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Opinion paper

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## Abstract

The number of botany students, botany classes, botany departments in universities and botanists attending conventions has been declining over many years in North America. This is part of a general trend throughout the field of organismal biology, not just botany. The history leading up to the situation today in North America, is discussed and reasons are given for this trend over the last century of time. Seven ways to keep botany a viable occupation are discussed otherwise botany, in the 21st century, may go the way of the dinosaur.



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## Keywords

Botanists; Botany; Botany departments; Natural history; Organismal biology; Plant science

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The plant collections of an eighteenth-century virtuoso, the irony, of  
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