

Gleanings

**Notes on papers (some technical and others less so)
that may be of interest**

Journal articles

Is classical taxonomy obsolete?

Alves, R.J.V. and Filho, M.D.M.V. May 2007

Taxon 56 (2): 287-288

A letter to the editor which points out the serious limitations of the instant molecular phylogeny and reminds us that taxonomy must be based on all available evidence. Fancy awarding a degree to a “student who is still able to distinguish the Bombaceae from the Malvaceae morphologically...and knows how to use a map, compass, notebook and pencil when his GPOS batteries go dead!”

**A proposal for a standardized protocol
to bar code all land plants.**

Chase, M.W. and 18 others. May 2007

Taxon 56 (2): 295-299

The authors propose the use of three regions of plastid DNA sequence to barcode all land plants. This short paper gives advanced notice to the “modern” researcher and refers the reader to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew website.

**The soil seed bank of a montane meadow:
consequences of conifer encroachment
and implications for restoration**

Lang, N.L. and Halpern, C.B. June 2007

Canadian Journal of Botany 85 (6): 557-569

A study in the western Cascade Range of Oregon. The results suggest that the seed bank is unlikely to be a major contributor to recovery of many meadow species. The authors look to natural seed dispersal and gradual vegetative spread from existing opening, but see limited recruitment or recovery due to competition from ruderal or forest species.