

The Red Latinoamericana de Botánica - RLB (Latin American Plant Sciences Network) is a consortium of Graduate Training Centers consisting of a select number of academically prestigious Latin American institutions located in Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Brazil, Chile and Argentina. In these countries, internationally recognized scientists collaborate to provide graduate-level training (pre-Masters to Doctoral level) in a variety of areas of the plant sciences to students from other countries in the Latin American region. These Centers are also the focus for the organization of research projects, regional graduate courses and scientific meetings. The specific aims of the Red Latinoamericana de Botánica are to contribute:

- i) To increase the number of trained plant scientists in a region harboring one-third of the world's plant species.
- ii) To reduce the critical isolation among scientists in Latin America, that has long limited the development of a regional voice to address the problems of conservation and resource management.
- iii) To promote a sense of scientific community, self-sufficiency and strong international relations among the countries of Latin America.

The economically modest but cost-effective work of the Red Latinoamericana de Botánica is a worthwhile investment in a region in which knowledge and its policy application will be increasingly important elements in the face of the present pressures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and where national investment in science and technology must be stimulated.

RLB Structure

Executive Committee

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President

Gabriel Macaya (Costa Rica)

Vice-president

Susana Maldonado (Chile)

Executive Director

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Regional Coordinator Mexico

Sonia Lagos-Witte

Regional Coordinator

Central America and the Caribbean

Enrique Forero

Regional Coordinator

Andean Countries

Javier Simonetti

Regional Coordinator

South American Southern Cone

Lilian Zaidan

Institutional Representative

Instituto de Botánica, Brazil

Michele Ataroff

Institutional Representative

ICAE, ULA, Venezuela

Scientific Committee

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Instituto de Ecología A.C., Mexico

Helga Ochoterena

Instituto de Biología-UNAM, Mexico

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Instituto de Ecología-UNAM, Mexico

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Costa Rica

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Universidad Nacional, Colombia

Michele Ataroff

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Venezuela

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Augusto Franco

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Universidad de Buenos Aires,

Argentina

Patricio Arce

Pontificia Universidad Católica

de Chile, Chile

Mary Kalin

Universidad de Chile, Chile

Lohengrin Cavieres

Universidad de Concepción, Chile



An **Executive Committee** governs the RLB. Presently, consists of a **President**, the **Executive Director**, a **Vice-president**, four **Regional Coordinators** (Mexico, Central American and the Caribbean, South American Andean Countries, and the South American Southern Cone), and two of the **Institutional Representatives**. In addition, the RLB operates with a **Scientific Committee**, composed of the members of the Executive Committee (except for the Executive Director) plus the Institutional Representatives of some of the collaborative Latin American training Network centers.

An **External Advisory Committee** assists the RLB. It includes Past Coordinators, some distinguished scientists, the President of the Latin American Society of Botany (ALB) and the President of Latin American Academy of Sciences (ACAL).

Further information:

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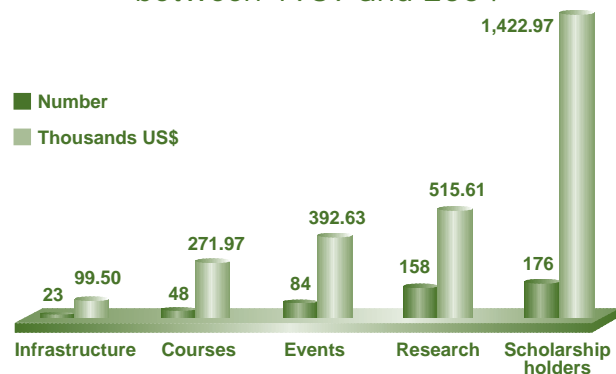
<http://www.rlb-botanica.org>

LATIN AMERICAN PLANT SCIENCES NETWORK



RED LATINOAMERICANA DE BOTANICA (RLB)

Some activities supported by the RLB between 1989 and 2004



Origen country of scholarship holders 1989 - 2004



CURRENT ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE RLB

Every year the RLB announces open competitions to support different activities linked with plant sciences in the Latin American region. These activities can only take place in the Collaborative Centers of the RLB. Each competition is different and offers different categories of subsidy. Some categories are:

SCHOLARSHIPS

Short Term: 1 to 4 months.
Masters: 2 years.
Doctoral: 3 years.

GRADUATE COURSES

Advanced and basic courses: organized and/or mainly financed by the RLB.

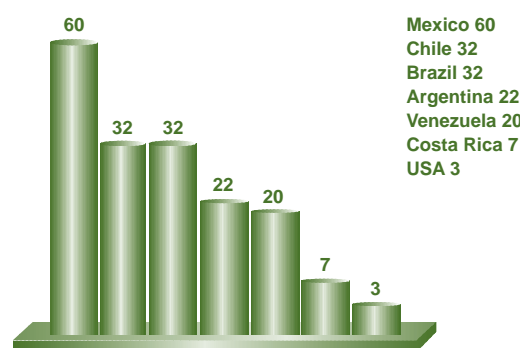
RESEARCH GRANTS

Reinstallation Funds: grants available to former Masters and Doctoral scholarship holders after their return to their origin countries.

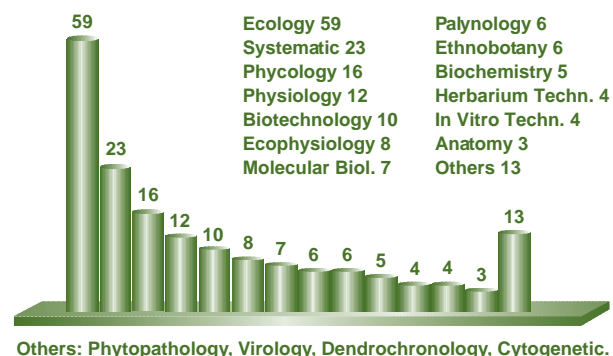
Thesis grants: available to the RLB's Masters and Doctoral scholarship holders.

Competitions are publicized through our newsletters, electronic mail, and our Web site.

Scholarship holders by country of destination 1989 - 2004



Areas of plant sciences sought by scholarship holders 1989 - 2004



A select number of academically prestigious institutions collaborate with the RLB in training of students in the Latin American region. Some of those have participated actively during these years receiving scholarship holders. Others have been headquarters of graduate courses or scientific events. They are as follows:

MEXICO: Instituto de Ecología, Instituto de Biología, Instituto de Biotecnología and Facultad de Ciencias of the **Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)**; **Colegio de Postgraduados**; **Centro de Investigación y Estudios Avanzados (CINVESTAV)** Unidad Irapuato, **Instituto de Ecología, A.C.** and **Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán A.C. (CICY)**.

COSTA RICA: **Universidad de Costa Rica**.

VENEZUELA: **Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC)**; **Instituto de Ciencias Ambientales y Ecológicas (ICAE, Universidad de los Andes)**; **Universidad Central**, and **Universidad Simón Bolívar**.

BRAZIL: **Instituto de Biociencias (IB)** of the **Universidad de São Paulo (USP)**; **Instituto de Botânica (IBT)**; **Universidade de Campinas (UNICAMP)**; **Universidade Federal de Brasília**, **Universidade Federal de Rio Grande do Sul**, **Universidade Federal de Pernambuco**, and **Universidade Federal de Viçosa**.

CHILE: **Universidad de Chile**; **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile**; **Universidad de Concepción**, **Universidad Austral de Chile**, and **Universidad de La Serena**.

ARGENTINA: **Universidad de Buenos Aires**; **Universidad de la Plata**; **Instituto Darwiniano**; **IMBIV, Universidad de Córdoba**, **Instituto de Botánica del Nordeste, CIRN-INTA** and **CICV-INTA**.

For further information visit our Web site:

www.rlb-botanica.org

or send an e-mail to:

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Funds granted to the RLB since 1987

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation	117,000 (2)
The Rockefeller Foundation	1,000,000 (3)
W. Alton Jones Foundation	200,000 (2)
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	1,280,000 (4)
Agency for International Development	67,000 (1)
J.D. & C.T. MacArthur Foundation	665,000 (3)
Compton Foundation	25,000 (1)
Hewlett Foundation	310,000 (2)
Tyler Prize 2004	100,000 (1)
Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust	30,000 (1)
Total	US\$ 3,794,000 (20)

Number of grants in parenthesis.