

FFA Teaching collections

Pinned versus Papered

Which to choose?

We frequently get asked about the pinned versus the papered collections, and it really comes down to how the teacher wishes to use the specimens. From our past sales we sell almost equal numbers of the pinned versus papered kits, so no guide there on which teachers prefer.

For the pinned it's usually teachers who prefer to have students study them through the cases that the specimens come mounted in. Specimens can still be taken out and observed under a microscope, but they are then more fragile if dropped.

But for papered, specimens are packaged and not always easy to see very well without unpacking. This means specimens once removed from packaging are loose (not secured on a pin for handling). So, they are not as easy to just look at like in a case. But if you want to have students work with them under a stereomicroscope this option can sometimes be easier (particularly for the "wet" specimens in the alcohol vials). Thankfully even those vials you should in most cases be able to see the specimen decently well without having to remove them from the vial (we use museum quality archival vials with polyseal caps so they should never evaporate and are nice and clear for specimen viewing).

I know this doesn't really give a suggestion one way or another but hopefully it helps you out based on what style of instruction you are aiming for!

As for the species currently out of stock, our inventory is constantly fluctuating and I may get them in next week, or may not see them again for several years. Unfortunately, with biological specimens there is no way to predict when I might collect them again or a colleague might catch them for me.

Hope this helps a little!