

***YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND  
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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 09, 2008  
TO: Botanical Society of America  
FROM: Graeme Berlyn, Representative of the BSA to the BSC  
RE: Biological Stain Commission

The Biological Stain Commission held its annual meeting June 6, 2008 in San Diego, California.

The principal function of the Biological Stain Commission is the certification of dyes and stains for biological structures and cellular processes. Most diagnostic histopathology laboratories now used premixed stains. Many plant scientists are also moving in this direction, but future advances plant cell biology can be facilitated if new plant scientists become familiar with the technical aspects of specimen preparation and staining. The horror stories I hear at the meetings about the inappropriate use of staining techniques in medical practice suggest that technical knowledge of stains and techniques is very important.

The Biological Stain Commission publishes the well respected journal, *Biotechnic and Histochemistry* (formerly *Stain Technology*). The journal has a long and proud history. The name change is indicative of the fact that the journal publishes on topics other than those concerning dyes and stains. Plant scientists are encouraged to publish in this journal that is increasing in impact. I have served on the editorial board of the journal and review many of the papers that concern plants. The Biological Stain Commission also publishes books on various microtechnical topics. A principle example is the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Conn's Biological Stains edited by R.W. Horobin and J.A. Kiernan that was published in 2002. Several other books and manuals are under preparation and/or discussion.