



Edited by Jennifer R. Mandel & Colin Hoag

2026 has been an especially fruitful year for synantherologists eager to learn about the latest developments in the field. This is because the 2026 TICA Talks Committee put together an extraordinary lineup of speakers from across the globe and across disciplines—and who work across Compositae's major groups. Many thanks to the efforts of this year's committee, comprised of Fabio Andrés Ávila, Carme Blanco Gavalda, Colin Hoag, Abby Moore, and Erika Moore-Pollard. Many thanks also to the speakers who have so far presented, as well as those whose presentations are yet to come.

For those unfamiliar with TICA Talks, these meetings are held virtually on the second Monday of each month. 2-3 speakers give presentations of between 15-30 minutes, followed by questions and comments. Most presentations are recorded and posted on our YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@theinternationalcompositae2637/featured>. This year, the Committee grouped speakers into themed panels, including "Floristics and Taxonomy," "Systematics and Biogeography," "Developmental Biology," "Ecology and Anatomy," and "The Herbarium."

We kicked off the year with two presentations. The first was by Liliana Katinas (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina), who described the tremendous diversity in Compositae trichome morphology and her efforts to create a unified classification that researchers can use. Mauricio Bonifacino (Universidad de la República, Uruguay) then presented an account of the Flora Uruguay Online (<https://florauruguay.org>), an innovative and beautifully designed online flora for Compositae-rich Uruguay that he and collaborators have developed, which one attendee described as the "gold standard" for such online resources. The following month featured two presentations on biogeography and systematics in mountain environments. Glynis Goodman-Cron (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) described the influence of topography on diversification of the large genus *Helichrysum* Mill.

(Gnaphalieae Cass. ex Lecoq & Juill.) in Southern Africa. Oscar Vargas (California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, USA) described the use of phylogenetics to unravel diversity patterns in two genera from Astereae Cass.: *Diplostephium* Kunth. and *Linochilus* Benth.

In April, we returned to *Helichrysum* and to South Africa with a talk by Zaynab Shaik (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), who described evolutionary shifts between hermaphroditism and gynodioecy in that group. Second, the developmental biologist Regine Claßen-Bockhoff (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany) spoke about the evolution of syncephalia in Compositae. Three talks in our May meeting returned us to Gnaphalieae and Astereae, with Oscar Castillo Agudo (Instituto de Productos Naturales y Agrobiología (IPNA-CSIC) & Universidad de La Laguna, Spain) describing research on Hyb-Seq insights into the paper daisies, and with Nicolás Ramírez (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia) presenting findings from a taxonomic revision of *Achyrocline* (Less.) DC. Additionally, Juan Manuel Gorospe Ballesteros, Universidad de Almería, Spain) outlined an integrative approach to the taxonomy of *Oritrophium* (Kunth) Cuatrec. (Astereae) in the tropical high Andes.

Our June meeting was focused on ecology and evolution, with a presentation by Julia Freeman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA) on the role of thrips as pollinators for the endemic species *Hymenoxys texana* (J.M.Coult. & Rose) Cockerell (Helenieae Lindl.), a presentation by Miranda Sinnott-Armstrong, Duke University, USA) on defense traits in the thistles (Cardueae Cass.), and another by Thaabet Parker (The Compton Herbarium, South African National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa) on the persistence of clinal morphotypes in the species complex *Dimorphotheca* Vaill. ex Moench (Calenduleae Cass.). July brought us a talk on the phylogenomics and biogeography of Zinniinae Benth. & Hook.f. (Heliantheae Cass.) by Sam Skibicki (California Department of Food

and Agriculture, USA), a presentation by Marisa Szubryt (University of Oklahoma, USA) on ways to resolve paralogs and phylogenetic discordances in *Heterotheca* Cass. (Astereae), and a presentation by Geoffrey Finch (University of Arizona, USA) on the effects of aridity and UV-B radiation on chromosome numbers in some species of Machaerantherinae G.L.Nesom (Astereae).

In August, Ary Mailhos (Universidad de la República, Uruguay) provided an overview of pappus diversity across the Compositae, and Joseph Kleinkopf (Cornell University, USA) outlined the evolution of the alpine fleabanes (*Erigeron* L. Astereae) in North America. September's meeting highlighted the importance and history of herbaria. Krishna Shenoy (Fort Worth Botanic Garden, USA) presented on Sherwin Carlquist's botanical photographs, while Chiara Montagnani (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy) outlined research on *Ambrosia* L. (Heliantheae) using herbarium specimens to understand their invasion history in Italy.

In the final months of 2026, we have still more talks to come. October will feature work by Victoria Valtierra (Universidad de la República, Uruguay) on the systematics and evolution of *Baccharis* L. Caulopterae s.s. (Astereae), and two talks on the taxonomy of

South American comps. José Aguilar-Cano (Jardín Botánico de Bogotá, Colombia) will be speaking about efforts to document the diverse Compositae flora of Bogotá, and Italo Revilla (Herbario HSP, Instituto Científico Michael Owen Dillon, Perú) will present a synopsis of the genus *Jungia* L.f. (Nassauvineae Cass.) in Peru. Finally, November and December will feature talks focused on New World comps. Arturo Castro Castro (Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Mexico) will present on the floristics and taxonomy of Coreopsideae Lindl. in Mexico, while Isaac Lichter-Marck (California Academy of Sciences, USA) will outline an effort to build collaboration among researchers called the Heliantheae Alliance (HAA). In addition to a presentation by Marianna Grossi (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina) focused on Eupatorieae Cass., Andrés Ávila (New York Botanical Garden, USA) will present work on the wood anatomy of *Critoniopsis* Sch.Bip. (Vernonieae Cass.), and Colin Hoag (Smith College, USA) will discuss ongoing work on the geography and natural history of *Hecastocleis shockleyi* A. Gray (Hecastocleideae Panero & V.A.Funk).

If you are interested in giving a TICA Talk, contact Dr. Colin Hoag: choag@smith.edu.

**TICA TALKERS.**

A. Liliana Katinas; **B.** Mauricio Bonifacino; **C.** Glynis Goodman-Cron; **D.** Oscar Vargas; **F.** Regine Claßen-Bockhoff; **E.** Zaynab Shaik;
G. Oscar Castillo Agudo; **I.** Juan Manuel Gorospe Ballesteros; **H.** Nicolás Ramírez; **J.** Julia Freeman; **L.** Thaabet Parker;
K. Miranda Sinnott-Armstrong; **O.** Geoffrey Finch; **M.** Sam Skibicki; **N.** Marisa Szubryt; **P.** Ary Mailhos; **Q.** Joseph Kleinkopf;
R. Krishna Shenoy; **S.** Chiara Montagnani.