



## THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

February 25, 2020

### IAPT Research Grants Program Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing the letter in support of the application of Lili Martínez-Domínguez for an IAPT Research Grant for 2020. I have known Lili Martínez-Domínguez for over 5 years as a collaborator, co-author and as a member of her MS committee. In that time, Lili has become the leading authority, via as the senior author of eight published papers and three in press on the systematics and biology of the cycad genus *Ceratozamia*, which is a CITES Appendix 1 listed critically, endangered genus. As a result of her expertise, she is developing a PhD research program to produce a modern monograph of the genus, its reproductive biology, and producing a plan for protection and cultivation of the species. Her previous work and publications are basis for her authorship of the genus for Flora Mesoamericana. Her research program includes multiple approaches that bring together a group of scientists with diverse skills. The design and implementation of her project is based upon the extensive field work, phenology, molecular approaches, morphometrics, and basic morphology and anatomy. It will involve utilizing the newest techniques from plant molecular biology to develop an understanding of the relationships in *Ceratozamia* as well as new types of identification tools such as DNA barcoding and population genetics to give us a new understanding of the genetic diversity in these endangered and unique plants and applying the knowledge to their conservation. It is Lili's eclectic interest and approach that make her l up and coming leader in cycad biology. Indeed this is an important role in our ever-changing world. It is clear to me that she will be a leader in plant sciences, adapts readily to new approaches and technologies, and will be very productive. Her MS work alone would qualify as a PhD dissertation in most universities.

In summary, any investment in the education and research of Lili Martínez-Domínguez will be amply rewarded with significant published research. As evidenced by her career path so far.

Should you require further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dennis Wm. Stevenson".

Dennis Wm. Stevenson, PhD, FMLS  
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Editor, Botanical Review; Associate Editor, Blumea; Editor-in-Chief, Cladistics  
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