

Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Floristic Botany

Volume 22 | Issue 1

Article 1

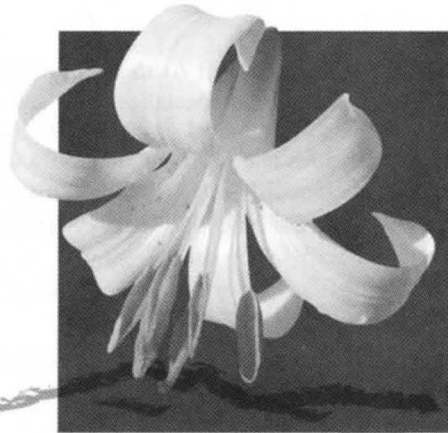
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Front Matter 22 (1)

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Recommended Citation

(2006) "Front Matter 22 (1)," *Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Floristic Botany*. Vol. 22: Iss. 1, Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/aliso/vol22/iss1/1>



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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ISSN 0065–6275

Printed in the USA by Allen Press

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

Aliso Volume 22 was published October 2006



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Preface

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.

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Elizabeth Friar
Mark Porter
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Mike Simpson