

TICATIMES

selected Compositae news and updates from
THE INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITAE ALLIANCE

Edited by Jennifer R. Mandel

12-15 January 2026

DIGITAL FRONTIERS 2026: TRANSFORMING RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN SYNANTHEROLOGY

Many members of the synanthrology community came together this year online and in-person for the Digital Frontiers 2026: Transforming research and training in synanthrology held, 12-15 January 2026, at The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), Fort Worth, Texas, USA. Thank you to local organizers Oyetola Oyebanji, Andotiana Andriamanohera, and Morgan Gostel for a wonderful meeting. The event hosted 81 registrants, including 24 in-person and 57 virtual participants, from senior, mid-career, and early-career researchers, and graduate students. We heard talks from Alicia Rojas-Leal, Brendan J. Lepschi, Carolina M. Siniscalchi, Carolina Siniscalchi, Christoph Oberprieler, Daniel Martín Martínez-Quezada, Daniel S. Jones, Fabio Andrés Ávila, Isaac Lichter-Marck, Jaydeep J. Sharma, Jennifer Ackerfield, Jennifer R. Mandel, J. Mauricio Bonifacino, John M. Burke, José Luis Villaseñor, Michelle Rafter, Patricia Rivera, Ricardo Reyes-Chilpa, Saúl Manzano, Stephanie H. Chen, Teresa Terrazas, and Yannick Woudstra. A Report of the event will be published soon in *Taxon*.



In person and virtual participants gather for a photo op during workshop

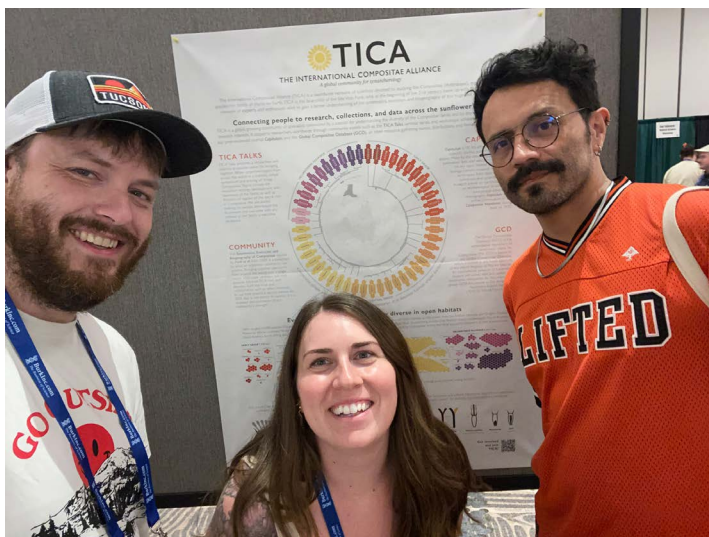
August 2026

TICA Tucson, Arizona Botany Conference 2026

At the 2026 Botany meeting in Tucson, Arizona, TICA hosted a “Lettuce Lunch” on August 4, bringing together Compositae researchers in-person and online. The gathering provided an opportunity for members to share updates on key community initiatives, including the TICA website hosted by GBIF, the CAPITULUM journal’s forthcoming new OJS site, and the Global Compositae Database.



In person and virtual participants gather for a photo op during Lettuce Lunch

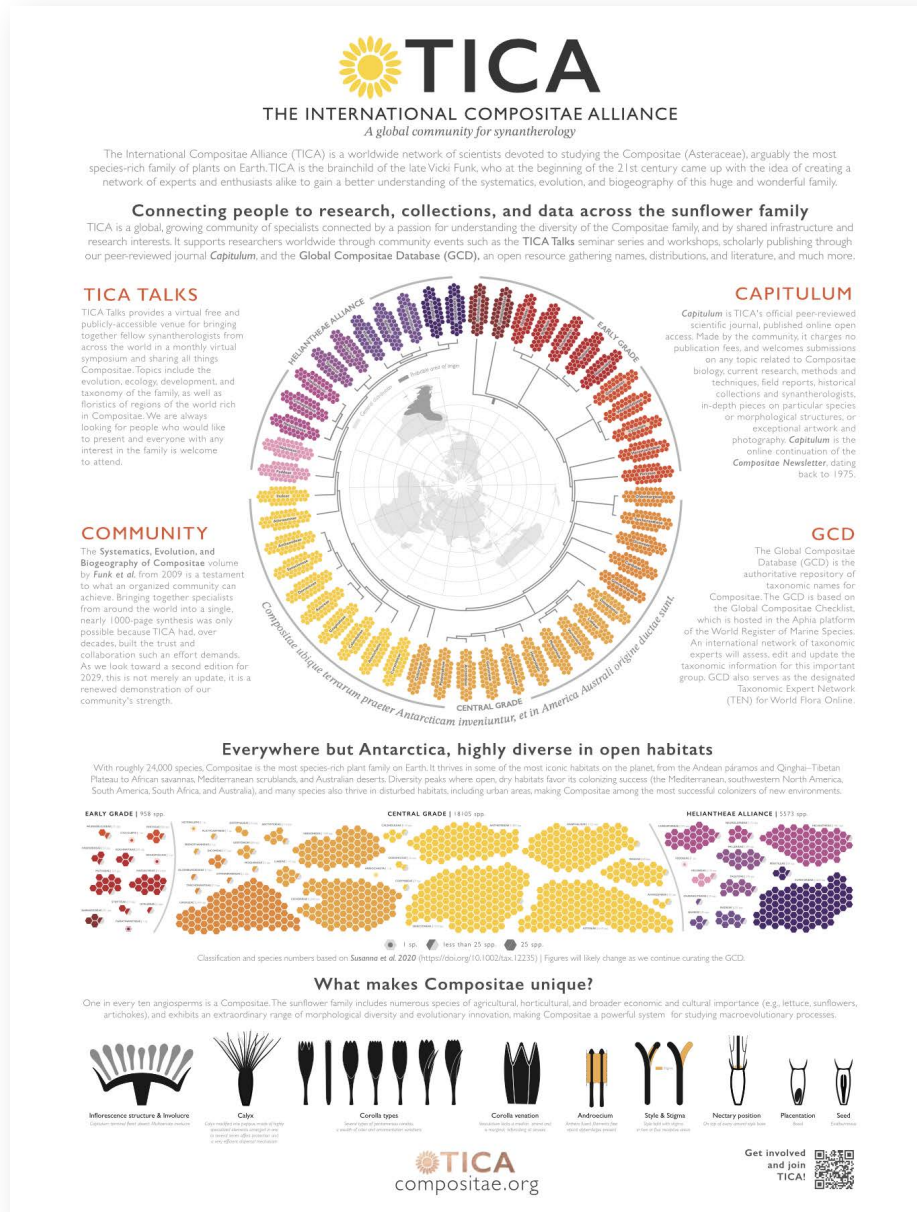


From left to right: Yannick Woudstra, Erika Moore-Pollard and Fabio A. Avila at Botany 2026, posing next to TICA poster (see next page)

August 2026

TICA POSTER at Tucson, Arizona Botany Conference 2026

The poster introduced TICA to the wider botanical community. TICA grew out of the collaborative community that the family has attracted worldwide, and today it sustains a set of freely available resources: the Global Compositae Database, the journal *Capitulum*, the monthly webinar series TICA Talks, and other online tools. The poster traced the alliance's history and goals, and set out how researchers, students and enthusiasts alike can take part in the study of arguably the most diverse plant family on Earth.



DOWNLOAD POSTER HERE

Google drive link

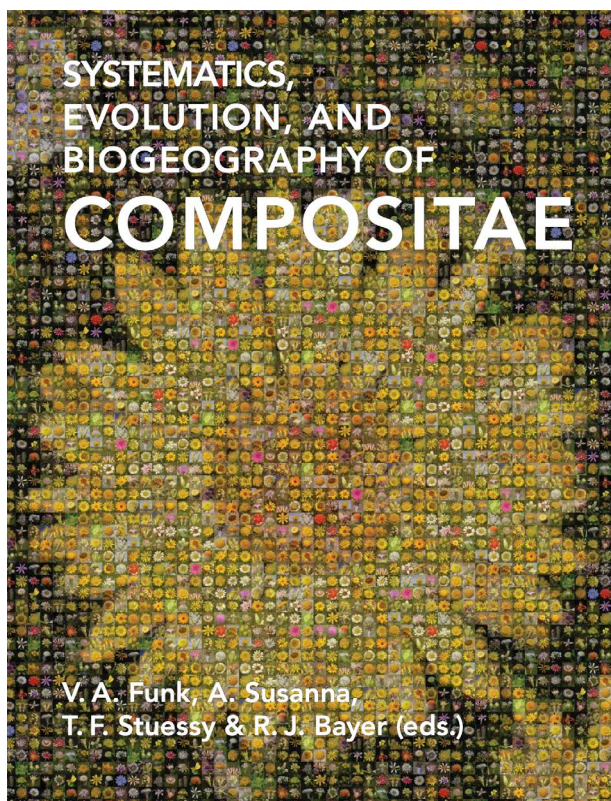
September 2026

2nd EDITION OF THE COMPOSITAE BOOK

The 'big Compositae book' will be updated with a second edition, 20 years after the publication of the first. The editorial committee is now inviting formal chapter proposals from prospective authors. The book is planned for publication in 2029, to be released at the International Botanical Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

When *Systematics, Evolution and Biogeography of Compositae* by Funk et al. was published in 2009, it offered a synthesis that the field had long required: a comprehensive, phylogenetically grounded treatment of the entire family, informed by molecular data that was transforming our understanding of relationships in the family at every level. The impact of this volume was recognized through several awards, including the Smithsonian Secretary's Award for Excellence in Collaboration in 2009 and having received the Stebbins Medal in 2010. That synthesis has served its purpose well — as a reference, teaching tool, and platform for the research that followed.

Twenty years is a long time in any field of biology, and in Compositae systematics it has been a particularly eventful two decades. The pace of molecular investigation has accelerated and genomic approaches have deepened our understanding of the biology of this remarkable group of plants. The aim of this second edition is to update this synthesis incorporating phylogenetic, taxonomic, and other advances throughout the intervening years; to reflect the current state of the field with the same breadth and rigor as its predecessor; and to provide once again a coherent and comprehensive account of the family that can serve both the specialist and the student.



Cover of *Compositae* book first edition

September 2026

Call for papers

Urban Compositae

CAPITULUM SPECIAL ISSUE

Few plant families are as much at home in cities as the Compositae. As the most diverse plant family and one of the most ecologically dominant, it includes many successful urban colonisers: dandelions (*Taraxacum* F.H.Wigg.) crack pavements, mugworts (*Artemisia* L.) hug walls, horseweeds colonise vacant lots, and ragweed pollen fills the summer air. Heat islands, trampling, mowing and fragmented habitats put city plants under heavy pressure, and many composites, as ruderals, thrive under exactly these conditions. Cities are also laboratories of rapid evolution: on Marseille's pavements, *Crepis sancta* (L.) Bornm. has shifted towards fewer dispersing seeds within a few generations.

This special issue is looking for stories from cities around the world, from Buenos Aires to Beijing and from Nairobi to Stockholm, on how Compositae colonise, survive, thrive and diversify in urban life. We welcome work on any member of the family in any region, provided the focus is urban, whether on ecology, evolution, systematics, invasions, pollinators, horticultural escapes, allergenic species or citizen-science records. Contributions from cities whose floras remain little documented are especially welcome. Submissions are invited in all sections of the journal:

Head Topics & Brevia: research articles on urban Compositae, including floristics.

Pipet & Press: methods and techniques for studying urban Compositae.

The Involucre: the stories of the botanists behind the study of urban Compositae

The Handlens: a close look at an urban Compositae, or at a structure that aids its survival or adaptation in cities.

The Cabinet: the stories behind historical or recent herbarium collections of urban Compositae.

From the Field: reports from urban fieldwork on rare and exciting or common but intriguing Compositae

Style: artistic photography, botanical illustrations or creative infographics that celebrate urban Compositae.

Submission deadline: June 2027

Guest editor: Yannick Woudstra

Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Sch.Bip.
Finding cracks in the pavement in Stockholm, Sweden.
Photo by Yannick Woudstra



September 2026

KÅRE BREMER CONFERRED AS JUBILEE DOCTOR

On 25 September 2026, Kåre Bremer was conferred as *jubeldoktor* (jubilee doctor) at Stockholm University's Inauguration and Conferment Ceremony in Stockholm City Hall. Swedish universities bestow the title on those who received their doctorates fifty years earlier, a custom first documented at Uppsala University in 1804 that symbolically links newly conferred doctors with earlier generations of scholars.

Doctoral conferment in Sweden is an elaborate ceremony with roots in medieval European universities, drawing on both ecclesiastical ritual and guild tradition. Each candidate is individually admitted to the doctoral rank and receives symbolic insignia: traditionally a hat or laurel wreath, a ring, and a diploma. Jubilee doctors receive a new laurel wreath and diploma, but no ring. Processions, Latin formulas, music and fanfares complete the ceremony, although participation is now voluntary and practices vary among institutions.

Bremer received his doctorate in 1976 with a thesis on *Relhania* L'Hér. and *Rosenia* Thunb. in the Gnaphalieae (currently placed in *Oedera* L.). As President of Stockholm University from 2004 to 2013, he hosted the very ceremonies at which he has now been honoured. A more detailed account of his life and career appears in the portrait published on this issue.

Asked about his memories of the 1976 ceremony, he recalled nearly arriving late, after a mishap with his wife Birgitta's dress obliged them to make an unplanned stop on the way to City Hall. He reached the Blue Hall with only a minute to spare. Fifty years on, his reaction to becoming a jubilee doctor was simply: "Already?"

Based on Stockholm University interview made by Per Larsson and a booklet edited by Anne Heikkinen Sandberg on the Swedish Universities ceremonies and traditions.



*Photo by Johan Lundberg.
August 25th, 2026*

September 2026

Compositae symposium at the XIII Colombian Botanical Congress

The Compositae will take centre stage at the XIII Congreso Colombiano de Botánica in Medellín, with the symposium *Avances Recientes en la Investigación de Compositae (Asteraceae)* ("Recent Advances in Compositae Research"), on Wednesday 7 October 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Salón Cerro Quitasol at Plaza Mayor Medellín. The family is among the most diverse in Colombia, from sunflowers and daisies to the iconic frailejones of the páramos, and the symposium will present recent work on new tools for building phylogenetic hypotheses, progress in the classification of tribes and genera across the Americas, and contributions to regional and national checklists. The congress is organised by the Jardín Botánico de Medellín, the Universidad Católica de Oriente, the Universidad de Antioquia and the Asociación Colombiana de Botánica, with the Alcaldía de Medellín as strategic ally. Anyone attending the congress is warmly invited to join.

[+ info](#)

Avances Recientes en la Investigación de Compositae (Asteraceae)

Las Compuestas (Asteraceae o Compositae), una de las familias de plantas más diversas de Colombia y del mundo, serán el eje de este simposio. Se presentarán avances recientes en el estudio de girasoles, margaritas y frailejones, incluyendo nuevas herramientas para proponer hipótesis filogenéticas, avances en la clasificación de tribus y géneros en las Américas, y contribuciones a listados regionales y nacionales.



Octubre
07
2026

Miércoles
08:00
a.m.

Plaza Mayor Medellín
Salón Cerro Quitasol



Organiza

Aliado estratégico

Alcaldía de Medellín
Departamento de
Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación