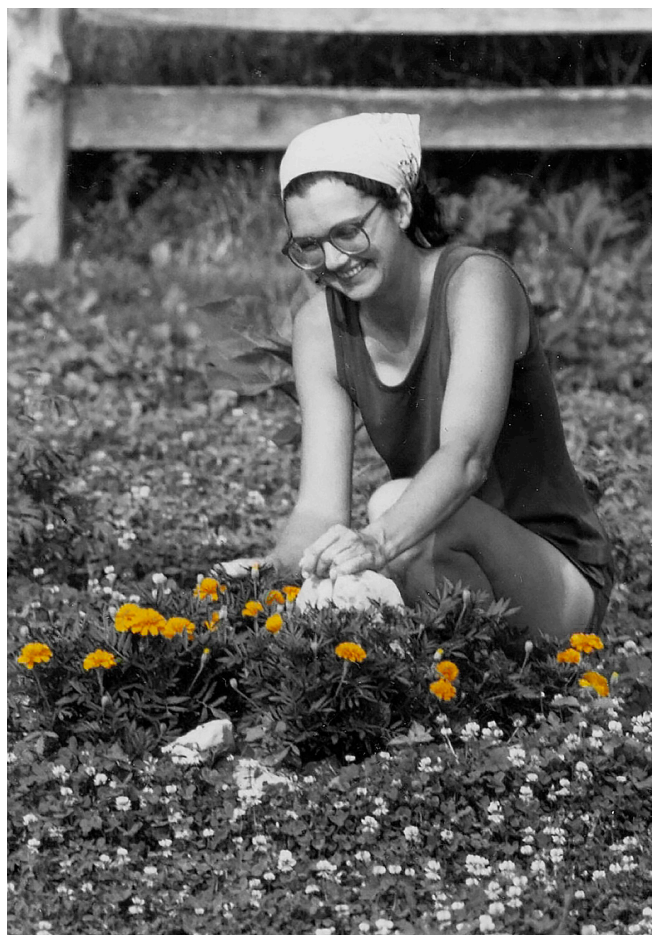


TICATIMES

selected Compositae news and updates from
THE INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITAE ALLIANCE

Edited by Jennifer R. Mandel



JULY 2022

VICKI FUNK SYMPOSIUM

The 2022 Botany Conference took place from July 24-27 in spruce-filled Anchorage, Alaska. Members of TICA held a symposium to honor the late Vicki A.

Funk, an American botanist and one of the leading figures studying the taxonomy and biogeography of the Compositae. She was famously known for bringing together botanists from different countries, disciplines, and career stages and thus the symposium honored her spirit of collaboration. Seven leading plant researchers from multiple disciplines whose work is centered in Compositae gave talks at the symposium:

The Reinvention of Compositae: Vicki Funk's legacy in the systematics of the largest plant family on Earth
Jennifer Mandel & Mauricio Bonifacio

Exploring two mysteries of chromosomal evolution in plants
Loren Rieseberg

Putting our heads together: utilizing comparative genomics to understand capitulum
Daniel Jones

Diversification of *Cirsium* (Carduoideae: Compositae) in North America—Insights into a continental-scale radiation
Jennifer Ackerfield

Explosive adaptive radiation of *Bidens* (Compositae) across the most isolated archipelagos in the world
Matt Knope

Vicki Funk, an influential botanist
Warren Wagner

Next year these authors and other Compositae researchers will publish their work in a special issue, a Festschrift, in the International Journal of Plant Sciences.

MORPHOLOGY & CLASSIFICATION OF
COMPOSITAE
COMPS AT THE EXTREME EDITION



JULY 2022
COMPS AT THE EXTREME WORKSHOP

Following the Botany meeting, Mauricio Bonifacio, Gustavo Heiden, and Jennifer Mandel hosted a two-day workshop entitled: Morphology and Classification of Compositae: Comps at the extreme edition. On the first day, 16 participants learned the key characteristics of most of the family's largest tribes through a series of short lectures that awed and inspired even the non-synantherologists of the group. On the second day, participants received hands-on experience recognizing the main features of the most relevant groups in the family by analyzing plant material under the stereoscope.

**AUGUST 2022****PLANT GENOME RESEARCH IN COMPOSITAE**

Jennifer Mandel at the University of Memphis and a collaborative team comprising researchers Daniel Jones at Auburn University and John Burke of the University of Georgia, were awarded a \$2.2M grant from the United States National Science Foundation Division of Integrative Organismal Systems – Plant Genome Research Project to study the genomics of inflorescence development and evolution in the sunflower family.

The project, entitled: “Comparative genomics of the capitulum: deciphering the molecular basis of a key floral innovation” will use the latest genomic technologies to discover the genes that control how the sunflower head inflorescence, or capitulum, develops and evolved.

The work will increase available genomic resources for the sunflower family and result in the development of novel tools for gene editing in the family, as well as provide educational opportunities for diverse students and researchers at multiple training levels, through directed efforts to recruit individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups.