

Proposal for Additional BSA funding for the Pteridological Section

Prepared by Alejandra Vasco (Chair) and Tom Ranker (Secretary)

The BSA Pteridological Section aims to bring together researchers and students interested in ferns and lycophytes. During the annual Botany meetings, the Pteridological Section co-organizes and co-sponsors all the fern-related activities and awards with the American Fern Society (AFS). These activities include generally, an overnight fern-focus field trip, the organization of the Pteridological Section contributed talks, sponsorship for fern-related colloquia, and the AFS Luncheon and Society meeting on Monday.

Particularly the Pteridological Section provides money for the Annual Wherry award (given for best oral presentation in the Pteridological section or related colloquia and/or symposia at the annual meetings), and for travel awards both for students and for speakers at sponsored colloquia.

Although the Pteridological Section finances are healthy (we have about \$6,000 in our account now), the Section has been spending faster than it has taken in money. Though we have doubled the Section dues and encouraged donations, we have also been very successful in developing strong fern-related colloquia, which lead to greater funding support for promising students who participate in them.

At the Pteridological Section, we are delighted to see the increase in interest about ferns and lycophytes from students and researchers worldwide and would like to solicit additional BSA funding to help broaden the participation of students and international colleagues from different backgrounds. We are specifically asking BSA for money to offer six travel awards to attend the annual meetings and participate in the Pteridological Section-AFS sponsored activities. Our budget below details the amount we are soliciting for each of the awards and the target participants. Researchers and students awarded with BSA general funds will be funded by the Pteridological Section to attend the AFS luncheon.

Budget

This budget assumes the Botany 2021 meetings will be held in person. If virtual we would like to use the travel awards to pay for registration for the same people listed below (we are aware that will be likely cheaper, so the Pteridological Section will either ask BSA if we can increase the number of awards, or the Section will return the extra money)

Type of participant	Number of awards	Amount	Total
US undergrad student from unrepresented category	1	\$500	\$500
US undergrad student	1	\$500	\$500
Graduate Student	4	\$500	\$2000
International Researcher from developing country	2	\$1000	\$2000
Total Requested			\$ 5000