The American Dahlia Society

ADS Genome Project Update
9/15/2022

Zach Meharg recently started his 2nd year of PhD in the Harkess Lab at HudsonAlpha and Auburn University.

Zach is currently working on two major projects in *Dahlia.* These include 1) the *Dahlia* genome project, and 2) a phylogenetic investigation of the origins of the modern octoploid *Dahlia*.

The genome project is progressing quickly. After receiving cuttings from Edna C and allowing them to grow, Zach has collected tissue from them and has extracted High Molecular Weight DNA that will be used to create the chromosome scale genome. DNA from Edna C is currently at the HudsonAlpha Genome Sequencing Center, where we will soon generate the raw data needed to assemble this complex dahlia genome.

Second, Zach has collected tissue from 76 herbarium samples covering tissue from 37 species of *Dahlia*. He is currently working on extracting DNA from all these samples that will be used to create a phylogeny for the dahlia genus.

Scroll for pictures…

Edna C and species dahlias growing at the greenhouse at HudsonAlpha.
Edna C will be used to assemble a complex dahlia genome.

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PhD Student Zachary Megharg growing dahlias in the Greenhouse at HudsonAlpha for the ADS Genome Project.

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Edna C tissues for DNA extracts.