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E. Lucy Braun Award  
Pedro Flombaum  
University of Buenos Aires, Argentina



Pedro Flombaum

**E. Lucy Braun** was an eminent plant ecologist and the first woman president of the Ecological Society of America. Besides describing and mapping the deciduous forest regions of eastern North America, Lucy Braun served as a dedicated teacher and role model to her students. To honor her, this award is presented to a student for the outstanding poster presentation at the Society's annual meeting.

The 2004 winner of the E. Lucy Braun Award is Pedro Flombaum for his poster "The role of biodiversity on ecosystem functioning: a removal experiment in the Patagonian steppe, Argentina." This work is based on Pedro's doctoral research at the University of Buenos Aires under the supervision of O. E. Sala. Pedro presented results from species removal experiments in natural ecosystems in the Patagonian Steppe that showed that the effects of biodiversity on aboveground net primary production in natural ecosystems are larger than reported using artificial communities. The Braun judges were impressed with Pedro's poster in that it included new creative work, he described earlier reconstructive studies and departed from those earlier studies using plant removals from natural systems to understand the relationship between biodiversity and productivity, and the poster exhibited work based on a strong experimental design and included a sophisticated analysis. Judges commented that in discussing the poster with Pedro, he effectively guided them through the elements of the project as presented on the poster, explained the design and analysis clearly, and showed a strong grasp of prior related studies. Pedro received his B.Sc. in Biology from Buenos Aires University in 1997.

*2004 Student Awards Selection Committee:* Christopher F. Sacchi (Chair), Nancy Eyster-Smith, Paul Marino, J. Alan Yeakley