

Annual Report: ATBI-Thicket of Diversity Project – The Lichens

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The last field work in the BTNP was conducted last year (August 2008) with my student Lacey LeGrand. These collections were the basis of her Senior Honors Thesis: “Common Lichens of the Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas” which was completed for her graduation in December 2008. This work, combined with other data on previous collections in the BTNP housed at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Lichen Herbarium (OMA) was presented as a poster at the Botany and Mycology 2009 national meeting this summer (July 2009) in Snowbird, Utah. A copy of the poster was sent to the Big Thicket Association in Saratoga, Texas. One highlight of this work was the first record of the lichen *Bulbothrix isidiza* for the state of Texas.

I continue to process and identify the 1200+ collections made by me and my students in the BTNP area over the last 3 years. As I complete work on more of the species and they are databased for our collection, these records will be made available to the developing database for the BTNP.

My original grant funds from the Big Thicket Association for travel and field work in the BTNP has now been exhausted, but until we have the opportunity to complete the more of the necessary laboratory identification work on these specimens, I will not be requesting additional funding for field work.

I conducted one “workshop” on lichens in the BTNP, and I anticipate doing another such multi-day workshop in the future as time permits.