



Annual Report (July 2021-May 2022) of the International Affairs Committee (IAC) for Botany 2022

(Prepared by H. Cota-Sánchez, June 15, 2022)

IAC Membership:

- Hugo Cota-Sánchez, Chair (2022)
- Carol Siniscalchi (2022)
- Cecilia Zumajo, Student Representative (2022)
- Johanne Brunet (2023)
- Suman Neupane (2023)
- Shengchen Shan (2004)
- Heather Cacanindin, Executive Director, ex officio
- Melanie Link-Perez, (2023) Program Director, ex officio
- Michael Donoghue (2022), President, ex officio

The IAC met virtually several times from June-2021-May-2022, specifically in June and October 2021, in an effort to have continuity with the activities initiated the previous year. Significant progress was achieved in various endeavours, namely:

- Compilation and update of the List of National Botanical and Natural History Societies and Organizations. Several new organizations were added to the partnership list, including The Portuguese societies, the California botanical-related societies and others. In addition, the Saudi Arabian Botanical Society was included after discussions and clarification regarding the status of this organization. The updated list has been uploaded to our Google link created by H. Cacanindin. Note that the Google link also contains documents pertinent to the IAC meetings, agendas, minutes and one or two files from the previous IAC. Please contact Heather if you would like to access the link.
- Brazilian Congress of Botany update – Planned for a virtual meeting at São Carlos city, São Paulo State, Brazil, from October 24 to 28, 2022. The next national congress will be in the city of Belem, Pará. Dates TBD.
- International Botanical Congress – The Sociedad Botánica Española and the Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid (RJBm) will be hosting this event from July 21 to 27, 2024 (link at: <https://ibcmadrid2024.com>). Shengchen Shan and possibly other(s) IAC member(s) will be the contact person(s) to organize an event.

On the other hand, and regrettably, due to the IAC's Chair personal obstacles, members of the IAC did not meet the first half of 2022, which affected previous discussions for planned activities at other botanical meetings, including:

- The forthcoming Botany 2022 in Anchorage, Alaska.
- The annual meeting of the Canadian Botanical Society (CBA) recently held at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, and
- The Sociedad Botánica de México with the Mexican Botanical Society during the forthcoming XXII Mexican Congress of Botany at the Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Puebla, from September 25 to 30, 2022 (<https://cmb2022.weebly.com>). However, for this event there is a short window to organize a small joint event by the IAC.

Lastly, there is a new request from a Nigerian student intending to start a Botanical Society. In Nigeria. Clarification and discussion about this is needed to make a decision for inclusion in the partnership list of organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
J.H. Cota-Sánchez