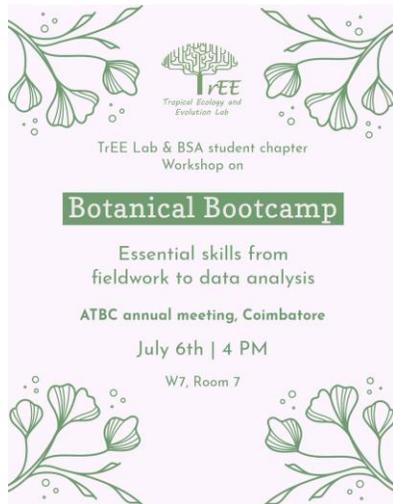


2023 Annual Report of the Tropical Biology Section

A Summary of the Section's Activities in 2023

After years of effective Section leadership from Dr. Margaret Devall and Dr. Suzanne Koptur, this year the Section's leadership changed. Dr. Vinita Gowda (gowdav@iiserb.ac.in) is now the Section Chair and Dr. Travis Marsico (tmarsico@astate.edu) is now the Section Secretary-Treasurer. At Botany 2023 to be held in Boise, Idaho, we have 5 in-person talks scheduled for the Tropical Biology section with presenters from 5 different institutions.

A new BSA student section was initiated in INDIA which operates out of IISER Bhopal. The section engaged in a workshop at the recently held ATBC2023, Coimbatore which was titled "Botanical bootcamp" (https://twitter.com/TrEE_Lab/status/1675098054997815296?s=20)



The thrust of this exercise was also to engage with tropical biologists attending Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation's (ATBC) annual conference and introduce BSA's work as the plant-focused society with exceptional botanical work.

Business Meeting

We did not hold a business meeting for the section this year.

Plans for 2024

1. We look forward to engaging with Section presenters from the 2023 meeting to begin to grow interest in the Tropical Biology Section at BSA so that future years (Maybe in Tucson in 2025), we can host a Tropical Biology symposium at the Botany meeting.

2. We plan to host a BSA tropical biology section mixer at the International Botanical Congress (IBC) in 2024 in Madrid, Spain.
3. In the run up to next year's mixer at IBC, we will host a tropical biology webinar every two months for a total of four talks between now and next year's meeting. We will recruit speakers from Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania to ensure diverse representation in tropical botany.
4. We have not requested any funds or raised any funds for our section. We plan to work with section members to identify approaches to support students and postdocs from low- or middle-income countries to attend Botany meetings. Dr. Vinita Gowda will leverage connections in India to mobilize efforts there.

With our best wishes for a productive year,

Travis D. Marsico
Tropical Biology Section Secretary-Treasurer

Vinita Gowda
Tropical Biology Section Chair