Robert Folger Thorne—A Botanical Legacy

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The obituary preceding this contribution provides an overview of Dr. Thorne’s life and botanical career, recently commemorated in a Celebration of Life held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden on 11 July 2015. Several nuggets of his botanical legacy deserve further mention, especially his immense field collections that embraced distant corners of the globe, including New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

It is unclear exactly how many collections Dr. Thorne made during his lifetime as his backlog in the RSA-POM herbarium is still being processed, but the highest accession number to date is Thorne 79300, a collection of Orcuttia californica Vasey from Riverside County, California. A total of 23,192 Thorne specimens are databased at RSA-POM; information on these holdings is being collated at http://rsaherbarium.org and should be complete by the end of the year.

Although Dr. Thorne’s collections are particularly enriched for California, it transpired in 2006 that two California plant families had eluded him. To fill these lacunae, a special field trip was organized to northern California, coinciding with his Centennial Award by the Botanical Society of America at California State University in Chico, to target Scheuchzeriaceae (represented by Scheuchzeria palustris L.) and Tecophilaeaceae (represented by Odontostomum hartwegii Torr.). Highlights of this expedition are related in Friends of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Newsletter 21, issue 3 (2006).

Listed below are Dr. Thorne’s publications in Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany that spanned 43 years of his life. In addition, his botanical influence lives on in numerous plant taxa that were named for him, including one genus (with two species), nine species, one subspecies, and one variety. Often, the taxonomist(s) naming a new taxon chose a herbarium specimen collected by Dr. Thorne as the type specimen. In total, the epithet “thornei” graces taxa in 11 plant families. Although some names have undergone modification in the course of taxonomic revision, most continue to be currently accepted or, fortuitously, have retained the epithet despite the rigors of botanical nomenclature.

The Editor

ALISO ARTICLES BY ROBERT FOLGER THORNE


ADIANTACEAE: *Adiantum thornei* C.V. Morton

CLUSIACEAE: *Thornea Breedlove* & E.M. McClint., including *T. calcicola* (Standl. & Steyerm.) Breedlove & E.M. McClint. and *T. matuda* (Lundell) Breedlove & E.M. McClint.

CUNONIACEAE: *Weinmannia thornei* Guillaumin

CYPERACEAE: *Carex thornei* Naczi: accepted name: *C. oligocarpa* Willd. var. *thornei* (Naczi) D.B. Ward

CYPERACEAE: *Rhynchospora thornei* Kral

LAURACEAE: *Nectandra thornei* Lundell; accepted name: *Ocotea magnifolia* (Lundell) Lundell

MYRTACEAE: *Syzygium thornei* T.G. Hartley & L.M. Perry

**Ranunculaceae:** *Delphinium variegatum* Torr. & A. Gray subsp. *thornei* Munz

**Rubiaceae:** *Psychotria thornei* Lorence; accepted name: *Palicourea thornei* (Lorence) Lorence

**Sapotaceae:** *Bumelia thornei* Cronquist; accepted name: *Sideroxylon thornei* (Cronquist) T.D. Penn.

**Thymelaeaceae:** *Microsemma thornei* Guillaumin; accepted name *Lethedon thornei* (Guillaumin) Aymonin