

# Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Floristic Botany

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Volume 17 | Issue 1

Article 1

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1998

## Front Matter 17 (1)

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### Recommended Citation

(1998) "Front Matter 17 (1)," *Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Floristic Botany*. Vol. 17: Iss. 1, Article 1.  
Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/aliso/vol17/iss1/1>

# ALISO

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*Aliso* is published semiannually by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, California 91711-3157. Inquiries concerning purchase of back issues, exchanges, and subscriptions should be addressed to the Managing Editor. *Instructions for Contributors* and a *Checklist* for preparation of manuscripts and illustrations are published in the first issue of each volume, or these can be requested from the Editor-in-Chief.

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The name of the journal, *Aliso*, is the word used by the early Californians for the sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), a tree associated with the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. In other areas *Aliso* refers to alder (*Alnus* sp.).

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Aliso, Vol. 17, No. 1, was issued June 8, 1998



## ALISO—50 YEARS!

The year 1998 marks fifty years of publication for *Aliso*. The first issue bears the publication date of April 10, 1948. Dr. Philip A. Munz, the Director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden was the Editor. Publication for volume 1 was supported by the Dr. Ernest A. Bryant Publications Fund. Dr. Bryant was the husband of Susanna Bixby Bryant, the founder of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

In the Foreword, Dr. Munz stated:

"With this volume, which reports the results of the most ambitious single piece of work yet undertaken by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, there begins a new publication "EL ALISO" (pronounced Ell Ah-lee'-so). It will be continued as volume II, whenever additional material is ready. All botanical and horticultural papers published by the Garden will be issued in this journal."

The first issue contained three papers on Cypress, in particular the New World Cypresses. The studies were initiated in 1927, the same year Susanna Bixby Bryant founded the Garden. Dr. Carl B. Wolf authored two of the articles: "Taxonomic and distributional studies of the New World Cypresses" and "Horticultural studies and experiments on the New World Cypresses." The third paper, "Diseases of Cypresses," was by Dr. Willis W. Wagener of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in San Francisco. Dr. Wolf noted that, "Much of the work done by this Garden (Rancho Santa Ana), either on the botanical or the horticultural phases of the genus, would be of little significance were it not for the pathological work of Dr. Wagener." Dr. Wolf worked on Cypress for 23 years, starting his studies originally with Theodore Payne, a California native plant specialist, nurseryman and an advisor to Mrs. Bryant for the new garden.

Dr. Munz edited the next two volumes with a total of seven issues, through 1957. These issues included articles by Dr. Munz, and other well known botanists and horticulturalists working on California plants. The list includes: J. D. Lauder milk, F. W. Went, David D. Keck, Alice Eastwood, Theodore Payne, Robert Casamajor, John C. Roos, Edward K. Balls, Percy Everett,

R. C. Barneby, Verne Grant, Alva Grant, Richard M. Beeks, David B. Dunn, Howard L. Latimer, Lee W. Lenz, Gloria R. Campbell, and R. K. Benjamin. The last named had the distinction of becoming the next Editor of the Journal, which in 1958 was to be called *Aliso*.

The first issue edited by Dr. Richard K. Benjamin was Volume 4, published April 25, 1958. By now, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden had moved from its original home in Orange County, to the eastern edge of Los Angeles County, in Claremont, California. The move, officially completed in 1952, located the Garden approximately 15 miles north of the original site on 86 acres (as compared to the original 200 acres). Dr. Benjamin had joined the Garden in 1952 as Research Mycologist. By 1958, his duties were expanded to include the editing of *Aliso*.

Since 1958, Dr. Benjamin has continued to edit *Aliso*, including this issue. During this forty year period of his editorship, thirteen volumes, comprising 47 numbers were published. Over 200 authors have produced 367 papers in the forty years. In addition to editing papers, as Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Benjamin has produced thirteen comprehensive indices. The present publication (volume 17, number 1) is the forty-eighth number produced under his direction.

Throughout this forty-year period, he has maintained high and exacting standards for the articles published, as most authors will attest! Also, during these forty years, he continued his own research on the taxonomy and comparative morphology of the Laboulbeniales (Ascomycetes) and the Zygomycetes, and held various offices in the Mycological Society of America, including the Presidency and editing the Journal *Mycologia* for five years.

It is with great pleasure and thanks, that we acknowledge Dr. Benjamin's service to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and especially *Aliso*. Those who have edited scientific journals as an "adjunct activity" to their regular scientific work, will appreciate that this has indeed been a labor of love and determination! Thanks for a good job, well done!