

Annual Report of the Bryological and Lichenological Section, BSA, 2004

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In 2003, the Bryological and Lichenological Section (BLS) of BSA participated in the annual BSA meeting in Mobile. The B&L co-sponsored with the American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS) a symposium, "Sex and Individuality in Lichens," and a field trip, "Lichens and Bryophytes of the Mobile Area." There were also three contributed paper sessions and a poster session, along with our regular social events, a breakfast and a mixer following the sessions. One of the paper sessions featured presentations of students competing in the annual Aaron J. Sharp Award for the outstanding paper presented by a student. In 2003 this was given to DorothyBelle Poli (University of Maryland), for her presentation, "Auxin regulation of axial growth in bryophyte sporophytes: its potential significance for the evolution of early land plants" (coauthors Mark Jacobs and Todd J. Cooke). Co-honorable mentions went to Abel Kinser, for his presentation, "The liverwort genus *Moerckia*" (coauthor Barbara J. Crandall-Stotler), and to Norman Wickett for his presentation "Molecular evolution of the achlorophyllous liverwort, *Cryptothallus mirabilis*." The winner receives a stipend of \$500 from BSA and free membership to ABLS for a year. The co-honorable mention people will receive a free membership to ABLS for a year. Judges for the Sharp competition were James Bennett, Angela Newton, and David Eakin.

Two other awards co-sponsored by the B&L Section and ABLS are The Tuckerman Award, for the outstanding paper on lichenology published in *The Bryologist*, and the Sullivant Award for the outstanding paper in bryology. For the year 2002, the Tuckerman Award was given to John W. Sheard and Helmut Mayrhofer, for their paper, "New species of *Rinodina* (Physciaceae, Lichenized Ascomycetes) from western North America." Honorable mention was made of the paper by Jolanta Miadlikowska, Bruce McCune, and François Lutzoni, "*Pseudocyphellaria perpetua*, a new lichen from western North America." The Sullivant Award was given to Catherine La Farge for her series of three papers, "*Leucoloma* I: a revision of subgenus *Leucoloma*; *Leucoloma* II: a revision of *Leucoloma* series *Holomitrioidea* (Dicranaceae); and *Leucoloma* III: a species synopsis: typification, synonymy, and excluded names." Honorable mention was made of the paper by Xinbo Chen, Qin Zeng, and Andrew Wood, "Aldh7B6 encodes a turgor-responsive aldehyde dehydrogenase homologue that is constitutively expressed in *Tortula ruralis* gametophytes."

In 2004 the section and ABLS will meet with BSA in Snowbird, UT and the following joint activities are planned: the annual ABLS (and B&L Section) Breakfast, an A. J. Sharp student award competition for best paper, the ABLS and B&L Section mixer, and two field trips, a single-day pre-conference trip, "Mosses of the High Uinta Mountains, Utah," and a multiday post-conference trip, "Lichen Communities of Central Utah." The section will also co-sponsor two symposia, "Sexual dimorphism in bryophytes: patterns

and consequences” and “The biology of rarity: conservation of lichens and bryophytes.” Larry St. Clair of Brigham Young University graciously volunteered to serve as the B&L Section (and ABLs) Local Representative.

Financial support is requested by the Section in 2004 for the Sharp Award, and for travel expenses associated with the symposia.