

2001 Annual Report of the Tropical Biology Section of BSA

For the Albuquerque meeting, the Tropical Section received three paper abstracts and one poster abstract, and as last year, these were transferred to appropriate other sections. The Tropical Section is considering joining forces with the Ecology Section, which is about the same size as the Tropical Section, so that talk sessions will have enough presentations to take actually place.

In 2001 and 2002, the Section will be supporting Bruce Kirchoff's "Open discussion" initiative, and it has suggested a potential topic for the 2002 open discussion, namely "Models for collaborations between botanists inside and outside the tropics." The discussion will be led off by John Kress, the former president of the Association for Tropical Biology, and a colleague from a developing country. Aspects to be discussed could include (1) how to find/recruit students and collaborators from tropical countries, (2) funding, (3) existing models for collaborations, and (4) tropical research stations looking for collaborators (institutional or single). The Sections is also hoping to co-sponsor a symposium proposed for the 2002 AIBS meetings on "Tropical intercontinental disjunctions: Gondwana break-up, immigration from the boreotropics, and transoceanic dispersal" (provided the BSA's council accepts the symposium proposal).

Last not least, the Section has up-dated its (slim) web presence on the BSA home page (thanks to Scott Russell).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Tropical Biology Section