

American Society of Plant Taxonomists

Report of Awards and Honors Committee for 2008

I. Committee Membership

The membership of the 2007–2008 Committee is as follows.

Robert Naczi, Chair and Council Representative.

Larry Hufford, Council Representative.

Joey Shaw, At large.

John Freudenstein, Ad hoc.

Elizabeth Zimmer, Ad hoc.

II. Graduate Student Research Grants

We received exactly 50 complete applications from eligible graduate students. After reviewing the proposals, we recommended 13 proposals for funding (26%). A total of \$11,500 was awarded. The parallel figures for 2007 were 57 proposals received, 13 funded, 23% funding rate, \$11,500 awarded.

At least three members of the Committee reviewed each proposal. Details of the funded proposals are as follows, with average score in parentheses (out of a maximum possible of 5.0)

1. (4.9) **Craig F. Barrett**—“Relationships and morphological variation in the *Corallorhiza striata* species complex: emphasis on California as an evolutionarily important region in North America.” Ohio State University. Advisor: John Freudenstein. \$1000—Shirley and Alan Graham Graduate Student Research Grant.
2. (4.7) **Brad R. Ruhfel**—“Phylogenetic and biogeographic study of the clusioid clade (Malpighiales).” Harvard University. Advisor: Charles Davis. \$1000—William R. Anderson Graduate Student Research Grant.
3. (4.7) **Dylan O. Burge**—“Edaphic factors in the diversification of *Ceanothus* subgenus *Cerastes* (Rhamnaceae).” Duke University. Advisor: Paul Manos. \$1000—Rogers McVaugh Graduate Student Research Grant.
4. (4.6) **Patrick P. Edger**—“Resolving the phylogeny of the mustard family (Brassicaceae) and its application to date two major whole genome duplication events.” University of Missouri-Columbia. Advisor: Chris Pires. \$950.
5. (4.6) **Melanie Schori**—“A systematic revision of *Gomphandra* (Stemonuraceae).” Ohio University. Co-advisors: Phil Cantino and Harvey Ballard. \$950.
6. (4.6) **Elizabeth Kempton**—“Systematics, character evolution, and ecological diversification of the *Eriogonum* clade (Polygonaceae).” Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden. Advisor: Travis Columbus. \$950.
7. (4.5) **Erica J. Wheeler**—“Evolution of the *Allium canadense* alliance: Testing the hypotheses of Marion Ownbey and Hannah Aase.” University of Missouri-Columbia. Advisor: Chris Pires. \$850.

8. (4.5) **Taina M. Price**—“Molecular phylogeny and phylogeography of *Phemeranthus* (Portulacaceae), a North American xerophytic plant genus.” Washington University. Advisor: Barbara Schaal. \$850.
9. (4.5) **Olofron Plume**—“Molecular systematics of genus *Calendula* (Asteraceae).” Cornell University. Advisor: Jeff Doyle. \$850.
10. (4.4) **Nicholas P. Tippery**—“Systematics of Menyanthaceae: Phylogenetics and character evolution in *Nymphoides*.” University of Connecticut. Advisor: Don Les. \$850.
11. (4.3) **Tania Hernández Hernández**—“Evolutionary radiations of globose and columnar stem succulents within Cactaceae.” Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Advisor: Susana Magallón. \$750.
12. (4.3) **Melissa Islam**—“Tracing the evolutionary history of Caribbean *Erythroxyllum*.” University of Colorado. Advisor: Tom Ranker. \$750.
13. (4.2) **Miriam Kaehler**—“Revision, phylogeny, evolution, and biogeography of *Lundia* (Bignoniaceae, Bignoniaceae).” Universidade de São Paulo. Advisor: Lúcia Lohmann. \$750.

III. Asa Gray Award

The Awards and Honors Committee received nominations for two individuals for the 2008 Asa Gray Award. The committee proposed **William R. Anderson** (University of Michigan) as recipient of the Award. Tom Daniel and Steve Weller nominated Dr. Anderson. Highlights of Dr. Anderson’s many accomplishments include the following.

- High productivity and high quality of scholarship in systematics of Malpighiaceae, a family for which he is recognized as the world’s expert
- Excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching, including mentoring many students who are now practicing systematists
- Served as president of ASPT, and has served for 21 years (and continues to serve) on Committee for Spermatophyta, IAPT
- Editor of 8 volumes of *Flora Novo-Galiciana*
- Served as Director of University of Michigan Herbarium for 13 years

The committee’s motion to bestow the Asa Gray Award on Dr. Anderson was approved by Council, with 7 members voting for approval and 2 members not responding to the request for votes.

IV. Peter Raven Award

The Awards and Honors Committee received one nomination for the 2008 Peter Raven Award: **W. Hardy Eshbaugh** (Miami University). We felt Dr. Eshbaugh merits the award and accordingly proposed Dr. Eshbaugh as recipient of this year’s Award. Michael Gilmore nominated Dr. Eshbaugh. Highlights of Dr. Eshbaugh’s many accomplishments include the following.

- Trip leader and/or trip botanist with ecotourism trips to Antarctica, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, and Uganda
- Designed and taught courses in Amazonia, Bahamas, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia
- Numerous popular writings and lectures on conservation and natural history

- Active volunteer with and served on boards of Ohio Chapter of Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, Hawk Mountain, Atlantic Salmon Federation, and several local conservation organizations
- Served as president of ASPT, AIBS, BSA, Society for Economic Botany

The committee's motion to bestow the Peter Raven Award on Dr. Eshbaugh was approved by Council, with 7 members voting for approval and 2 members not responding to the request for votes.

V. Corresponding Members

The ASPT bylaws state that the number of corresponding members shall not exceed 1% of the Society's membership. Because the number of corresponding members (13) equaled 1% of the number of members for 2007—2008 (1346), the Committee did not recommend new corresponding members for approval this year. In addition, the Committee did not receive any nominations for corresponding members.

VI. George R. Cooley Award

The number of aspirants for the Cooley Award for this year's annual meeting in Vancouver is 17.

This year, the number of individuals who indicated a desire to be considered for the award via the online abstract submission process was only four. Because this number is substantially lower than for previous years, we sent an e-mail message to the membership soliciting entrants for the competition. This message elicited an additional 13 aspirants for the award.

Robert F. C. Naczi
Chairman, Awards and Honors Committee
9 July 2008