



## Criminalistics Section – 2007

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### **B110 Plant Poaching**

*Robert D. Blackledge, MS\*, 8365 Sunview Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021; and James E. Corbin, BA, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Sylva, NC 28779*

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the scope of the international/national problem of plant poaching; the international/national conventions and statutes pertaining to plant poaching; the elements of the crime of plant poaching; and the role of the criminalist in the prosecution of plant poaching cases.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by increasing awareness of the international scope of plant poaching, the conventions and statutes that may apply, the elements of the crime (what the prosecution must show), and the role of criminalists in the marking, detection, and identification of plants subject to theft.

The theft and trade in endangered, exotic, and commercially valuable plants is a huge national and international problem. The international forensic science community needs to become aware of this problem, to exert their expertise towards the prevention of plant poaching, and to provide means of detection and identification of poached plants so that violators may be successfully prosecuted. The audience will be told of the scope of this problem, illustrated by a few specific cases. They will also be made aware of the applicable major international/national conventions and statutes, and the elements of the crime that must be proved if prosecution is to be successful. Specifically of interest to criminalists, the talk will conclude with marking/detection/identification methods that have led to successful prosecutions, and offer hints of future approaches.

**Plants, Poaching, Detection**