

Fay-Wei Li

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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2023 –	Associate Professor, Boyce Thompson Institute
2023 –	Adjunct Associate Professor, Plant Biology Section, Cornell University
2017 –	Assistant Professor, Boyce Thompson Institute
2017 –	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Plant Biology Section, Cornell University
2016 – 2017	Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Zurich Advisor: Peter Szövényi
2015 – 2016	Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley and Duke University Advisor: Carl Rothfels and Kathleen Pryer
2010 – 2015	Ph.D., Department of Biology, Duke University Advisor: Kathleen Pryer
2009 – 2010	Tank platoon commander/Ammunition officer, 2nd lieutenant, ROC Army, Taiwan
2005 – 2009	B.S., Department of Life Science, National Taiwan University

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (lab members in **bold**)

Huang, X.*, W. Wang*, T. Gong*, **D. Wickell***, L.-Y. Kuo, X. Zhang, J. Wen, H. Kim, F. Lu, H. Zhao, S. Chen, H. Li, W. Wu, C. Yu, S. Chen, W. Fan, S. Chen, X. Bao, L. Li, D. Zhang, L. Jiang, X. Yan, Z. Liao, G. Zhou, Y. Guo, J. Ralph, R.R. Sederoff, H. Wei#, P. Zhu#, **F.-W. Li#**, R. Ming#, Q. Li#. 2022. The flying spider-monkey tree fern genome provides insights into fern evolution and arborescence. **Nature Plants** 8: 500–512.

Cover

*Equally contributed; #Corresponding authors

Featured in: [New York Times](#), [Scientific American](#), [Science](#)

Wickell, D., L.-Y. Kuo, H.-P. Yang, A.D. Ashok, I. Irisarri, A. Dadras, S. de Vries, J. de Vries, Y.-M. Huang, Z. Li, M.S. Barker, N.T. Hartwick, T.P. Michael, F.-W. Li. 2021. Underwater CAM photosynthesis elucidated by *Isoetes* genome. **Nature Communications** 12: 6348.

Rahmatpour, N., D.A. Hauser, J.M. Nelson, P.Y. Chen, J.C. Villarreal, M.-Y. Ho, F.-W. Li. 2021. A novel thylakoid-less isolate fills a billion-year gap in the evolution of Cyanobacteria. **Current Biology** 31: 2857–2867. **Cover**

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Szövényi, P., **A. Gunadi, F.-W. Li.** 2021. Charting the genomic landscape of seed-free plants. **Nature Plants** 7: 554–565.

Li, F.-W., T. Nishiyama, M. Waller, E. Fragedakis, J. Keller, Z. Li, N. Fernandez-Pozo, M.S. Barker, T. Bennett, M.A. Blázquez, S. Cheng, A.C. Cuming, J. de Vries, S. de Vries, P.-M. Delaux, I.S. Diop, J. Harrison, D. Hauser, J. Hernández-García, A. Kirbis, J.C. Meeks, I. Monte, S.K. Mutte, A. Neubauer, D. Quandt, T. Robison, M. Shimamura, S.A. Rensing, J.C. Villarreal, D. Weijers, S. Wicke, G.K.-S. Wong, K. Sakakibara, P. Szövényi. 2020. *Anthoceros* genomes illuminate the origin of land plants and the unique biology of hornworts. **Nature Plants** 6: 259–272.

Li, F.-W., P. Brouwer, L. Carretero-Paulet, S. Cheng, J. de Vries, P.-M. Delaux, A.N. Eily, N. Koppers, L.-Y. Kuo, Z. Li, M. Simenc, I. Small, E. Wafula, S. Angarita, M.S. Barker, A. Braeutigam, C. dePamphilis, S.

Gould, P.S. Hosmani, Y.-M. Huang, B. Huettel, Y. Kato, X. Liu, S. Maere, R. McDowell, L.A. Mueller, K.G.J. Nierop, S.A. Rensing, T. Robison, C.J. Rothfels, E.M. Sigel, Y. Song, P.R. Timilsina, Y. Van de Peer, H. Wang, P. K.I. Wilhelmsson, P.G. Wolf, X. Xu, J.P. Der, H. Schluepmann, G.K.-S. Wong, and K.M. Pryer. 2018. Fern genomes elucidate land plant evolution and cyanobacterial symbioses. **Nature Plants** 4: 460–472. **Cover**

Featured in: [Discover Magazine](#), [Mongabay](#), [Faculty of 1000](#), [Nature Plants News & Views](#), [Der Spiegel](#)

Li, F.-W., J.C. Villarreal, P. Szovenyi. 2017. Hornworts, an overlooked window into carbon-concentrating mechanism. **Trends in Plant Science** 22: 275–277.

Li, F.-W., M. Melkonian, C.J. Rothfels, J.C. Villareal, D. Stevenson, S.W. Graham, G.K.-S. Wong, K.M. Pryer, S. Mathews. 2015. Phytochrome diversity in green plants and the origin of canonical plant phytochromes. **Nature Communications** 6: 7852.

Li, F.-W., J.C. Villarreal, S. Kelly, C.J. Rothfels, M. Melkonian, E. Frangedakis, M. Ruhsam, E. M. Sigel, J.P. Der, J. Pittermann, D.O. Burge, L. Pokorny, A. Larsson, T. Chen, S. Weststrand, P. Thomas, E. Carpenter, Y. Zhang, Z. Tian, L. Chen, Z. Yan, Y. Zhu, X. Sun, J. Wang, D.W. Stevenson, B.J. Crandall-Stotler, A.J. Shaw, M.K. Deyholos, D.E. Soltis, S.W. Graham, M.D. Windham, J.A. Langdale, G.K.S. Wong, S. Mathews & K.M. Pryer. 2014. Horizontal transfer of an adaptive chimeric photoreceptor from bryophytes to ferns.

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Li, F.-W., K.M. Pryer, M.D. Windham. 2012. *Gaga*, a new genus segregated from *Cheilanthes* (Pteridaceae). **Systematic Botany** 37: 845-860.

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COMPLETE PUBLICATION LIST (lab members in **bold**)

84 publications (45 as first/last author) | 6634 citations

IN REVIEW/IN PREP

Lafferty, D.C., T.A. Robison, A. Gunadi, L.H. Gunn, J. Van Eck, **F.-W. Li**. Biolistic-mediated transformation of hornworts and its application to study pyrenoid protein localization. in review.

Suisse, J.S., F.-W. Li, C.S. Moreau. The convergent evolution of ant-guarding nectaries in ferns is linked to the Cenozoic rise of arthropod herbivores. in review.

Li, C.* , **D. Wickell***, **L.-Y. Kuo**, X. Chen, B. Nie , X. Liao, D. Peng, J. Ji, J. Jenkins, M. Williams, S. Shu, C. Plott, K. Barry, S. Rajasekar, J. Grimwood, X. Han, S. Sun, Z. Hou, W. He, G. Dai, C. Sun, J. Schmutz , J.H. Leebens-Mack, **F.-W. Li#**, L. Wang#. Extraordinary preservation of gene collinearity over three hundred million years revealed in homosporous lycophytes. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA**, in revision. bioRxiv: doi.org/10.1101/2023.07.24.548637

*Equally contributed; #Corresponding authors

Feng, X., J. Zheng, I. Irisarri, H. Yu, B. Zheng, Z. Ali, S. de Vries, J. Keller, J.M.R. Fürst-Jansen, A. Dadras, J.M.S. Zegers, T.P. Rieseberg, A.D. Ashok, T. Darienko, M.J. Bierenbroodspot, L. Gramzow, R. Petroll, F.B. Haas, N. Fernandez-Pozo, O. Nousias, T. Li, E. Fitzek, W.S. Grayburn, N. Rittmeier, C. Permann, F. Rümpler, J. M. Archibald, G. Theissen, J. P. Mower, M. Lorenz, H. Buschmann, K. von Schwartzenberg, L. Boston, R.D. Hayes, C. Daum, K. Barry, I.V. Grigoriev, X. Wang, **F.-W. Li**, S.A. Rensing, J.B. Ari, N. Keren, A. Mosquna, A. Holzinger, P.-M. Delaux, C. Zhang, J. Huang, M. Mutwil, J. de Vries, Y. Yin. Chromosome-

level genomes of multicellular algal sisters to land plants illuminate signaling network evolution. **Nature Genetics**, in revision. bioRxiv: doi.org/10.1101/2023.01.31.526407

2023

Li, F.-W. 2023. The chromosome hoarding syndrome of (some) ferns and lycophytes. **Nature Reviews Genetics** 24: 735–737.

Rahmatpour, N., L.-Y. Kuo, J. Kang, E. Herman, L. Lei, M. Li, S. Srinivasan, R. Z, S.M. Wolniak, C. Delwiche, S. Mount, F.-W. Li. 2023. Analyses of *Marsilea vestita* genome and transcriptomes do no support widespread intron retention during spermatogenesis. **New Phytologist** 237: 1490–1494.

Wickell, D., J. Landis, E. Zimmer, F.-W. Li. Population genomics of the *Isoetes appalachiana* (Isoetaceae) complex supports a ‘diploids-first’ approach to conservation. **Annals of Botany**, in press.

Schafran, P., F.-W. Li, C.J. Rothfels. 2023. PURC: a program for improved sequence inference for polyploid phylogenetics and other manifestations of the multiple-copy problem. **Methods in Molecular Biology** 2545: 189–206.

Hisanaga, T., S. Wu, **P. Schafran**, E. Axelsson S. Akimcheva, L. Dolan, **F.-W. Li**, F. Berger. 2023. The ancestral chromatin landscape of land plants. **New Phytologist** <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.19311>.

Jiang, H.-W., H.-Y. Wu, C.-H. Wang, C.-H. Yang, J.-T. Ko, H.-C. Ho, M.-D. Tsai, D. Bryant, **F.-W. Li**, M.-C. Ho. M.-Y. Ho. A relict phycobilisome structure discovered from a thylakoid-free cyanobacterium. **Nature Communications**, in press.

Kumar, S., Y. Wang, Y. Zhou, L. Dillard, **F.-W. Li**, C. Sciandra, N. Sui, R. Zentella, M. Borgnia, A. Bartesaghi, T.-p. Sun, P. Zhou. 2023. Structure and dynamics of the Arabidopsis O-fucosyltransferase SPINDLY. **Nature Communications** 14: 1538.

De La Cerda, G.Y., J.B. Landis, E. Eifler, A. Hernandez, **F.-W. Li**, J. Zhang, C.M. Tribble, N. Karimi, P. Chan, T. Givnish, S. Strickler, C.D. Specht. 2023. Balancing read length and sequencing depth: optimizing Nanopore sequencing for monocots with an emphasis on Liliaceae. **Applications in Plant Sciences** 11: e11524.

de Vries, S., C. Herrfurth, **F.-W. Li**, I. Feussner, J. de Vries. 2023. An ancient route towards salicylic acid and its implications for the perpetual *Trichormus*–*Azolla* symbiosis. **Plant, Cell & Environment** 46: 2884–2908.

Song, M.J., C.J. Rothfels, E. Schuettpelz, J. Nitta, L. Huiet, **F.-W. Li**, K.M. Wefferling. 2023. Resolving deep relationships and revealing ancient whole-genome duplications in Pteridaceae using transcriptomic data. **American Fern Journal** 113: 191–210.

Ang, W.S.L.*, O. Burleigh*, S. Frail*, Y.V.S. Santos*, B. Tyagi*, **F.-W. Li**. 2023. Genome sequence of a symbiotic cyanobacterium from the flowering plant *Gunnera tinctoria*. **Microbiology Resource Announcements**, in press.

*Course participants of Molecular and Cell Biology of Symbiosis at Marine Biological Laboratory

Rizzieri, Y.C., A. Lipari*, L.H. Gunn, **F.-W. Li**. 2023. Twelve new bacterial genomes from a non-axenic culture of *Griffithsia monilis* (Rhodophyta). **Microbiology Resource Announcements**, in press.

*Summer REU student

2022

Huang, X.* , W. Wang*, T. Gong*, **D. Wickell***, L.-Y. Kuo, X. Zhang, J. Wen, H. Kim, F. Lu, H. Zhao, S. Chen, H. Li, W. Wu, C. Yu, S. Chen, W. Fan, S. Chen, X. Bao, L. Li, D. Zhang, L. Jiang, X. Yan, Z. Liao, G. Zhou, Y. Guo, J. Ralph, R.R. Sederoff, H. Wei#, P. Zhu#, **F.-W. Li#**, R. Ming#, Q. Li#. 2022. The flying spider-monkey tree fern genome provides insights into fern evolution and arborescence. **Nature Plants** 8: 500–512.

Cover

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Marchant, D.B., G. Chen, S. Cai, F. Chen, **P. Schafran**, J. Jenkins, S. Shu, C. Plott, J. Webber, J. Lovell, G. He, L. Sandor, M. Williams, S. Rajasekar, A. Healey, K. Barry, Y. Zhang, E. Sessa, R. Dhakal, P. Wolf, A. Harkess, **F.-W. Li**, C. Rössner, A. Becker, L. Gramzow, D. Xue, Y. Wu, T. Tong, Y. Wang, F. Dai, S. Hua, H. Wang, S. Xu, F. Xu, H. Duan, G. Theißen, R.J. Schmitz, D. Stevenson, C. Zumajo-Cardona, B.A. Ambrose, J.H. Leebens-Mack, J. Grimwood, J. Schmutz, P.S. Soltis, D.E. Soltis, Z.H. Chen. 2022. Dynamic genome evolution in a model fern. **Nature Plants** 8: 1038–1051.

Robison, T.A., J.M. Nelson, D.A. Hauser, L.A. Lewis, F.-W. Li. 2022. Dynamic plastid and mitochondrial genomes in Chaetopeltidales (Chlorophyceae) and characterization of a new chlorophyte taxon. **American Journal of Botany** 6: 939–951.

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Petlewski, A.R., D.A. Hauser, M. Kim, J. Schmutz, J. Grimwood, F.-W. Li. 2022. Re-evaluating the systematics of *Dendrolycopodium* using restriction-site associated DNA-sequencing. **Frontiers in Plant Science** 13: 912080.

Ke, B.-F., G.-J. Wang, P.H. Labiak, G. Rouhan, Goflag Consortium, C.-W. Chen, L. Shepherd, D.J. Ohlsen, M.A.M. Renner, K.G. Karol, **F.-W. Li**, **L.-Y. Kuo**. 2022. Systematics and plastome evolution in Schizaeaceae. **Frontiers in Plant Science** 13: 885501.

Gunadi, A., F.-W. Li, J. Van Eck. 2022. Accelerating the gametophyte growth of the model hornwort *Anthoceros agrestis* (Anthocerotaceae). **Applications in Plant Sciences** 10: e11460.

Neubauer, A., S. Ruaud, M. Waller, E. Frangedakis, **F.-W. Li**, S.I. Nötzold, S. Wicke, A. Bailly, P. Szővényi. 2022. Step-by-step protocol for isolation and transient transformation of hornwort protoplasts. **Applications in Plant Sciences** 10: e11456.

Petlewski, A.R., A. Patterson*, F.-W. Li. 2022. Characterizing culturable bacterial endophytes of five Lycopodiaceae species. **American Fern Journal** 112: 79–92.

*Summer REU student

Trigoboff, N. and **F.-W. Li**. 2022. *Crepidomanes intricatum* (Hymenophyllaceae), a sporophyte-less filmy fern new to Central New York. **American Fern Journal** 112: 139–141.

Powell, A.F. J. Zhang, **D.A. Hauser**, J. Vilela, A. Hu, D.J. Gates, L.A. Mueller, **F.-W. Li**, S. Strickler, S.D. Smith. 2022. Genome sequence for the blue-flowered Andean shrub *lochroma cyaneum* reveals extensive discordance across the berry clade of Solanaceae. **The Plant Genome** e20223.

Chatterjee, P., **P. Schafran**, **F.-W. Li**, J.C. Meeks. *Nostoc* talks back: Differential gene expression during nitrogen starvation of *Anthoceros* and establishment of its symbiosis with *Nostoc*. **Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions** 35: 917–932.

Schafran, P., F.-W. Li, C.J. Rothfels. 2022. PURC v2.0: a program for improved sequence inference for polyploid phylogenetics and other manifestations of the multiple-copy problem. In Y. Van de Peer (Ed.), *Polyploidy: Methods and Protocols*. Springer Nature (New York).

2021

Wickell, D., L.-Y. Kuo, H.-P. Yang, A.D. Ashok, I. Irisarri, A. Dadras, S. de Vries, J. de Vries, Y.-M. Huang, Z. Li, M.S. Barker, N.T. Hartwick, T.P. Michael, F.-W. Li. 2021. Underwater CAM photosynthesis elucidated by *Isoetes* genome. **Nature Communications** 12: 6348.

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Rahmatpour, N., D.A. Hauser, J.M. Nelson, P.Y. Chen, J.C. Villarreal, M.-Y. Ho, F.-W. Li. 2021. A novel thylakoid-less isolate fills a billion-year gap in the evolution of Cyanobacteria. **Current Biology** 31: 2857–2867. [Cover](#)

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Szövényi, P., A. Gunadi, F.-W. Li. 2021. Charting the genomic landscape of seed-free plants. **Nature Plants** 7: 554–565.

Li, F.-W. 2021. Decolonizing botanical genomics. **Nature Plants** 7: 1542–1543.

Yang, H.-P., M. Wenzel, D.A. Hauser, J.M. Nelson, X. Xu, M. Eliáš, F.-W. Li. 2021. *Monodopsis* and *Vischeria* genomes shed new light on the biology of eustigmatophyte algae. **Genome Biology and Evolution** 13: evab233.

Nelson, J.M., D.A. Hauser, F.-W. Li. 2021. The diversity and community structure of symbiotic cyanobacteria in hornworts inferred from long-read amplicon sequencing. **American Journal of Botany** 108: 1731–1744.

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Frangedakis, E., M. Waller, T. Nishiyama, H. Tsukaya, **X. Xu**, Y. Yue, M. Tjahjadi, **A. Gunadi**, J. Van Eck, **F.-W. Li**, P. Szövényi, K. Sakakibara. 2021. An *Agrobacterium*-mediated stable transformation technique for the hornwort model *Anthoceros agrestis*. **New Phytologist** 232: 1488–1505. [Cover](#)

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2020

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Radhakrishnan, G.V, J. Keller, M.K. Rich, T. Vernié, D.L. Mbaginda, N. Vigneron, L. Cottret, H.S. Clemente, C. Libourel, J. Cheema, A.-M. Linde, D.M. Eklund, S. Cheng, G.K.-S. Wong, U. Lagercrantz, **F.-W. Li**, G.E.D. Oldroyd, P.-M. Delaux. 2020. An ancestral signalling pathway is conserved in plant lineages forming intracellular symbioses. **Nature Plants** 6: 280–289.

Kuo, L.-Y., Y.-H. Chang, Y.-H. Huang, W. Testo, A. Ebihara, G. Rouhan, L.G. Quintanilla, J.E. Watkins Jr, Y.-M. Huang, F.-W. Li. 2020. A global phylogeny of *Stegnogramma* ferns (Thelypteridaceae): generic and sectional revision, historical biogeography and evolution of leaf architecture. **Cladistics** 36: 164–183.

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- Wickell, D.A. and F.-W. Li.** 2020. On the evolutionary significance of horizontal gene transfers in plants. **New Phytologist** 225: 113–117.
- Windham, M.D., K.M. Pryer, D.B. Poindexter, **F.-W. Li**, C.J. Rothfels, and J.B. Beck. 2020. A step-by-step protocol for meiotic chromosome counts in flowering plants: A powerful and economical technique revisited. **Applications in Plant Sciences** 8: e11342.
- Bell, D., Q. Lin, W.K. Gerelle, S. Joya, Y. Chang, Z.N. Taylor, C.J. Rothfels, A. Larsson, J.C. Villarreal, **F.-W. Li**, L. Pokorny, P. Szövényi, B. Crandall-Stotler, L. DeGironimo, S.K. Floyd, D.J. Beerling, M.K. Deyholos, M. von Konrat, S. Ellis, A.J. Shaw, T. Chen, G.K.-S. Wong, D.W. Stevenson, J.D. Palmer, S.W. Graham. 2020. Organellomic data sets confirm a cryptic consensus on (unrooted) land-plant relationships, and provide new insights into bryophyte molecular evolution. **American Journal of Botany** 107: 91–115.
- Bouchard, R., Peñaloza-Bojacá, G., S. Toupin, Y. Guadalupe, J. Gudiño, N. Salazar Allen, **F.-W. Li**, J.C. Villarreal. 2020. Contrasting bacteriome of the hornwort *Leiosporoceros dussii* in two nearby sites with emphasis on the hornwort-cyanobacterial symbiosis. **Symbiosis** 81: 39–52.
- Dawes, T., J.C. Villarreal, P. Szövényi, I. Bisang, **F.-W. Li**, **D.A. Hauser**, D. Quandt, D.C. Cargill, L.L. Forrest. 2020. Extremely low genetic diversity in the European clade of the model bryophyte *Anthoceros agrestis*. **Plant Systematics and Evolution** 306: 49.
- Henkhaus, N., M. Bartlett, D. Gang, R. Grumet, I. Jordon-Thaden, A. Lorence, R. Lyons, S. Miller, S. Murray, A. Nelson, C. Specht, B. Tyler, T. Wentworth, D. Ackery, D. Baltensperger, P. Benfey, J. Birchler, S. Chellamma, R. Crowder, M. Donoghue, J. Pablo Dundore-Arias, J. Fletcher, V. Fraser, K. Gillespie, L. Guralnick, E. Haswell, M. Hunter, S. Kaepller, S. Kepinski, **F.-W. Li**, S. Mackenzie, L. McDade, Y. Min, J. Nemhauser, B. Pearson, P. Petracek, K. Rogers, A. Sakai, D. Sickler, C. Taylor, L. Wayne, O. Wendroth, F. Zapata, D. Stern. 2020. Plant science decadal vision 2020–2030: Reimagining the potential of plants for a healthy and sustainable future. **Plant Direct** 4: e00252.
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- Nelson, J.M., D.A. Hauser**, J.A. Gudiño, Y.A. Guadalupe, J.C. Meeks, N. Salazar, J.C. Villarreal, **F.-W. Li**. 2019. Complete genomes of symbiotic cyanobacteria clarify the evolution of Vanadium-nitrogenase. **Genome Biology and Evolution** 11: 1959–1964.
- Petlewski, A.R. and F.-W. Li.** 2019. Ferns: the final frond-tier in plant model systems. **American Fern Journal** 109: 192–211.
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- Kuo, L.-Y.**, T.-C. Hsu, Y.-S. Chao, W.-T. Liou, H.-M. Chang, C.-W. Chen, Y.-M. Huang, **F.-W. Li**, Y.-F. Huang, W. Shao, P.-F. Lu, C.-W. Chen, Y.-H. Chang, W.-L. Chiou. 2019. Updating Taiwanese pteridophyte checklist: a new phylogenetic classification. **Taiwania** 64: 367–395.
- Li, F.-W.** and S. Mathews. 2019. Phylogenetic method to study light signaling. In A. Hiltbrunner (Ed.), *Phytochromes: Methods and Protocols*. Springer Nature (New York).

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Delaux, P.-M., A.J. Hetherington, Y. Coudert, C. Delwiche, C. Dunand, S. Gould, P. Kenrick, **F.-W. Li**, H. Philippe, S.A. Rensing, M. Rich, C. Strullu-Derrien, J. de Vries. 2019. Reconstructing trait evolution: A guideline for plant evo-devo studies (and beyond). **Current Biology** 29: R1105–R1121.

2018

Li, F.-W., P. Brouwer, L. Carretero-Paulet, S. Cheng, J. de Vries, P.-M. Delaux, A.N. Eily, N. Koppers, **L.-Y. Kuo**, Z. Li, M. Simenc, I. Small, E. Wafula, S. Angarita, M.S. Barker, A. Braeutigam, C. dePamphilis, S. Gould, P.S. Hosmani, Y.-M. Huang, B. Huettel, Y. Kato, X. Liu, S. Maere, R. McDowell, L.A. Mueller, K.G.J. Nierop, S.A. Rensing, T. Robison, C.J. Rothfels, E.M. Sigel, Y. Song, P.R. Timilsina, Y. Van de Peer, H. Wang, P. K.I. Wilhelmsson, P.G. Wolf, X. Xu, J.P. Der, H. Schluemann, G.K.-S. Wong, and K.M. Pryer. 2018. Fern genomes elucidate land plant evolution and cyanobacterial symbioses. **Nature Plants** 4: 460–472. **Cover**

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*Equally contributed

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*Equally contributed

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Featured in: Duke Today, Faculty of 1000

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2009-2014

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Featured in: New York Times, The Economist, National Geographic, Scientific American, Faculty of 1000, Current Biology, Nature Reviews Genetics

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Featured in: GigaScience Editor's pick

Sessa, E.B., J.A. Banks, M.S. Barker, J.P. Der, A.M. Duffy, S.W. Graham, M. Hasebe, J. Langdale, **F.-W. Li**, D.B. Merchant, K.M. Pryer, C.J. Rothfels, S.J. Roux, M.L. Salmi, E.M. Sigel, D.E. Soltis, P.S. Soltis, D.W. Stevenson, P.G. Wolf. 2014. Between two fern genomes. **GigaScience** 3:15.

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Li, F.-W., K.M. Pryer, M.D. Windham. 2012. *Gaga*, a new genus segregated from *Cheilanthes* (Pteridaceae). **Systematic Botany** 37: 845–860.

Featured in: [New York Times](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Wired](#), [The Guardian](#)

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Li, F.-W.. 2011. Book review: Knapp, Ralf. 2011. Ferns and Fern Allies of Taiwan. **Taxon** 60: 1233-1234.

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*Equally contributed

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Li, F.-W., B.C. Tan, V. Buchbender, R.C. Moran, G. Rouhan, C.N. Wang, D. Quandt. 2009. Identifying a mysterious aquatic fern gametophyte. **Plant Systematics and Evolution** 281: 77–86.

FUNDING

LEAD PI ON 3 NSF GRANTS TOTALING \$3,452,208 (\$2,243,151 TO MY GROUP)

External competitive funding

NSF MCB Cellular Dynamics and Function | From phylogeny to biomolecules: a cross-scale approach to understand the making of a unique carbon-concentrating mechanism in hornworts (2213841)

\$1,072,924 (2022.6.1 – 2025.5.31), Li portion: \$503,654

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Laura Gunn (Cornell Plant Biology)

NSF IOS EDGE | Developing transformation capacity for *Anthoceros agrestis* to facilitate gene function studies in hornworts, a remarkable phylum of plants (1923011)

\$548,419 (2019.9.1 – 2022.8.31)

PI: Fay-Wei Li

Co-PI: Joyce Van Eck (BTI)

NSF DEB Dimensions of Biodiversity | Integrating phylogenetics, ecophysiology, and transcriptomics to understand the diversity of hornwort-cyanobacterium symbiosis (1831428)

\$1,830,855 (2019.1.1 – 2023.12.31), Li portion: \$1,191,078

PI: Fay-Wei Li, John Meeks (University of California Davis), Jed Sparks (Cornell EEB)

Supplement #1 | Research Experience for Post-Baccalaureate Students (2139576)

\$40,750

Supplement #2 | Research Collaboration Opportunity in Europe (2034018)

\$27,005

DOE Large-Scale EMSL Research User Grant | Understanding the genetic and structural bases of hornworts' carbon-concentrating mechanism

\$118,888 in-kind support (2021.10.1 – 2023.9.30)

PI: Fay-Wei Li

Pending external competitive funding

NSF DEB PURSUIT | Uncovering the hidden diversity of Gloeobacteria, an enigmatic lineage crucial for understanding the early evolution of cyanobacteria

\$1,063,529, Li portion: \$595,531

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Christy Grettenberger (University of California Davis)

USDA Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products | Characterizing the cannabinoid biosynthesis pathway in the liverwort *Radula obconica*

\$645,155

PI: Fay-Wei Li

Internal competitive funding

Triad Foundation Award | Understanding how ferns can withstand extreme desiccation

\$100,000 (2021.9.1 – 2022.8.31)

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Sally Chambers (Marie Selby Botanical Gardens)

Triad Foundation Award | An “EPYC” quest to search for the Rubisco tether protein in hornwort pyrenoids

\$59,125 (2021.7.1 – 2022.6.30)

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Joyce Van Eck and Aleksandra Skirycz

Triad Foundation Award | Biosynthesis of cannabinoids in liverworts

\$75,000 (2020.9.1 – 2021.8.31)

PI: Fay-Wei Li, Georg Jander, Frank Schroeder

Triad Foundation Award | Exploring native plant diversity: what a threatened *Aconitum* can teach us about changing species distributions and medicinal compounds

\$50,500 (2018.7.1 – 2019.6.30)

PI: Suzy Strickler, Fay-Wei Li, Georg Jander, Chelsea Specht

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2023 Humboldt Research Fellowship, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 2016 Forschungskredit postdoc fellowship, University of Zurich
- 2015 Perry Price (best thesis in plant science), Duke University
- 2014 Edgar T. Wherry Award, Botanical Society of America
- 2014 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2012 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

INVITED SEMINARS AND SIGNIFICANT MEETING PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 **University of Illinois**, Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology Series (scheduled)
- 2024 **University of Connecticut**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (scheduled)
- 2023 **Friedrich Schiller University Jena**, Institute of Ecology and Evolution (scheduled)
- 2023 **Botany 2023**, Colloquium *Attack of the (haploid) clones: the resurgence of gametophyte biology across land plants*
- 2023 **Gordon Research Conference**, "Chloroplast Biotechnology", Ventura Beach, CA
- 2023 **University of Arizona**, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- 2022 **EMBO Workshop**, "An integrated view of early land plant evolution", Bhubaneswar, India
- 2022 **Plant Genome Online**, keynote speaker
- 2021 **Louisiana State University**, Department of Biological Sciences
- 2021 **University of Maryland**, UMD Plant Virtual Minisymposium
- 2021 **University of California Davis**, Photosynthesis Mini-Symposium
- 2021 **Laboratoire Reproduction et Développement des Plantes**, Lyon
- 2021 **University of Goettingen**, Institute for Microbiology and Genetics
- 2020 **Oxford University**, Oxford University Biological Society
- 2020 **Botany 2020**, Colloquium *Mechanisms of rapid adaptation through the expression of heterogenomicity*
- 2020 **Ithaca College**, Department of Biology
- 2019 **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History** (Botany), Washington DC
- 2019 **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History** ("Phylopizza"), Washington DC
- 2019 **Marine Biological Laboratory**, Woods Hole, MA
- 2018 **Harvard University**, Herbarium Seminar Series
- 2018 **EMBO Workshop**, "New shores in land plant evolution", Lisbon, Portugal
- 2018 **National Tsing Hua University** (Taiwan), Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology
- 2018 **7th Asian Symposium of Ferns and Lycophyte**, Keynote speaker, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2017 **University of Rochester**, Department of Biology
- 2017 **Arizona State University**, The Life Science Cafe seminar series
- 2017 **Iowa State University**, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology
- 2017 **Chicago Plant Science Symposium**
- 2017 **Cornell University**, Plant Biology Section
- 2016 **Utrecht University**, Institute of Environmental Biology
- 2016 **University of Zurich**, Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany
- 2016 **Université Laval**, Institute for Integrative Systems Biology
- 2016 **Yale University**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- 2015 **North Carolina State University**, Plant & Microbial Biology Seminar
- Declined/postponed due to pandemic*
- 2022 **University of Florida**, Department of Biology
- 2020 **Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology**

TEACHING

Main Instructor

Molecular and Cell Biology of Symbiosis, Marine Biological Laboratory	2023
<i>For graduate students and postdocs. I gave lectures and led lab projects on plant-related symbiosis.</i>	
Concepts and Techniques in Plant Biology (PLBIO 6831), Cornell University	2023
<i>Graduate-level course.</i>	
Problems in Plant Biology (PLBIO 7410), Cornell University	2022 – 2023
<i>Graduate-level seminar course.</i>	
Plant Comparative and Evolutionary Genomics (PLBIO 7420), Cornell University	2018
<i>Graduate-level course.</i>	
Practical Phylogenetics , Duke University	2014
<i>Graduate-level course, co-taught with Dave Swofford.</i>	

Guest Lectures

Introductory Plant Diversity and Evolution (PLBIO 2410), Cornell University <i>One lecture on bryophytes</i>	2022 – 2023
Vascular Plant Systematics (PLBIO 2480), Cornell University <i>Two lectures on the biology of algae, bryophytes, lycopophytes, and ferns</i>	
Problems in Plant Biology (PLBIO 7410), Cornell University	2017 – 2021
<i>One lecture around a paper of interest</i>	
Medical Ethnobotany (PLBIO 1100), Cornell University	2017 – 2020
<i>One lecture on the medicinal use of ferns</i>	
Topics in Plant Evolution (PLBIO 6560), Cornell University	2017 – 2020
<i>Participated in weekly paper discussion</i>	
Faculty Research (PLBIO 7430), Cornell University	2017 – 2019
<i>One lecture about my research program to the first-year graduate students</i>	
Principles of Biology (BIO 110), SUNY Cortland	2022
<i>One lecture about seed-free plants</i>	

MENTORING

Graduate Students Advised

Yanã Rizzieri	Cornell Plant Biology	2023-present
Tanner Robison	Cornell Plant Biology	2019-present
David Wickell	Cornell Plant Biology	2018-2023
Alaina Petlewski	Cornell Plant Biology	2017-2021

Postdoctoral Researchers Advised

Warren Ang	2022-present
Guillermo J. Aleman	2022-present (co-advised with Georg Jander, BTI)
Sylvia Kinosian	2022-present (co-advised with Michael Barker, University of Arizona)

Declan Lafferty	2022-present (co-advised with Joyce Van Eck, BTI)
Peter Schafran	2019-present
Jacob Suissa	2022-2023 (co-advised with Corrie Moreau, Cornell EEB); now Assistant Professor at University of Tennessee Knoxville
Andika Gunadi	2019-2021 (co-advised with Joyce Van Eck, BTI); now Plant Transformation and Genome-editing Scientist, J.R. Simplot Company
Nasim Nahmatpour	2019-2021; now Bioinformatics Scientist, Analytical Biosciences
Jessica Nelson	2017-2019; now Lecturer of Biology, Maastricht University (Netherlands)
Li-Yaung Kuo	2017-2019; now Assistant Professor, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan)

Awards Received by Students

David Wickell	Smithsonian Graduate Student Fellowship, National Museum of Natural History (\$8,000)
David Wickell	Washington Biologists Field Club Research Awards (\$4,035)
David Wickell	Schmittau-Novak Integrative Plant Science Small Grants, Cornell (\$3,992)
Tanner Robison	Schmittau-Novak Integrative Plant Science Small Grants, Cornell (\$4,207)
Alaina Petlewski	R.C. Lewontin Early Award, Society for the Study of Evolution (\$2,500)
Alaina Petlewski	Andrew W. Mellon Student Research Grant, Cornell (\$780)
Alaina Petlewski	American Society of Plant Taxonomists Graduate Student Research Grant (\$1,200)

Awards Received by Postdocs

Jacob Suissa	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Rules of Life track)
Sylvia Kinosian	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Plant Genome track)
Peter Schafran	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Plant Genome track)

Dissertation/Exam Committee

Ryan Thummel	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Alejandra Gandolfo
Ayress Grinage	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Chelsea Specht
Joseph Cammarata	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Michael Scanlon & Adrienne Roeder
Heather Phillips	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Chelsea Specht
Thereis Choo	Cornell Plant Biology	Advisor: Kevin Nixon
Michael Song	UC Berkeley IB	Advisor: Carl Rothfels
Nikolai Hay	Duke Biology	Advisor: Kathleen Pryer
Blake Fauskee	Duke Biology	Advisor: Kathleen Pryer
Ariana Eily	Duke Biology	Advisor: Kathleen Pryer
Rizky Kafrawi	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Advisor: Shannon Straub

Undergraduate/High School Students Advised

Isabel Smalley	University of Minnesota	2023
Evan Smith	University of Notre Dame	2023
Jenna Sins	Gannon University	2022
August Lipari	Grinnell College	2022
Makaila Weir	Ohio Wesleyan University	2021
Isa Johnson	Ohio Wesleyan University	2021

Ariel Patterson	Reeds College	2019 (Best poster; BTI REU symposium)
Victor Cai	Duke University	2019
Marazzano Colon	Duke University	2018
Harry Hou	Kimball Union Academy	2018

Other Contributions and Interactions

Graduate student recruitment committee, Plant Biology Field, Cornell University (2023)

Graduate student recruitment committee, Plant Biology Field, Cornell University (2019)

Graduate student admission committee, Plant Biology Field, Cornell University (2018)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Public Outreach

2023 **Let's Botanize**, "Hornworts!"

Collaboration with Let's Botanize (>129K followers on Instagram) to introduce hornworts.
[Recording](#).

2021 **Art at BTI**, "Dead Plant Wisdom: Exploring identity, colonialism and climate change through art and herbaria"

Conversation with Zachari Logan and AJ Bouchie. [Recording](#).

2020 **Fundraising campaign for Cayuga Lake harmful algal bloom research**

Working closely with Aly Evans to put together a fundraising proposal. We held four info sessions to engage with the local communities and pitch the project idea.

2020 **BTI Breaking Ground Discussion Series**, "Spooky Plants"

[Recording](#).

2019 **Finger Lakes Native Plant Society**, "Ferntastic Ferns and Lycophytes"

Talked about the natural history of ferns and lycophytes.

2019 **Science on Screen: Little shop of horrors**

Gave a pre-show presentation "Killer Plants!" in Cinemapolis as a part of the Science on Screen program. [Recording](#).

2018 **Sciencenter After Dark: Wicked Plants**

Engage with the public with hands-on activities

2018 **Sciencenter Members' Night**, "Wicked ferns—Ferns that killed the early Australian explorers"

The opening talk for the Wicked Plants exhibition. 75% of the audience were children.

2018 **Judy's Day** at Cornell Botanic Gardens

My lab has two booths: "Ferntastic Azolla and Lycophytes" and "Amazing Bryophytes". Jessica Nelson (postdoc) did several botanical drawings for the stickers, and I helped make sure the tree of life figure (this year's theme) is correct

2018 **Workshop on Pteridophyte Reproductive Biology** at Dr. Cecilia Koo Botanic Conservation Center (Taiwan)

A training workshop for researchers in Southeast Asia. I gave a lecture on "High-level classification of ferns and lycophytes"

2018 **NSF INCLUDE** at Cornell University, "Biodiversity!"

To high school students from underserved school districts

2017 **Ithaca Garden Club**, "Ferntastic ferns and where to find them"

To members of the garden club

2017 **NSF INCLUDE** at Cornell University, "Biodiversity!"

To high school students from underserved school districts

- 2017 **Art at BTI**, “Tamed Wonders: Ferns and humans as seen from the BTI atrium”
To artists and art-lovers; [video recording](#)
- 2017 **BTI Giving Tuesday Livestream**
Live video interview with Keith Hannon
- 2017 **Fascination of Plants Day Livestream**
Live video interview with Keith Hannon
- 2017 **BTI Science Bomb Podcast**
Audio interview with Keith Hannon

Media Appearance

- 2022 Interviewed and featured by New Scientist “[Horizontal gene transfer happens more often than anyone thought](#)”
- 2022 Quoted by New Scientist “[Genes from bacteria may have helped plants colonise the land](#)”
- 2022 Quoted by Nature Plants Research Briefing “[The evolutionary mechanisms of mycoheterotrophic orchids](#)”
- 2019 Quoted by The Mercury News “[Genetic code for California’s iconic trees uncovered](#)”

Editorial Service

- 2018 – 2023 **Associate Editor**, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution (handled 74 manuscripts)
- 2021 – 2023 **Associate Editor**, American Fern Journal (handled 2 manuscript)

Symposium/workshop Organizer

- 2022 **Botany 2022 workshop: de novo genome Assembly and Annotation with an Emphasis on Phylogenetic and Population Genetic Studies**, co-organized with Suzy Strickler and Jacob Landis
- 2021 **Hornworts: the Next Generation**, Bryophytes and Lichens BL2021 (virtual)
- 2021 **Botany 2021 workshop: de novo genome Assembly and Annotation with an Emphasis on Phylogenetic and Population Genetic Studies**, co-organized with Suzy Strickler and Jacob Landis (virtual)
- 2020 **Botany 2020 workshop: de novo genome Assembly and Annotation with an Emphasis on Phylogenetic and Population Genetic Studies**, co-organized with Suzy Strickler and Jacob Landis (virtual)
- 2017 **Plant genome evolution from the very beginning**, co-organized with Charles Delwiche (University of Maryland), XIX International Botanical Congress, Shenzhen, China

Grant Proposal Reviewer

- 2023 National Science Foundation
- 2023 European Research Council
- 2020 The Royal Society University Research Fellowship (UK)
- 2020 Czech Science Foundation
- 2020 Academia Sinica Thematic Research Program (Taiwan)
- 2020 American Society of Plant Taxonomists Graduate Student Research Grants
- 2020 Society for the Study of Evolution Rosemary Grant Awards
- 2018 Czech Science Foundation
- 2018 Society of Systematic Biologists Graduate Student Research Awards

Journal Reviewer

2011 – 2023 Nature Plants (x11), Nature Communications (x4), Nature Ecology and Evolution, Nature Genetics, PNAS (x6), Current Biology (x2), New Phytologist (x7), Molecular Plant, Plant Communications, Plant Journal (x2), Molecular Biology and Evolution (x2), Genome Biology, Genome Biology and Evolution (x2), American Journal of Botany (x3), American Fern Journal (x2), Annals of Botany (x2), Applications in Plant Sciences (x2), BMC Evolutionary Biology, BMC Plant Biology, BMC Research Notes, Current Genetics, Frontiers in Plant Science (x2), GigaScience (x2), Heredity, Journal of Molecular Evolution, Journal of Systematics and Evolution, Molecular Ecology Resources, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution (x4), PeerJ, Phytotaxa (x2), Plant and Cell Physiology, Plant Systematics and Evolution (x3), Plants People Planet, Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, Scientific Reports (x3), Symbiosis, Systematic Botany, Taxon