

FINAL
Nov 2015

Walter Lewis Research Award in Plant Biodiversity

Graduate and Undergraduate Award for plant biodiversity research and specimen collection

Background: The Department of Botany and the UBC Herbarium administer an annual award endowed by a generous donation from Walter H. Lewis in support of students engaged in all aspects of the study of plant biodiversity. Doctor Walter H. Lewis is an eminent scientist who has a B.A. (honors) and M.A. from UBC, a Ph.D. from U. Virginia and post doctorate training at Kew and the Swedish Academy of Science. He has been awarded D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) from UBC, the University of Waterloo and Andrews University in Michigan.

His expertise has incorporated multiple aspects of botanical science. He is considered the leading authority on North American wild roses, and has published broadly on their evolutionary relationships. As a plant taxonomist he has collected over 23,000 specimens worldwide naming several of these taxa as well as having many new species named in his honor. His studies in cytology, palynology, ecology, geography, genetics, environmental medicine, medical botany and ethnopharmacology have included many species of plants from the temperate to tropical parts of the world. His teaching and research began in the mid 20th century, working the majority of his professional career as Professor of Biology at Washington University in St. Louis and Senior Botanist at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Dr. Lewis is pleased to help foster the development of future generations of botanists were his study in botany began and who share his enthusiasm for studying and documenting plant biodiversity, while contributing to the scientific collections of the UBC Herbarium.

Eligibility: The award is open to graduate and undergraduate students of the University of British Columbia who propose to conduct research on the conservation, evolution, systematics, genetics, or ecology of plants (angiosperms). The student will be required to collect and deposit research specimens in the UBC Herbarium within a year of the award and cite this Award on any herbarium collection that is made. Furthermore this Award should be acknowledged on any publication generated from these collections. Preference will be given to graduate students who will use the funds to augment existing or proposed research to provide collections and/or generate complementary data that will broaden knowledge of plant diversity, especially from specimens obtained from regions or taxa that are not currently well covered by UBC Herbarium collections, whether inside or outside British Columbia.

Application Deadline: January 31.

Announcement of Award: February 28.

All supporting information should be submitted as a single pdf file to jeannette.whitton@botany.ubc.ca by the application deadline.

Application Guidelines:

1. Proposal (1 page maximum, single spaced, 12 pt font) including:
 - Title of the proposal
 - Description of the research opportunity: Describe the proposed research, including the relationship of specimen collection to the overall project goals;. Include a brief description of the expected number and type of samples that will be targeted for collection.
 - Significance of the research collection to the proposed project and the student's training.
 - Description of permitting requirements (if any). Describe any necessary permits for collecting, anticipated obstacles to obtaining permits, and approaches that will be taken to address these.
 - Relevant literature that is cited in the proposal should be included in a short bibliography.

2. Budget (1 page maximum)
 - This award takes the form of a \$500 research supplement, plus a \$500 fellowship component to the student upon submission of specimens to the collection.
 - The budget lines should explain what the research funds will be used for. Funding can be applied to research expenses related to (for example) travel, supplies, or hiring a field assistant to aid in the collections component of the project and/or providing funds needed to do laboratory analysis such as required for cytology or genetics. The sources of funds for other project components should also be described.
 - \$500 will be awarded as a fellowship to the student when the collections related to the research are accepted by the UBC Herbarium. Collections must be deposited by March 15th in the year following the award and they must acknowledge the award on the Herbarium sheet. Consult with herbarium staff well in advance of making field collections for guidance on sample submission requirements.
 - Any publications resulting from the award will acknowledge the Walter H. Lewis award.

3. Curriculum vitae (2 page maximum)
 - A CV detailing education and research experience relevant to the proposed research, current and past awards and recognitions, details of any prior field and collections-related experience, research publications, conference presentations, and completed theses.