



After a short break in July, the second half of 2021 brought us another stellar series of talks by Compositae experts from all over the world. We had a good balance of organismal talks targeting specific groups in the family, and process-focused talks.

In August we had Dr. Nádia Roque (Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil) and Dr. Morgan Gostel (Botanical Research Institute of Texas, USA) presenting the current panorama of systematics and taxonomy of the tribe Gochnatieae, including fresh-from-the-oven phylogenetic results that will be essential in explaining the incredible reproductive diversity found in this small tribe.

In September our attention was entirely dedicated to the mega-diverse genus *Baccharis* (Astereae). Dr. Gustavo Heiden (Embrapa Clima Temperado, Brazil) presented an overview of *Baccharis*, based on a recently published paper in *Capitulum*, with information about morphology,

phylogeny, and distribution. The talk including the important taxonomic work being done to stabilize the infrageneric classification of this large genus and make it easier for everybody to identify them. Dr. Itziar Arnelas (Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador) impressed us with the diversity of *Baccharis* in southern Ecuador, where more than 20 species are found!

October brought us some of the complicated genomic processes involved in Compositae diversification. Dr. Oliver White (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK) gave a talk about his work to untangle the genomic processes of hybridization and speciation in the daisy-like genus *Argyranthemum*, including molecular and morphological evidence. Dr. José Cerca (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway) showed us some of the unique challenges of working with Compositae genomes, which are widely recognized for being very complicated, by ways of his work with the Galapagos-endemic genus *Scalesia*.



**Speakers at TICA TALKS.** **A.** Nadia Roque (Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil). **B.** Morgan Gostel (Botanical Research Institute of Texas, USA). **C.** Itziar Arnelas (Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador). **D.** Gustavo Heiden (Embrapa Clima Temperado, Brazil). **E.** Geoffrey Finch (University of Arizona, USA). **F.** José Cerca (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway). **G.** Oliver White (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK).

November brought us back to chromosome issues, this time in the subtribe Machaerantherinae (Astereae). PhD student Geoffrey Finch (University of Arizona, USA) showed us some of the challenges of modelling chromosome number evolution in Compositae.

To close the year celebrating this plant family that we love so much, we had the help of lots of folks around the world, who sent us photos of their favorite Compositae species. We were all touched by the beauty of these plants and the emotional connections we form with them. The photos and

text are in the process of being compiled in a booklet that will be available on the TICA website.

We are still looking for speakers for 2022. Our seminars are attended by a mix of Compositae researchers, students and enthusiasts, providing a low-pressure environment where you can showcase your research, fieldwork finds and lab anecdotes. Please contact us at [ticaseminarseries@gmail.com](mailto:ticaseminarseries@gmail.com) if you are interested in presenting a talk. Make sure to check past talks on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX0qRBdc7F85QQJ1lhBMovA/videos>.