



THICKET OF DIVERSITY

*All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory
Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas*

Request for Proposals

As an affiliate of the Big Thicket Association (BTA), the Big Thicket All Taxa Biological Inventory (ATBI) now referred to as the "Thicket of Diversity" (ToD) is requesting proposals for biological surveys and inventories of all taxonomic groups in east Texas. Although surveys and inventories are focused primarily on the National Park Service's Big Thicket National Preserve, surveys may include properties managed by The Nature Conservancy, State and National Forests, and private land holdings as appropriate.

The ToD is requesting proposals in an attempt to evaluate research priorities, assess funding needs, and coordinate inventory efforts of all extant organisms on the lands mentioned above. The ToD seeks to facilitate research activities and data dissemination between individual researchers, the entities managing surveyed lands, and the general public. Although the ToD does not issue collecting permits; working as a partner with various agencies, the ToD will send proposals forward with recommendations to facilitate the process.

In addition, the ToD intends to provide support for these activities with direct funding to aid researchers on such projects. Funding provided by the ToD is intended to serve as "seed money" for researchers to utilize in seeking additional sources of funding. Funding for individual research projects approved by the ToD Executive Council average \$3400.00. Due to limited funding, the ToD cannot fund projects that require institutional overhead. Although designated inventory funding is currently limited, the ATBI is aggressively soliciting external funding from numerous local and regional sources. Proposals will be accepted at any time, and funds will be awarded on as competitive a basis as possible.

Through the BTA, local temporary housing and modest laboratory facilities may be available and volunteers (field and laboratory) can be organized if requested. Research activities and specimen collections must follow the protocol of the individual entity issuing the permit. In addition, researchers receiving support from the Big Thicket ATBI are required to submit annual and final reports providing a complete list of the taxa collected along with associated collection data, expenditures, etc. All data collection and reporting must comply with the format and protocols established by the ATBI and the agency granting the collecting permit.

Proposal Format:

Proposals should be limited to four printed pages or less (not including required CV's), an exhaustive proposal is not required. However, proposals should include all information necessary for the committee to make an objective assessment of the proposed project. The following minimum content is required for proposals to be considered:

Introduction	Background information relative to the taxa involved and the status of knowledge for the region/state/preserve, etc.
Methodology	Proposed research plan to include research methodology, an estimate of expected results (anticipated number of specimens and taxa to be collected), projected time frame, and proposed properties where collections will be made.
Budget	If you anticipate seeking ATBI funds, please include a budget and brief justification with the proposal. <u>Projects that span more than one (1) year must have a budget divided into annual increments.</u>
Contact	Include complete contact information along with a recent two page CV including relevant experience and publications for each investigator/co-investigator. Students, or other collaborators, assisting investigators do not need to provide a CV.

Completed Proposals (electronic copies preferred) should be sent to one of the individuals listed below:

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