

Economic Botany Section Fund Request

1 November 2020

The Economic Botany section would like to request funding from the BSA in order to achieve the following at Botany 2021: 1) two student travel awards, 2) a best paper award, and 3) a best poster award for both sections we host. Our section has historically offered these awards at meetings and these awards provide a path to attendance that might not otherwise be available. As our membership grows and we see increased attendance at our Ethnobotany and Crops and Wild Relatives paper sections, we would like to continue to support early career members that are pursuing this discipline by providing financial support at the meetings.

The Economic Botany section has offered student travel awards for the past five years and continues to see increased interest in travel, paper, and poster awards. Both our leadership board and the previous board has offered section travel awards at \$200 per award. During my first year as section chair, I was not aware that best paper and poster awards had been given by our section, but I received several requests for consideration from participants at Botany 2019. Because of the virtual format, we did not provide student travel awards at Botany 2020, though we had every intention to support students had the conference been in person. This year, we would like to increase our support to \$300 per award in order to defer unforeseen budget constraints that may be lingering from the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, we have many international members of our section that often register, but ultimately are unable to attend because of cost or Visa issues. We hope by increasing the amount of the travel awards, we will be able to include more members of our community that would otherwise be unable to attend.

The Economic Botany section continues to observe increased participation in our paper and poster sections at the annual meetings. In 2016, our board split our meeting sections into two groups: Ethnobotany and Crops and Wild Relatives. By making this distinction, we have seen double the participation in our meeting sections. Ethnobotany has long been supported by our section, and by adding Crops and Wild Relatives, we are serving researchers that are aligned with agriculture where they have not had a clear section to share their work in past meetings. Attendance at both paper sections during the Botany 2020 virtual conference were each over 80 people. We suspect that the virtual format affected our poster submissions this year, as they were in sharp decline from the previous three years. We would like to offer \$100 best paper and poster awards in both the Ethnobotany and Crop Wild Relatives sections for Botany 2021 to encourage participation in these unique and popular sections.

The Economic Botany section has been serving the researchers at the intersection of people and plants for the last five years and undoubtedly longer, and we would like to extend this support at Botany 2021. With our two popular meeting sections, we continue to see increased attendance and interest in our discipline. Given the economic recovery our country will likely be working through at the time of next year's meeting, our section would like to provide increased travel award support to young members and offer recognition to researchers that have been continuing to complete exceptional work during a global pandemic by offering best poster and

paper awards in our two meeting sections. With this budget request, we will continue to support young members of our section attend the meeting.

Budget

2 Student Travel Awards @ \$300	\$600
Crops and Wild Relatives section Best Paper award	\$100
Crops and Wild Relatives section Best Poster award	\$100
Ethnobotany section Best Paper award	\$100
Ethnobotany section Best Poster award	\$100
TOTAL:	\$1,000