

## Harold Robinson — Recipient of the 2010 Asa Gray Award

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FIG. 1. Harold Robinson. Photo by Mauricio Diazgranados.

Harold Robinson's contributions to science place him among the major 20th and 21st century botanical systematists in North America. It's likely that in both centuries he is the leader in research productivity, as measured by number of publications, number of new species and new genera described, and nomenclatural combinations associated with taxonomic restructuring. In the Asteraceae, where Harold's work is best known, his comparable colleagues in the Americas are B. L. Robinson, Jesse Greenman, Sidney Blake, Angel Cabrera, Jose Cuatrecasas, and Billie Turner, and he easily belongs with other major figures of basic taxonomic research from the 20th century and into the present; Art Cronquist, Paul Standley, I. M. Johnston, Merritt Fernald, John K. Small, Julian Steyermark, Rupert Barneby, Rogers McVaugh, and Jerzy Rzedowski. It is satisfying, too, to view this award as tangential recognition of earlier Smithsonian-associated synantherologists, namely Sidney Blake and Jose Cuatrecasas, upon whose publications, herbarium curation, and specimen determinations Robinson has drawn.

The ASPT Asa Gray award is given "to an individual for outstanding accomplishments pertinent to the goals of the

Society. ... The Society is organized to foster, encourage, and promote education and research in the field of plant taxonomy, to include those areas and fields of study that contribute to and bear upon taxonomy and herbaria." From the ASPT Awards Committee (fide Mark Fishbein, 9 June 2010): "We all felt that [Harold Robinson] was a very worthy recipient, especially with respect to his prescient, dramatic revisions to established concepts of Asteraceae taxonomy and his exemplary role as a museum and specimen-based researcher." In a fuller statement, the Committee provided this summary.

"We were particularly struck by several aspects of Harold's career that are compelling in making our recommendation. First, Harold is strongly in the mold of the traditional "giant" of plant taxonomy who has amassed a truly staggering body of knowledge pertaining to both a focal research group as well as plant diversity in general. In Harold's case, this expertise improbably extends to a group for Diptera to which he has made a startling number of taxonomic contributions for someone whose main focus is so taxonomically distant. Second, Harold's understanding of the morphological, and particularly micromorphological, diversity of the hugely