outreach at the MSU Herbarium had to grow in new ways to accommodate virtual learning, instead of the usual in-person events or tours. It also meant that my previous project to create displays for the Herbarium was not as worthwhile, given we couldn't have visitors. Fall 2020 I brainstormed new project ideas that incorporated both specimens as art and our social media. This led to the coloring book Michigan Trees!

I thoroughly enjoyed creating this book and getting to flex my creative muscles through the whole process by working with and learning about a wide variety of specimens. I hope those who put this book together and color in the pages, or color in even just a single page, not only find enjoyment in it, but also feel inspired to learn about and appreciate herbaria, the specimens they contain, and some of Michigan's wonderful native trees.

---

# Thank you

A great big thank you goes out to all who have helped move this project along smoothly by providing support, advice, and assistance.

Thank you to Dr. Alan Prather, Matt Chansler and Ben Mitchell at the MSU Herbarium, and you, for making these specimens your own.

*Acer ginnala*



*Acer campestre*



*Acer saccharinum*



*Acer spicatum*



*Acer negundo*



*Acer rubrum*

*Acer nigrum*



*Acer plantanoides*



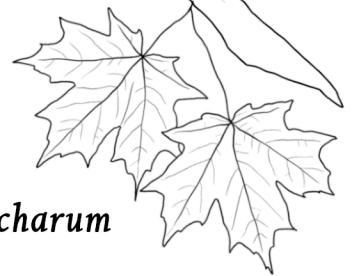
*Acer pensylvanicum*



*Acer pseudo-platanus*



*Acer saccharum*



<https://herbarium.natsci.msu.edu/>  
Copyright © Celeste Dufour  
All rights reserved.