

*The Society for*



**ECONOMIC BOTANY, INC.**

DEDICATED TO THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY PEOPLE

**GUIDELINES OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS  
SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY**

Adopted Summer, 1995

In conducting their research, economic botanists often must confront difficult ethical issues related both to their daily collection needs and methods, and to the dissemination and use of their findings. Since economic botanists are a diverse group with greatly varying scientific backgrounds and professional affiliations, their ethical problems are both diverse and complex. This document presents guidelines for professional behavior for members of the SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY.

**1. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC.**

- A. They will strive to use their knowledge, skills, and training to enhance the well-being of human kind. They will specifically refuse to work professionally on any research that in their knowledge or judgment will result in harm being done to anyone.
- B. They will strive to maintain professional competence and will not offer advice on subjects on which they are uninformed.
- C. They will not engage in nor allow the dissemination of information about economic botany that is false, misleading, or exaggerated.

**2. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THOSE STUDIED.**

- A. They will communicate clearly and honestly to all with whom they work the objectives and possible consequences of their research. If the research has a commercial objective, researchers will make that explicit to those studied and will disclose what the commercial results might reasonably be expected to be.
- B. They will comply with all rules and limitations that local people, their communities, or their institutions place on the research. They will not "trick" people into revealing "secret" information. They will offer to supply any reports or materials resulting from the research.
- C. They will respect any request for confidence made by those providing data or materials, provided that the maintenance of such confidence does not compromise other ethical considerations.
- D. They will respect individuals' right to anonymity and privacy of those they work with when it is requested.
- E. When materials or information obtained from those people can reasonably be expected to have a commercial payoff, they will arrange with employers for equitable economic compensation for those who have provided the information and/or plants and will do all in their power to ensure that compensation is paid.

**3. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER HOST INSTITUTIONS.**

- A. They will comply honestly and completely with all regulations requesting disclosure of project objectives, sponsorship and methods, as well as supply reports and specimens to perform specified services (e.g., seminars and training).
- B. They will, when the situation requires, make clear that they will not compromise their professional ethics as a condition of their receiving clearance to do research. Specifically, they will provide no secret information or reports that might jeopardize people they have worked with or other individuals.
- C. They will assist their collaborators in enhancing the physical and human resources of their institutions.

**4. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PROFESSION.**

- A. They will maintain a level of integrity and professional behavior in the field so as not to jeopardize future research by others.
- B. They will not present as their own the work of others.
- C. They will not allow, to the limits of their abilities, their materials to be used for fraudulent or harmful purposes.

**5. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCH THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE ETHICAL GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY.**

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SEB is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization registered in the state of NY.

The Society for Economic Botany (SEB) was established in 1959 to foster and encourage scientific research, education, and related activities on the past, present, and future uses of plants, and the relationship between plants and people, and to make the results of such research available to the scientific community and the general public through meetings and publications.