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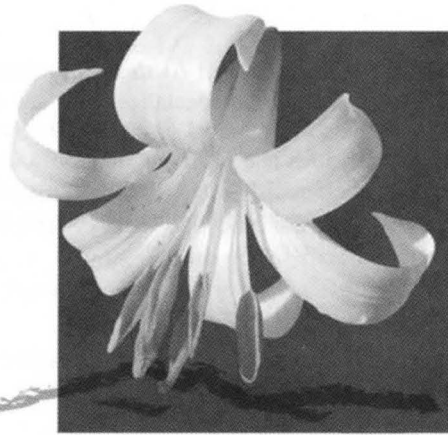
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**MONOCOTS**  
Comparative Biology and Evolution  
Excluding Poales

**J. Travis Columbus, Elizabeth A. Friar,  
J. Mark Porter, Linda M. Prince, and  
Michael G. Simpson (editors)**



**Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**

## **Monocots: Comparative Biology and Evolution (excluding Poales)**

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J. Travis Columbus, Elizabeth A. Friar, J. Mark Porter, Linda M. Prince, and Michael G. Simpson

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The flower featured on the cover of this volume is the lemon lily, *Lilium parryi* Wats.

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# Contents

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|   |            |
|---|------------|
| PREFACE   | ix         |
| <b>OVERALL PHYLOGENY</b>  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Robust inference of monocot deep phylogeny using an expanded multigene plastid data set</b>  | <b>3</b>   |
| <i>Sean W. Graham, Jessie M. Zgurski, Marc A. McPherson, Donna M. Cherniawsky, Jeffery M. Saarela, Elvira F. C. Horne, Selena Y. Smith, Winson A. Wong, Heath E. O'Brien, Vincent L. Biron, J. Chris Pires, Richard G. Olmstead, Mark W. Chase, and Hardeep S. Rai</i>  |            |
| <b>Gondwanan origin of major monocot groups inferred from dispersal-vicariance analysis</b>   | <b>22</b>  |
| <i>Kåre Bremer and Thomas Janssen</i>   |            |
| <b>Phylogenetic relationships of monocots based on the highly informative plastid gene <i>ndhF</i>: evidence for widespread concerted convergence</b>   | <b>28</b>  |
| <i>Thomas J. Givnish, J. Chris Pires, Sean W. Graham, Marc A. McPherson, Linda M. Prince, Thomas B. Patterson, Hardeep S. Rai, Eric H. Roalson, Timothy M. Evans, William J. Hahn, Kendra C. Millam, Alan W. Meerow, Mia Molvray, Paul J. Kores, Heath E. O'Brien, Jocelyn C. Hall, W. John Kress, and Kenneth J. Sytsma</i>  |            |
| <b>Mitochondrial data in monocot phylogenetics</b>  | <b>52</b>  |
| <i>Gitte Petersen, Ole Seberg, Jerrold I Davis, Douglas H. Goldman, Dennis W. Stevenson, Lisa M. Campbell, Fabian A. Michelangeli, Chelsea D. Specht, Mark W. Chase, Michael F. Fay, J. Chris Pires, John V. Freudenstein, Christopher R. Hardy, and Mark P. Simmons</i>  |            |
| <b>Multigene analyses of monocot relationships: a summary</b>   | <b>63</b>  |
| <i>Mark W. Chase, Michael F. Fay, Dion S. Devey, Olivier Maurin, Nina Rønsted, T. Jonathan Davies, Yohan Pillon, Gitte Petersen, Ole Seberg, Minoru N. Tamura, Conny B. Asmussen, Khidir Hilu, Thomas Borsch, Jerrold I Davis, Dennis W. Stevenson, J. Chris Pires, Thomas J. Givnish, Kenneth J. Sytsma, Marc A. McPherson, Sean W. Graham, and Hardeep S. Rai</i> |            |
| <b>BASAL MONOCOTS</b>   | <b>77</b>  |
| <b>Placing the monocots: conflicting signal from trigenomic analyses</b>  | <b>79</b>  |
| <i>Melvin R. Duvall, Sarah Mathews, Neill Mohammad, and Tammy Russell</i>   |            |
| <b>The fossil record of basal monocots</b>  | <b>91</b>  |
| <i>Ruth A. Stockey</i>  |            |
| <b>Perianth development in the basal monocot <i>Triglochin maritima</i> (Juncaginaceae)</b>   | <b>107</b> |
| <i>Matyas Buzgo, Douglas E. Soltis, Pamela S. Soltis, Sangtae Kim, Hong Ma, Bernard A. Hauser, Jim Leebens-Mack, and Bo Johansen</i>  |            |
| <b>MORPHOLOGY</b>   | <b>127</b> |
| <b>Vegetative architecture of desiccation-tolerant arborescent monocotyledons</b>   | <b>129</b> |
| <i>Stefan Porembski</i>   |            |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Fleshy fruits in liliiflorous monocots</b>   | 135 |
| <i>Finn N. Rasmussen, Signe Frederiksen, Bo Johansen, Lise Bolt Jørgensen, Gitte Petersen, and Ole Seberg</i>   |     |
| <b>FLORAL EVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT</b>   | 149 |
| <b>Molecular basis of development in petaloid monocot flowers</b>   | 151 |
| <i>Bo Johansen, Signe Frederiksen, and Martin Skipper</i>   |     |
| <b>Patterns of floral structure and orientation in <i>Japonolirion</i>, <i>Nartheccium</i>, and <i>Tofieldia</i></b>  | 159 |
| <i>Margarita V. Remizowa, Dmitry D. Sokoloff, and Paula J. Rudall</i>   |     |
| <b>Recommendations and goals for evo-devo research: scenarios, genetic constraint, and developmental homeostasis</b>  | 172 |
| <i>Michael W. Frohlich</i>  |     |
| <b>POLLEN EVOLUTION</b>   | 189 |
| <b>The operculum in pollen of monocotyledons</b>  | 191 |
| <i>Carol A. Furness and Paula J. Rudall</i>   |     |
| <b>Aperture pattern and microsporogenesis in Asparagales</b>  | 197 |
| <i>Sophie Nadot, Laurent Penet, Leanne D. Dreyer, Arlette Forchioni, and Adrienne Ressayre</i>  |     |
| <b>Pollen wall ultrastructure of Araceae and Lemnaceae in relation to molecular classifications</b>   | 204 |
| <i>Michael Hesse</i>  |     |
| <b>AQUATIC MONOCOTS</b>   | 209 |
| <b>A reappraisal of phylogenetic relationships in the monocotyledon family Hydrocharitaceae (Alismatidae)</b>   | 211 |
| <i>Donald H. Les, Michael L. Moody, and Connie L. Soros</i>   |     |
| <b>Speciation in duckweeds (Lemnaceae): phylogenetic and ecological inferences</b>  | 231 |
| <i>Daniel J. Crawford, Elias Landolt, Donald H. Les, and Rebecca T. Kimball</i>   |     |
| <b>Further evidence for seed size variation in the genus <i>Zostera</i>: exploratory studies with <i>Z. japonica</i> and <i>Z. asiatica</i></b>   | 243 |
| <i>Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria, Victoria R. Wyllie-Echeverria, Algernon C. Churchill, and Paul A. Cox</i>   |     |
| <b>ARECALES</b>   | 249 |
| <b>A phylogenetic study of Arecaceae based on seedling morphological and anatomical data</b>  | 251 |
| <i>Flor M. Henderson and Dennis W. Stevenson</i>  |     |
| <b>Stem anatomy of climbing palms in relation to long-distance water transport</b>  | 265 |
| <i>P. Barry Tomlinson</i>   |     |
| <b>Conservation biology for seven palm species from diverse genera</b>  | 278 |
| <i>Christopher B. Wood, Helen J. Vautier, Wen Bin, Laurent G. Rakotondranony, and Hugh W. Pritchard</i>   |     |
| <b>ASPARAGALES</b>  | 285 |
| <b>Phylogeny, genome size, and chromosome evolution of Asparagales</b>  | 287 |
| <i>J. Chris Pires, Ivan J. Maureira, Thomas J. Givnish, Kenneth J. Sytsma, Ole Seberg, Gitte Petersen, Jerrold I Davis, Dennis W. Stevenson, Paula J. Rudall, Michael F. Fay, and Mark W. Chase</i> |     |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Genomic resources for Asparagales</b>  | 305 |
| <i>Michael J. Havey, Kenneth C. Sink, Maria Jenderek, and Christopher D. Town</i>   |     |
| <b>AGAVACEAE AND XANTHORRHOEACEAE</b>   | 311 |
| <b>Phylogeny of Agavaceae based on <i>ndhF</i>, <i>rbcL</i>, and ITS sequences: implications of molecular data for classification</b>   | 313 |
| <i>David J. Bogler, J. Chris Pires, and Javier Francisco-Ortega</i>   |     |
| <b>Pollination biology and adaptive radiation of Agavaceae, with special emphasis on the genus <i>Agave</i></b>   | 329 |
| <i>Martha Rocha, Sara V. Good-Ávila, Francisco Molina-Freaner, Héctor T. Arita, Amanda Castillo, Abisaí García-Mendoza, Arturo Silva-Montellano, Brandon S. Gaut, Valeria Souza, and Luis E. Eguiarte</i> |     |
| <b>Systematics of Xanthorrhoeaceae sensu lato, with an emphasis on <i>Bulbine</i></b>   | 345 |
| <i>Dion S. Devey, Iliia Leitch, Paula J. Rudall, J. Chris Pires, Yohan Pillon, and Mark W. Chase</i>  |     |
| <b>ALLIACEAE/AMARYLLIDACEAE</b>   | 353 |
| <b>The never-ending story: multigene approaches to the phylogeny of Amaryllidaceae</b>  | 355 |
| <i>Alan W. Meerow and Deirdre A. Snijman</i>  |     |
| <b>Molecular studies of subfamily Gilliesioideae (Alliaceae)</b>  | 367 |
| <i>Michael F. Fay, Paula J. Rudall, and Mark W. Chase</i>   |     |
| <b>Phylogeny and new intrageneric classification of <i>Allium</i> (Alliaceae) based on nuclear ribosomal DNA ITS sequences</b>  | 372 |
| <i>Nikolai Friesen, Reinhard M. Fritsch, and Frank R. Blattner</i>  |     |
| <b>IRIDACEAE</b>  | 397 |
| <b>Phylogeny of Iridaceae subfamily Crocoideae based on a combined multigene plastid DNA analysis</b>   | 399 |
| <i>Peter Goldblatt, T. Jonathan Davies, John C. Manning, Michelle van der Bank, and Vincent Savolainen</i>  |     |
| <b>Phylogenetics of the “tiger-flower” group (Tigridieae: Iridaceae): molecular and morphological evidence</b>  | 412 |
| <i>Aaron Rodriguez and Kenneth J. Sytsma</i>  |     |
| <b>Patterns of evolution in characters that define <i>Iris</i> subgenera and sections</b>   | 425 |
| <i>Carol A. Wilson</i>  |     |
| <b>The role of phylogenetic constraints in the evolution of pollination mechanisms in Iridaceae of sub-Saharan Africa</b>   | 434 |
| <i>Peter Bernhardt and Peter Goldblatt</i>  |     |
| <b>ORCHIDACEAE</b>  | 445 |
| <b>A comparison and combination of plastid <i>atpB</i> and <i>rbcL</i> gene sequences for inferring phylogenetic relationships within Orchidaceae</b>   | 447 |
| <i>Kenneth M. Cameron</i>   |     |
| <b>Molecular phylogenetic systematics in Dendrobieae (Orchidaceae)</b>  | 465 |
| <i>Mark A. Clements</i>   |     |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>The good, the bad, and the ugly: using naturally occurring terata to distinguish the possible from the impossible in orchid floral evolution</b>  | 481 |
| <i>Richard M. Bateman and Paula J. Rudall</i>  |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>COMMELINALES</b>  | 497 |
| <b>Systematic floral anatomy of Pontederiaceae</b>   | 499 |
| <i>Michael G. Simpson and Darren H. Burton</i>   |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Subtribal relationships in tribe Tradescantieae (Commelinaceae) based on molecular and morphological data</b>   | 520 |
| <i>Dylan J. Wade, Timothy M. Evans, and Robert B. Faden</i>  |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>A molecular phylogenetic study of generic and subgeneric relationships in the southwest Australian endemics <i>Conostylis</i> and <i>Blancoa</i> (Haemodoraceae)</b>                      | 527 |
| <i>Stephen D. Hopper, Mark W. Chase, and Michael F. Fay</i>  |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>DIOSCOREALES</b>  | 539 |
| <b>Species boundaries and population divergence in the Pyrenean endemic relict genus <i>Borderea</i> (Dioscoreaceae) as revealed by microsatellite (SSR) and other hypervariable markers</b> | 541 |
| <i>José Gabriel Segarra-Moragues and Pilar Catalán</i>   |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>LILIALES</b>  | 557 |
| <b>Phylogenetics of Liliales: summarized evidence from combined analyses of five plastid and one mitochondrial loci</b>  | 559 |
| <i>Michael F. Fay, Mark W. Chase, Nina Rønsted, Dion S. Devey, Yohan Pillon, J. Chris Pires, Gitte Petersen, Ole Seberg, and Jerrold I Davis</i>   |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>A synopsis of Melanthiaceae (Liliales) with focus on character evolution in tribe Melanthieae</b>   | 566 |
| <i>Wendy B. Zomlefer, Walter S. Judd, W. Mark Whitten, and Norris H. Williams</i>  |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Phylogenetic analyses and biogeography of Trilliaceae</b>   | 579 |
| <i>Susan B. Farmer</i>   |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Population demography and herbivory of <i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>: implications for <i>Trillium</i> conservation</b>  | 593 |
| <i>Thomas P. Rooney and Kendra C. Millam</i>   |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>A nuclear rDNA phylogeny of <i>Smilax</i> (Smilacaceae)</b>   | 598 |
| <i>Kenneth M. Cameron and Chengxin Fu</i>  |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Missing links between disjunct populations of <i>Androcymbium</i> (Colchicaceae) in Africa using chloroplast DNA noncoding sequences</b>  | 606 |
| <i>Alberto del Hoyo and Joan Pedrola-Monfort</i>   |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>ZINGIBERALES</b>  | 619 |
| <b>The evolutionary and biogeographic origin and diversification of the tropical monocot order Zingiberales</b>  | 621 |
| <i>W. John Kress and Chelsea D. Specht</i>   |     |
| <br>   |     |
| <b>Gondwanan vicariance or dispersal in the tropics? The biogeographic history of the tropical monocot family Costaceae (Zingiberales)</b>   | 633 |
| <i>Chelsea D. Specht</i>   |     |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Phylogeny and biogeography of the prayer plant family: getting to the root problem in Marantaceae</b> | 645 |
| <i>Linda M. Prince and W. John Kress</i>   |     |

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| REVIEWERS OF MANUSCRIPTS | 661 |
|--------------------------|-----|

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| INDEX | 663 |
|-------|-----|





# Preface

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This volume and its companion, *Monocots: Comparative Biology and Evolution—Poales*, contain papers presented at the Third International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons (“Monocots III”) and the Fourth International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution (“Grasses IV”). Hosted by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California, the conferences were held concurrently at the nearby Ontario Convention Center from March 31 through April 4, 2003. Some 305 researchers and students from 37 countries attended.

Monocots I was held in 1993 at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and resulted in the two-volume publication, *Monocotyledons: Systematics and Evolution* (P. J. Rudall, P. J. Cribb, D. F. Cutler, and C. J. Humphries [editors], Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, 1995). Monocots II took place in Sydney in 1998 and resulted in *Monocots: Systematics and Evolution* (K. L. Wilson and D. A. Morrison [editors], CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria, Australia, 2000). A brief history of the International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution is provided in the preface of the companion to the current volume.

At Monocots III/Grasses IV, the goals of the scientific program were to: (1) Present and publish original research of high caliber. (2) Offer a strong core program in systematics while incorporating newer, relevant fields such as developmental biology and genomics, and to address the timely and challenging issue of data integration. (3) Assemble scientists and students, representing diverse fields, from around the world to interact, share ideas, and form collaborations. In a departure from past conferences, the Organizing Committee reserved sessions for contributed talks. We felt some prospective presenters who were not invited to participate in an organized session nor were organizing a session themselves would have original research of significant importance to report, perhaps involving taxa or processes not addressed in the organized sessions, and would prefer an oral presentation format.

Some 250 presentations were made in the form of talks or posters. Presenters in all 27 organized sessions were invited to submit papers for the proceedings volumes, along with presenters of selected contributed talks and posters. All manuscripts were reviewed by multiple referees.

At the closing session of the conference Robert F. Thorne was presented with an award acknowledging his lifetime of contributions to the phylogenetics, biogeography, and classification of angiosperms.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the editors, other members of the conference Organizing Committee were Richard Chute, Ann Joslin, Tasha LaDoux, Bob Thorne, and Todd Young. Co-sponsoring societies were the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Botanical Society of America, and International Association for Plant Taxonomy. Financial support came from the National Science Foundation (DEB-0314259), the W. M. Keck Foundation, VWR International, Epicenter Technologies, and Brad Blaine.

Many others contributed to the success of the conference, including the participants; Anna Bell as chief organizer; staff, students, research associates, and volunteers at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden; session organizers; banquet speaker Bob Schmidt; session moderators; student projectionists; field trip leaders; Doug McCulloh and staff at Geographics; Karen Wilson; Linda Worlow; Ontario Convention Center; The Huntington Botanical Gardens; and the Claremont and Pasadena Chambers of Commerce.

Production of this volume was made possible through the commitment and many contributions of *Aliso* Editor-in-Chief Vanessa Ashworth and Technical Editors Linda Worlow and Carol Annable. Bob Thorne kindly proofread a number of manuscripts and the index. Reviewers of manuscripts are listed on p. 661. Allen Press (in particular Keith Parsons), Geographics, and the Columbia Indexing Group helped guide us through the process of publishing a work of this scale. We thank Patrick Larkin, Executive Director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, for his steadfast support.

Travis Columbus  
Elizabeth Friar  
Mark Porter  
Linda Prince  
Mike Simpson