

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Yin-Long Qiu, assistant professor of biology, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and assistant curator in the Herbarium, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with tenure, and associate curator in the Herbarium, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1993	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
B.S.	1984	Nanjing Agricultural University

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Assistant Curator, Herbarium, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Assistant Professor, Biology Department, University of Massachusetts
1998 - 1999	Assistant University Professor, Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich
1996 - 1997	Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institutes of Health
1994 – 1995	Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biology, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Qiu is an exceptionally engaging and effective instructor. His courses are critical elements in the Department’s curriculum, where plant courses historically have been seriously under-represented. His infectious enthusiasm for his work captivates students whether they are enrolled in formal classes or working in his laboratory. Students give him high ratings and their comments are very positive. Professor Qiu chairs one doctoral committee and serves on three graduate student committees. He has mentored five postdoctoral students and fifteen undergraduate students since coming to Michigan.

Research – Professor Qiu is an evolutionary biologist who studies major innovations in the history of plant evolution. His initial work on the colonization of land by plants was funded by a National Science Foundation Early Career Award. Recent funding has come from several National Science Foundation “Assembling the Tree of Life” (AToL) grants, which involve collaborations among leading researchers in plant systematics. He has published 35 peer-reviewed papers in high-quality journals and three book chapters since his postdoctoral fellowship, and several of his papers are recognized as landmark studies in the field of plant evolution. Professor Qiu has received frequent invitations to present his research both nationally and internationally, and he has organized several international symposia on aspects of plant evolution. Since 2000 he has served on the editorial boards of six journals and is co-editor-in-chief on one of them.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- “A non-flowering land plant phylogeny inferred from nucleotide sequences of seven chloroplast, mitochondrial and nuclear genes,” with L. Li, et al., *International Journal of Plant Sciences*, 168: 2007, pp. 691-708.
- “Reconstructing the basal angiosperm phylogeny: evaluating information content of mitochondrial genes,” with L. Li, et al., *Taxon*, 55, 2006, pp. 837-856.
- “The deepest divergences in land plants inferred from phylogenomic evidence,” with L. Li, et al., *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 103, 2006, pp. 15511-15516.
- “Phylogenetic analyses of basal angiosperms based on nine plastid, mitochondrial, and nuclear genes,” with O. Dombrowska, et al., *International Journal of Plant Sciences*, 166, 2005, pp. 815-842.

Service – Professor Qiu is a valued member of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and has been very active in service to his profession. At the departmental level he has served on the Admissions Committee, Graduate Student Evaluation Committee, Seminar Committee, and the Retreat Committee. He is serving as an associate editor on four journals and co-editor-in-chief on a fifth, and he has served on several committees of professional societies. He has been very active in organizing international symposia and is a sought after reviewer for a large number of journals and granting agencies.

#### External Reviews:

##### Reviewer (A)

“Dr. Qiu...is an important player in the ideas and data generated about the nature of the basal angiosperms. A recent textbook...cites five of his papers...which demonstrates his role in shaping the field of molecular systematics. He is actively engaged in asking relevant questions and has the ability to look for the answers.”

##### Reviewer (B)

“Since the early 90s, Y[in-Long]Q[iu] has been at the forefront of molecular studies on phylogenetic relationships and the origin of angiosperms and land plants as a whole. ... YQ is one of half a dozen or so of the most prominent molecular researchers on these topics in the world, and of these one of the most imaginative and thoughtful.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“I believe he would be successful because of...a publication record admirable in breadth, quality and quantity... ..you have a very dedicated man [of his generation] of high intellectual calibre who has made maximum progress since his grounding in the research area by two greats in the field...”

##### Reviewer (D)

“I rank Dr. Qiu as one of the top researchers in molecular systematics and evolution in the U.S. and internationally. He is bright, interactive and creative. His work continues to be important to the advancement of the discipline of plant evolutionary biology. ... I strongly recommend that you promote Dr. Qiu to Associate Professor and award him tenure.”

Reviewer (E)

“Yin-Long Qiu is one of the world’s leading plant molecular systematists, with a wide and highly favorable reputation in the field. He has made many important contributions to our understanding of flowering plant phylogeny... He brings enormous energy and erudition, technical expertise, and a lucid writing style to bear on a surprisingly wide range of questions.”

Reviewer (F)

“Qiu has an excellent record of productivity in the area of angiosperm or entire plant kingdom schematics. ... I would rank Qiu as the best of his peers worldwide, and he would certainly qualify for promotion and tenure at my institution.”

Reviewer (G)

“Even more noteworthy than productivity is the high quality of the journals in which Qiu has published... Notice, too, that he is the first author on quite a lot of the major papers. For a person [of his generation] in plant systematics and evolution, it really doesn’t get any better than this.”

Reviewer (H)

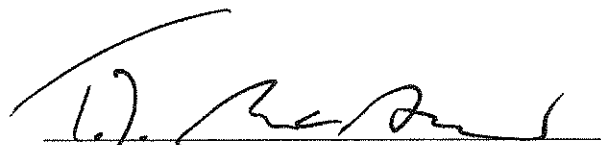
“Y[in-long]Q[iu] is one of the top five people in the world working on higher-level relationships of land plants... Anyone working on land plant evolution will be aware of and cite YQ’s papers.”

Reviewer (I)

“...Y[in-Long]Q[iu]’s case would almost certainly move smoothly through the tenure process at [my institution]. His record of publication is excellent, and...his contributions have been genuinely important and have appeared in high-impact journals. He has also been funded quite steadily, and he’s emerging as a leader of our discipline. These are precisely the qualities we look for at this stage.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Qiu is one of the most prominent molecular researchers of his cohort. He is also an excellent teacher and has a very strong service record. The Executive Committee and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Yin-Long Qiu be promoted to the rank of associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with tenure, and associate curator in the Herbarium in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History, and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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