

## EDITORIAL

UN VIAJE A TRAVÉS DE LAS AMARYLLIDACEAE:  
UNA PERSPECTIVA DESDE LAS AMÉRICASA JOURNEY ACROSS THE AMARYLLIDACEAE: AN OUTLOOK  
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The family Amaryllidaceae includes species distributed all over the Globe, with centers of higher taxonomic diversity and species richness in South America, Asia, and southern Africa (Stevens, 2001 onwards). The family is divided into three subfamilies and includes ca. 2200 species, of which > 1200 are part of Allioideae, > 1100 belong to Amaryllidoideae, and only ca. 10 species to Agapanthoideae. The family encompasses genera and species of huge economic interest, ornamental species cultivated all over the World, and a rich history in the traditional medicinal practices of indigenous populations around the World (Scarpa *et al.*, 2020). Given the degree of canalized evolution and the presence of convergent morphological characters (Meerow, 2010) many taxa were a real challenge to place confidently within traditional classifications until the advent of DNA sequence analyses. As a result, Amaryllidaceae and particularly their South American representatives have been poorly studied. Some reasons for the lack of study can be summarized in 1) the overall difficulty of collecting geophytes in the field and posterior preservation in herbaria, 2) phenology, such as fall or winter flowering periods when collection trips are infrequent or the lack of records of complete individuals due to proteranthry or histeranthry, 3) the lack of unequivocal morphological characters to diagnose certain taxa. The present issue aims to bring together studies including representatives of the family (endemic and cultivated species in the American continent), to recognize patterns among them as a first step towards understanding the evolutionary history and increasing the awareness of Amaryllidaceae.

The published articles cover a diversity of botanical areas as well as different taxonomic levels within Amaryllidaceae. **Meerow** reviews the intricate systematic history of the family in the last three decades. This manuscript highlights the significative contribution of molecular phylogenetics to the current understanding of the family's evolutionary history and classification. In line with the conflictive systematics of the group, **Goyeneche *et al.*** compile the taxonomic history of *Zephyranthes bifida* (Herb.) Nic. García & Meerow (Hippeastreae, Amaryllidoideae). According to their nomenclatural research, this species is associated with 43 legitimate synonyms, three illegitimate names, and two isonyms without nomenclatural status. Moreover, the authors call attention towards within-individual variation of spathe morphology in *Z. bifida*, dismissing the idea that this variation may be indicative of different taxonomic entities. Additionally, **Campos Rocha *et al.*** describe a new species of *Nothoscordum* (Leucocoryneae, Allioideae). The new species is endemic to Brazil and is described based on integrative taxonomy. Furthermore, they provide a detailed description of the habitat and raise the need of preserving the type locality.

**Valdes-Ibarra *et al.*** focus on the geographic distribution and species richness of subtribe Hippeastrinae (Hippeastreae, Amaryllidoideae) in Mexico. Mexican species of Hippeastrinae exhibit a modern Neotropical pattern of richness and distribution. Species richness and endemism are concentrated in the Neotropical Region and the Mexican Transition Zone. Also, the authors propose that the Sierra Madre Oriental is a local center of diversity for the group.

One of the most explored biological fields in the family has been undoubtedly cytogenetics, especially for the attractiveness of large chromosomes and descriptions of uncommon events in their genomes (e.g., Robertsonian translocations in Amaryllidaceae; Flory, 1977). In this issue, **Gianini Aquino et al.** describe cytological variation within *Z. mesochloa* Herb. (Hippeastreae, Amaryllidoideae). The evaluation of eight populations from northern Argentina resulted in the categorization of most of them as diploid ( $2n = 2x = 12$  or sometimes 13 with a putative B chromosome) and one as autotetraploid with a discontinuous geographic pattern of cytotype distribution. **Vossler** studies one of the most unexplored fields of the family and goes into the floral interactions among species of Amaryllidaceae and bees. A total of six pollen types belonging to Amaryllidaceae species are identified in the pollen diet of five polylectic bees. We highlight the need for deeper studies of floral biology within the family, which would greatly benefit the understanding of species interactions and reproductive features.

The presence of floral nectaries described within the family, motivated **Gonzalez et al.** to inquire about the morphological and anatomical structure of nectaries and androecium in onion (*Allium cepa* L., Alliaceae, Allioideae). The authors conclude that onion nectaries are a clear example of secondary presentation of nectar. Anatomically, the sterile male line flowers differ from fertile flowers in the lack of pollen production and absence of stamen dehiscence, despite having a normal structural organization. Following morphoanatomical studies, **Acosta et al.** focus on the fruits and seeds of *Z. tubispatha* (L'Hér.) Herb. (Hippeastreae, Amaryllidoideae). The authors report new magnitudes for fruits and number of seeds, and detect lipids and proteins as endosperm reserves. Moreover, they describe five seed-seedling transition substages and evaluate how different storage conditions affect germination and subsequent plant survival.

Regarding human uses, **Alcaraz et al.** highlight the medicinal potential of the family and update the current knowledge of garlic (*Allium sativum*, Alliaceae, Allioideae), and confirm its high potential as antimicrobial and antifungal agent, both in isolated components of the bulbs and in different formulations.

Ornamental geophytes are threatened worldwide by several factors, such as climate change, overgrazing of natural habitats, and illegal collection of bulbs (**Rovere & Gonzalez** and references therein). The final paper chosen for this issue is an example of the successful rescue of *Z. gilliesiana* (Herb.) Nic. García (Hippeastreae, Amaryllidoideae) for *ex-situ* conservation, pinpointing that not only conservation via the relocation of bulbs is possible but also that this species can be part of ecological restoration projects. Moreover, **Rovere & Gonzalez** conclude that early plant survival responded to bulb weight, being higher for heavier bulbs.

We hope that the papers compiled in this issue are of great interest to the readers of the BSAB and succeed in attracting the attention towards the addressed topics and the family. As suggested by **Meerow**, there are still few applications of genomic data to clarify phylogenetic relationships within the family; however, related methodologies are promising considering the first available complete genomes in this clade (e.g., Finkers *et al.*, 2021), setting an evolutionary framework and allowing us to answer deeper questions within the field.

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## ÍNDICE

ROVERE, A. E. & S. L. GONZALEZ Rescate de la geófita <i>Zephyranthes gilliesiana</i> (Amaryllidaceae): estudio de caso para evaluar su conservación <i>ex situ</i> . .....	315-328
Rescue of the geophyte <i>Zephyranthes gilliesiana</i> (Amaryllidaceae): a case study to assess <i>ex situ</i> conservation	
VALDES-IBARRA, C., G. MUNGUÍA-LINO & A. RODRÍGUEZ Riqueza de especies y distribución geográfica de la subtribu Hippeastrinae (Amaryllidaceae) en México. ....	329-353
Species richness and geographic distribution of the subtribe Hippeastrinae (Amaryllidaceae) in Mexico	
MEEROW, A. W. Classification and phylogeny of Amaryllidaceae, the modern synthesis and the road ahead: a review. ....	355-373
Clasificación y filogenia de Amaryllidaceae, la síntesis moderna y el camino por recorrer: una revisión	
GIANINI AQUINO, A. C., O. A. RODRÍGUEZ MATA, A. I. HONFI & J. R. DAVIÑA Estudios citogenéticos en el complejo poliploide <i>Zephyranthes mesochloa</i> (Amaryllidaceae). ....	375-387
Cytogenetic studies in the polyploid complex <i>Zephyranthes mesochloa</i> (Amaryllidaceae)	
ALCARAZ, É. C., A. C. MALLO & D. S. NITIU Revisión bibliográfica de <i>Allium sativum</i> (Amaryllidaceae) como importante inhibidor del desarrollo microbiano y fúngico. ....	389-398
Bibliographic review of <i>Allium sativum</i> (Amaryllidaceae) as an important inhibitor of microbial and fungal development	
ACOSTA, M. C., M. L. ALCARAZ, H. F. CAUSIN & V. T. MANFREDA Aportes al conocimiento morfológico y fisiológico de la reproducción por semillas de <i>Zephyranthes tubispatha</i> (Amaryllidaceae). ....	399-419
Contributions to the morphological and physiological knowledge of reproduction by seeds of <i>Zephyranthes tubispatha</i> (Amaryllidaceae)	
GOYENETCHE, J. M., R. L. SCARAMUZZINO & S. C. ARROYO-LEUENBERGER Historia taxonómica de <i>Zephyranthes bifida</i> ( <i>Neorhodophiala</i> , Amaryllidaceae). ..	421-438
Taxonomic history of <i>Zephyranthes bifida</i> ( <i>Neorhodophiala</i> , Amaryllidaceae)	

- CAMPOS-ROCHA, A., A. B. SASSONE, J. D. URDAMPILLETA, V. G. DE ZORZI, M. QUEIROZ, R. M. GOFFI & J. H. A. DUTILH  
Acordando de um sono de cem anos: uma nova espécie de *Nothoscordum* (Amaryllidaceae, Allioideae) da Floresta Atlântica brasileira. .... 439-460  
Woken up from a hundred-year sleep: a new species of *Nothoscordum* (Amaryllidaceae, Allioideae) from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest
- VOSSLER, F. G.  
Recursos florales de Amaryllidaceae usados por abejas silvestres en tres ecorregiones de Argentina. .... 461-476  
Floral resources of Amaryllidaceae used by wild bees in three eco-regions of Argentina
- GONZALEZ, A. M., I. B. MALDONADO, C. R. GALMARINI & I. E. PERALTA  
Floral nectary structure, nectar presentation and morpho-anatomical analysis of male-fertile and male-sterile anthers in onion (*Allium cepa*, Amaryllidaceae). ..... 477-489  
Estructura del nectario floral, presentación del néctar y análisis morfo-anatómico de anteras de líneas androfértiles y androestériles en cebolla (*Allium cepa*, Amaryllidaceae)