

## **Ecology Section Annual Report**

Brenda Molano-Flores, Chair

Uromi Manage Goodale, Vice-Chair

Cynthia Huebner, Secretary

In 2020, the Ecology section officers responded to any request from the BSA leadership. In addition, emails were sent to the membership as needed. Our main focus was the BOTANY 2020 meeting and to adjust to the virtual format. As a section, we did not provide support for any of the colloquia and symposia at BOTANY 2020. In addition, we did not award any of the four (\$500) Ecology Student Travel Awards.

The Ecology section had a good year at BOTANY 2020, although presentation numbers were lower than in 2019 (i.e., total of 84). As a section, we had a total of 65 papers, of which 44 were oral presentations, and 21 were posters. Out of these papers, 20 (18 talks + 2 posters) were from graduate and undergraduate students. I want to recognize the role of our program coordinator, Cynthia Huebner for not only organizing the Ecology sessions but also the sessions for Conservation Biology (26 presentations), Molecular Ecology (7 presentations), Symbioses: Plant, Animal, and Molecular Interactions (15 presentations), and Reproductive Process (40 presentations).

During the BOTANY 2020, we selected the best Oral and Poster Awards for graduate and undergraduate students. See the following link for the names of the award recipients: <https://cms.botany.org/home/awards/recognition-and-presentation-awards-for-students/ecological-presentation.html>. We would like to thank all the Judges and Session Presiders that helped out during the meeting. Lastly, attendance at our annual business meeting was modest and BSA updates were provided.

During the fall of 2020, we revised the questions associated with the Ecology Student Travel Awards. For the virtual BOTANY 2021 meeting, we have given several registration awards to students submitting abstracts under any of the Ecological topics. The Ecology Student Travel Awards will be back in 2022.

In 2020, the finances of our section were healthy, with \$21,266 USD as available funds (Balance @ 9/30/2020). We are very grateful for the support provided by our members.

At BOTANY 2021, we will have sessions every day and our business meeting will be Friday, July 23 at 9:00 am EST.