

**Botanical Society of America Systematics Section
Annual Report for 2018-2019
Section Chair: Anna K. Monfils
Section Secretary: Harvey Ballard, Jr.
Submission Date: 12 July, 2019**

In November of 2019, Laura Ingram completed her responsibilities as Systematics Section Chair for the Botanical Society of America (BSA) and the role transitioned to Anna Monfils. Harvey Ballard, Jr. continued his dual role as BSA Section Secretary and ASPT Program Director.

Systematics continues to have a strong program at the annual Botany conferences. For Botany 2019, there are five specialty topic categories for contributed talks besides the broader “Systematics” topic, which is phylogenetically organized and to which the majority of talks are submitted. For the third year in a row, “Biodiversity Informatics” and “Herbarium Digitization” were merged, resulting a half-day session. Similarly, for the second year in a row, “Floristics” and “Taxonomy” were merged to create a moderately full half-day session. “Biogeography” and “Macroevolution” both continue to be popular; each had plenty of talks for a full half-day session, and a third hybrid half-day session was created to accommodate the extras from the two. “Phylogenomics” continues to be a strong topic as well, with submissions making up two full half-day sessions. Enough talks were submitted to “Systematics” to fill three half-day sessions spread over the three-day contributed talks schedule. Several systematics-related symposia and colloquia plus the 11 half-day systematics-related contributed talk sessions have led to a Botany conference program that promises to be of interest to the broader systematics community.

As shown in the table below, 133 contributed talk submissions and 77 poster submissions were received for the 2019 Conference (excluding the “late-breaking” venue), totaling 210 submissions. While “Biodiversity Informatics/Herbarium Digitization” and “Macroevolution” remained close to last year in numbers of talk and poster submissions, “Biogeography” and “Floristics & Taxonomy” went up, principally in poster submissions. “Phylogenomics” dropped by a few talk submissions, and “Systematics” declined by a significant number of both talk and poster submissions. Overall, the total number of submissions was nearly the same as last year, with a decrease in talks this year canceling out the increase in posters.

	Total '19 ('18, '17)	Talks '19 ('18, '17)	Posters '19 ('18, '17)
Biodiversity Inform./Herb. Digit.	24 (24, 11)	13 (12, 8)	11 (12, 3)
Biogeography	29 (24, 23)	15 (14, 14)	14 (10, 9)
Floristics/Taxonomy	23 (13, N/A)	10 (13, N/A)	13 (0, N/A)
Macroevolution	21 (19, 11)	17 (16, 11)	4 (3, 0)
Phylogenomics	35 (41, 20)	25 (32, 18)	10 (9, 2)
Systematics general category	78 (94, 65)	53 (62, 44)	25 (32, 21)
TOTAL FOR SYSTEMATICS S. L.	210 (215, 130)	133 (149, 95)	77 (66, 35)

On behalf of the systematics section, 14 Colloquia and 10 symposia were reviewed, and the systematics symposia were ranked. The section committed \$200 towards the “Green Land: Multiple Perspectives on Green Algal Evolution and the Earliest Land Plants” symposium and \$400 towards the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative.

This year, the BSA provided funding support to three symposia and name-only support to most of the colloquia and symposia as well. Below the funding provided for symposia and colloquia by BSA (including the Systematics Sections) and or ASPT are noted:

SYMPOSIA	ASPT funds	BSA funds
Life without water: evolution and adaptation of xeric plants	\$950	\$2000
Crop Wild Relatives and Land Races: the Sky Islands of Southwest North American Agriculture	\$800	\$2000
Green Land: Multiple Perspectives on Green Algal Evolution and the Earliest Land Plants.	\$650	\$2200
COLLOQUIA		
Celebrating 15 years of SERNEC: Where we've been, where we are, & where we are going	\$200	0
Pacific Biogeography	\$200	0
Ericaceae: Systematics, Ecology and Evolution	\$200	0

Again this year, ASPT and BSA will support student participation in field trips associated with the Botany 2019 conference.

Currently, before paying out any travel awards or expenses for the 2019 symposia/colloquia, the section has \$26,739.

Respectfully submitted by: Anna Monfils