Annual Report of the Merit Awards Committee 
of the Botanical Society of America (BSA) for 2002.

The Committee included myself as Acting Chair, Maxine Watson, Christopher Campbell, and Judy Jernstedt, BSA President, *ex officio*.

We received only one Merit Award nomination this year, and that was one that was being reconsidered from 2001. This nomination was submitted before last year's meeting, but it arrived quite late in the process and because there was only one supporting letter, the committee decided that more extensive documentation would be needed before rendering a decision. Unfortunately, no more letters were included with the resubmitted nomination. The committee felt that the nominations require corroborating commentary from a diversity of colleagues to that the impact that the nominees have made on Botany or on the BSA can be assessed adequately. The committee decided that without a more extensive dossier, we could not determine whether the nominee had made "outstanding contributions to botanical science" (quote from the description of the Merit Awards in the BSA Bylaws). Therefore no Merit Award will be presented this year.

Respectfully submitted

Christopher Haufler
 Acting Chair, BSA Merit Awards Committee