

Announcement

Plant Breeding Systems Records

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Breeding system information is critical for many studies, but often unavailable either because taxa have not been studied, or because the studies have been carried out but the information is either unpublished or present in publications that may not be readily accessible. Floras differ widely in the amount and quality of the information they contain on plant breeding systems. For population biologists, ecologists, and evolutionary biologist, a forum for the presentation of such information would be extremely useful. We propose such a forum in *Plant Species Biology*, entitled "Plant Breeding System Records," to encourage publication of precise experimental information on plant breeding systems in a format that would be easily accessible to individuals interested in this information. Information on breeding systems published as a component or a larger paper published elsewhere would be welcome in "Plant Breeding Systems Records," because it is often difficult to anticipate the presence of such information in papers largely focused on other issues.

"Plant Breeding Systems Records" has a second goal: Information on plant breeding systems is often considered uninteresting when breeding systems expected on the basis of other information are found, or when the species in question has a common breeding system. For example, when self-compatibility is verified for a taxon, the results may go unpublished because they do not seem interesting. Researchers may feel (correctly) that these "negative" results will be more difficult to publish. If such results remain unpublished, a serious bias in the published literature is likely to develop. In "Plant Breeding Systems Records" we encourage publication of all information on plant breeding systems, whether the results are contrary to expectation or in accord with earlier predictions. Our

hope is that "Plant Breeding Systems Records" will provide an unbiased forum.

Reports will vary in length and complexity, depending on the breeding system in question. Generally, they should not exceed two double-spaced pages in length. Each report should include the scientific name, author, family, and general geographic distribution of the species, together with exact original location of the field population (including latitude, longitude, and elevation), and the location of a voucher specimen for the population. Emphasis should be placed on careful reporting of experimental data in concise tables, including numbers of experimental individuals, a succinct conclusion, and limited discussion. Even when breeding systems involve a morphological component, such as heterostyly or dioecy, we encourage the inclusion of crossing data to ensure that the complexities of the breeding system will be understood as fully as possible. For self-incompatibility a thorough study will involve a complete crossing program. Such a study would normally be published in a much longer format than "Plant Breeding Systems Records;" more concise studies showing the clear presence of self-incompatibility would also be welcome. Anecdotal observations should not be submitted. For example, fruit set in an isolated individual could indicate the presence of self-compatibility (or apomixis), but the failure of fruit set in an isolated individual would not necessarily indicate self-incompatibility. Failure of pollinators to visit an isolated individual is an equally plausible explanation. To distinguish these hypotheses, an experimental approach is essential.

Submissions for "Plant Breeding Systems Records" should be directed to the managing editor of *Plant Species Biology*.