Annual Report of the Ecological Section – 2012
A Summary of the Ecological Section’s Activities in 2011-2012

1. Business Meeting conducted during Botany 2010 meeting, at Providence, RI. Topics at this meeting included:
   a. **Call for and discussion of ideas for Symposia for Botany 2012 meeting:** Section members were reminded that symposia proposals for Botany 2012 would be due to the Executive Committee by August 30, 2011. There was some discussion of sponsorship. Given the limited funds available for financial sponsorship, members decided symposia must have a clear plant ecological link, and that the majority of the funds should go to a proposal originating from the Ecological Section. Symposia proposal submissions from students were strongly encouraged.

   b. **Student Awards:**
      1) Student travel award winners for Botany 2011 were recognized: Rupesh Kariyat (Penn State University) and Benjamin Vanderweide (Kansas State University). The judges were thanked.
      2) Student presentation and poster awards for Botany 2010 were announced: Best Poster: Amy Campbell, the Ohio State University, co-author Dr. Allison Snow; Best Presentation: Amy Davidson, the Australian National University, coauthor Dr. Adrienne Nicotra. The judges were thanked.

   c. **Secretary/Program Chair election was held:** Cynthia Huebner’s term ended in 2011, thus the Chair called for nominations. Chris Meloche was nominated and later elected to this position.

   d. **Fund Raising:** Discussion focused on fund raising for student awards. Diane Byers indicated she would be willing to form a subcommittee to gather ideas. Claudia Jolls and Eric Morgan volunteered to serve on this committee. Section members were encouraged to make donations to the Section. Claudia Jolls offered matching funds up to $500 for donations made by Section members.

   e. **Student Involvement:** Students involvement has increased in the Section, with more than 70 student presentations and posters this year. Judges for student presentation and posters were thanked.

   g. **Student Presentation and Poster Awards:** Rebecca Drenovsky indicated that funds had been secured from LICOR to support student awards on an annual basis. Chris Martine recommended having an undergraduate award. This recommendation was seconded. Claudia Jolls recommended that the Section should choose on an annual basis whether or not this award would be granted, based on the number of undergraduate submissions. There was general consensus that $200 each would be awarded to the best graduate student paper and poster and $100 for the best undergraduate presentation (paper or poster).
f. Announcements and Information:
   i. As announced at the BSA Board Meeting, Sections need to review their by-laws to ensure they are consistent with the by-laws recently adopted by the Society. Diane Byers is working on this process.
   ii. Corresponding Member is awarded to outstanding people in their field that live and work outside of the US. Section members were encouraged to nominate potential corresponding members, as well as to nominate BSA members for other Society awards.
   iii. The BSA office will be working more closely with Sections to help ensure financial stability.
   iv. BSA has a new committee on policies. They welcome input from members.
   v. BSA 2012 will be held in Columbus, OH; BSA 2013, in New Orleans, LA.

2. Student Awards for Botany 2011
   a. Student Travel Awards ($400 each)
      i. Rupesh Kariyat, Penn State University, University Park, PA - Advisor, Dr. Andrew Stephenson - Botany 2011 presentation: "Volatile mediated indirect defense signaling is disrupted by inbreeding and genetic variation in Horsenettle (Solanum carolinense L)."
      ii. Benjamin Vanderweide, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS - Advisor, Dr. Carolyn Ferguson - Botany 2011 presentation: "Mark-recapture analysis of herbarium data from the northern Flint Hills of Kansas, USA."
   b. Student Presentation Awards
      i. Steven Callen, St. Louis University, for Best Graduate Student Poster “Assessing the environmental niches of native and introduced Pueraria montana (kudzu).” Co-authors: Jason Knouft and Allison Miller. ($200)
      ii. John Stanton-Geddes, University of Minnesota, for Best Graduate Student Presentation, “Ecological and genetic contributions to range limits in Chamaecrista fasciculata” Co-authors: Peter Tiffin and Ruth Shaw. ($200)
      iii. Brandi Cannon, Sam Houston State University, for Best Undergraduate Presentation, “Aroma, and flavor: Investigation of host cues in the orientation and establishment of Phoradendron serotinum (Viscaceae).” Co-Authors: Jessica Garrison, James Sopas, Timothy Verestegui, Christopher Randle.

3. Sponsored symposia:
   a. At Botany 2011 we sponsored or co-sponsored two symposia.
      i. “Plant reproductive strategies under environmental stress”. Organizers: Arathi, H.S. and Brenda Molano-Flores
      ii. “Advances in plant systematics and population genomics: Applications of next generation techniques” (in name only)
   b. For Botany 2012 we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring four symposia:
      i. “Ecological interactions affecting the evolution of plant mating systems: Current research and future directions”. Organizers: Rupesh Kariyat, Jordan Sinclair
ii. “Transplantations and relocation of species at risk: learning from the past to plan for the future”. Organizer: Liette Vasseur

iii. “Rhizosphere interactions: the root microbiome”. Organizers: Darlene Southworth, Hughes Massicotte

iv. “Water transport in plants at multiple scales: A physiological, ecological, and evolutionary appraisal”. Organizers: Brendan Pratt, Peter Melcher (in name only)

6. At Botany 2012 there are 58 posters or presentations in the Ecological Section sessions, 26 posters or presentations in the Pollination Biology sessions, and 24 posters or presentations in the Conservation Biology sessions.

7. The student travel awards to attend Botany 2012 at $400 each were given to:
   i. **Roxaneh Khorsand Rosa**, Florida International University, Miami FL—“Floral biology and pollination of an agroforestry palm, *Mauritia flexuosa*: why field observations are not enough!”. Co-authors: Suzanne Koptur, Reinaldo Imbrozio Barbosa.


Respectfully Submitted, Rebecca E. Drenovsky, 28 June 2012