

2023 BSA Systematics Section Report

J. Mandel, Chair & L. Watson, Secretary-Treasurer

Jennifer Mandel was elected Section Chair, and Linda Watson voluntarily serves as the Section Secretary-Treasurer in the dual role as ASPT Program Director (a long-standing precedent). At the annual Botany Conference, the Section, together with ASPT, holds a joint Business Meeting.

Going forward, the Section (of 500+ members) may also wish to sponsor new initiatives (in addition to co-sponsoring and/or co-funding symposia, colloquia, and contributed paper sessions at the Botany Conference); e.g., providing travel awards to students, or presenting a best poster award. They may also wish to engage IAPT and SHC in shared activities. Suggestions are welcome! As seen below, we have funds that could be used to support these activities.

For Botany 2023, the BSA Systematics Section and ASPT co-sponsored and co-funded three symposia, and co-sponsored (in name only) two colloquia.

Symposia

- *Seeing the network for the trees: methodological and empirical advances in reticulate evolution* [6 talks]
- *Whole genome duplications and impact on angiosperm character evolution* [4 talks]
- *The ploid thickens: methodological developments, empirical advances, and remaining challenges in polyploid phylogenetics* [6 talks]

Colloquia

- *Ecological and evolutionary consequences of genome size variation in plants* [6 talks]
- *Strategic uses of herbaria, specimens, and digital specimen data* [5 talks]

Together, the Section co-sponsored (with ASPT) 14 half-day sessions of contributed papers that included a total of 203 abstracts for 145 oral presentations (including 19 virtual). The session topics and numbers of presentations are listed in parentheses.

Systematics (45 talks), *Phylogenomics* (34), *Floristics and Taxonomy* (21), *Biogeography* (19), *Macroevolution* (18), and *Biodiversity Informatics and Herbarium Digitization* (8).

Total BSA Systematics Section Members: 513

Professional: 113

Student: 331 (free to join)

PostDoc: 12

Dev. Nations: 12

Emeritus/Retired: 32

Other: 13

Financials, October 2022 - May 2023

Interim Balances as of 5/31/23: \$29,813.56