

# Thayssa Rabelo Schley

## ASPB Ambassador

### 2025 End-of-Year Report

*This report can be shared publicly.*

During 2025, I continued my engagement with the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) as an Ambassador through service-oriented and digital activities. While this year coincided with an intense period of personal and professional responsibilities, including preparing for and participating in a multi-phase examination for a highly competitive governmental research position in Brazil, I remained actively involved in key ASPB initiatives and digital communication efforts.

My main contribution in 2025 was my participation in the ASPB SURF Profile Project (Figures 1-3), a large-scale initiative aimed at assessing the long-term impact of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program. As part of this project, I assisted in multiple stages of the process, including locating former SURF awardees, conducting outreach using ASPB-provided templates, updating shared tracking documents, and encouraging participation in a survey designed to evaluate career trajectories and continued engagement with plant science. This effort contributes directly to ASPB's goals of understanding undergraduate retention in plant biology, strengthening alumni connections, and re-engaging former SURF participants with the Society. I also continued my involvement as the project moved into the profile collection phase for the "Where Are They Now?" series, supporting the creation of narratives that highlight the diverse career paths of former SURF recipients.

In addition to this service-focused activity, I actively supported ASPB's digital communication and outreach efforts throughout the year. I engaged with ASPB content on LinkedIn by liking, reposting, and amplifying Society posts (Figure 4), helping to increase visibility of ASPB initiatives within my professional network in Brazil and internationally. These actions, while simple, are an important component of science communication and help extend ASPB's reach to broader and more diverse audiences, including early-career scientists and researchers outside the United States.

Although my ability to participate in additional activities was limited this year due to family responsibilities and intensive preparation for the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (**EMBRAPA** - <https://www.embrapa.br/en/sobre-a-embrapa>) highly competitive public research selection process, I successfully passed this national selection and will begin a new permanent position as a researcher at EMBRAPA in the coming month. This transition represents an important new phase in my career and significantly expands my capacity for outreach and institutional engagement.

Looking ahead, I am enthusiastic about continuing my role as an ASPB Ambassador with increased impact. As a researcher at EMBRAPA, I will be well positioned to promote ASPB resources, membership, and opportunities within one of the largest agricultural research institutions in the Global South. I plan to support outreach activities, encourage Brazilian students and early-career researchers to engage with ASPB, and strengthen connections between ASPB and the Brazilian plant science community. I see this new role as an opportunity to further amplify ASPB's mission while fostering international dialogue and collaboration in plant biology.

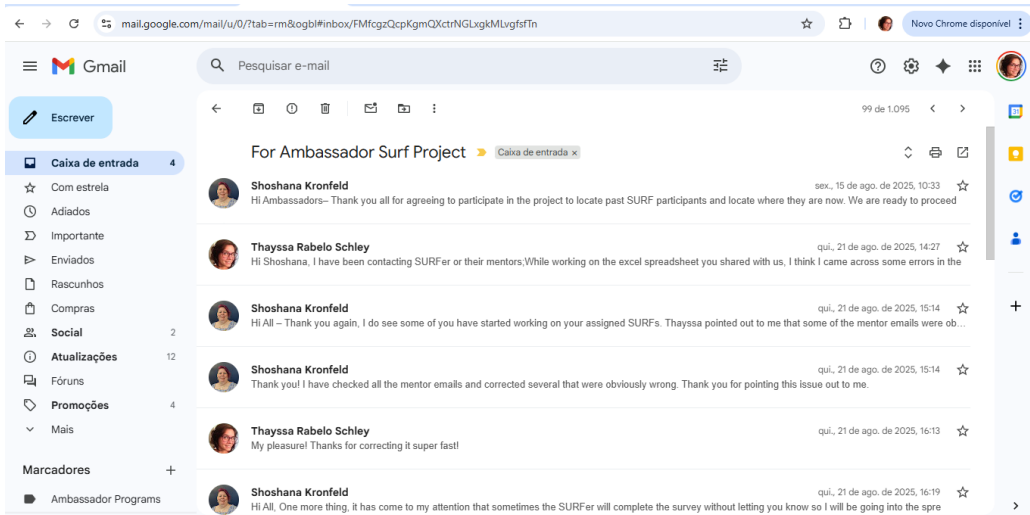


Figure 1: Email communication related to the first phase of the ASPB SURF Profile Project.

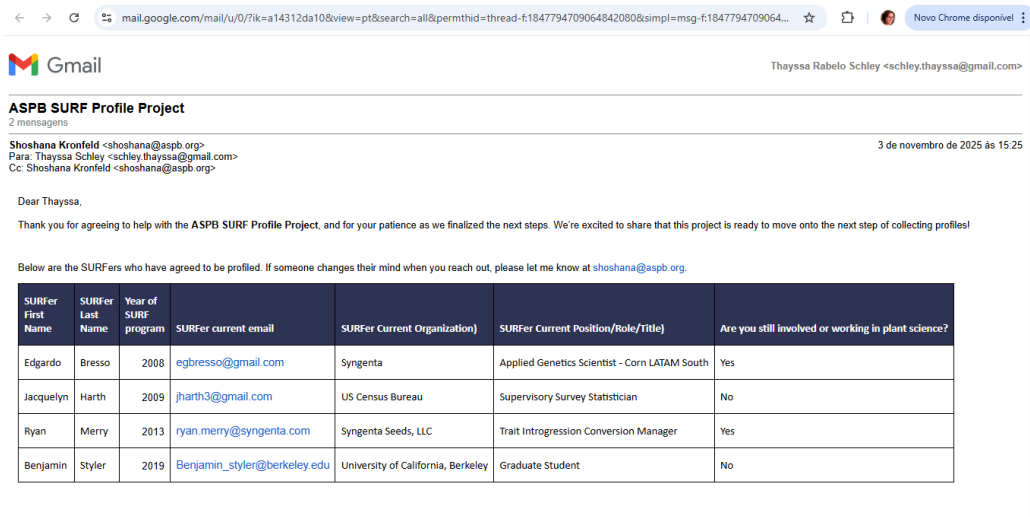


Figure 2: Email communication related to the second phase of the ASPB SURF Profile Project.

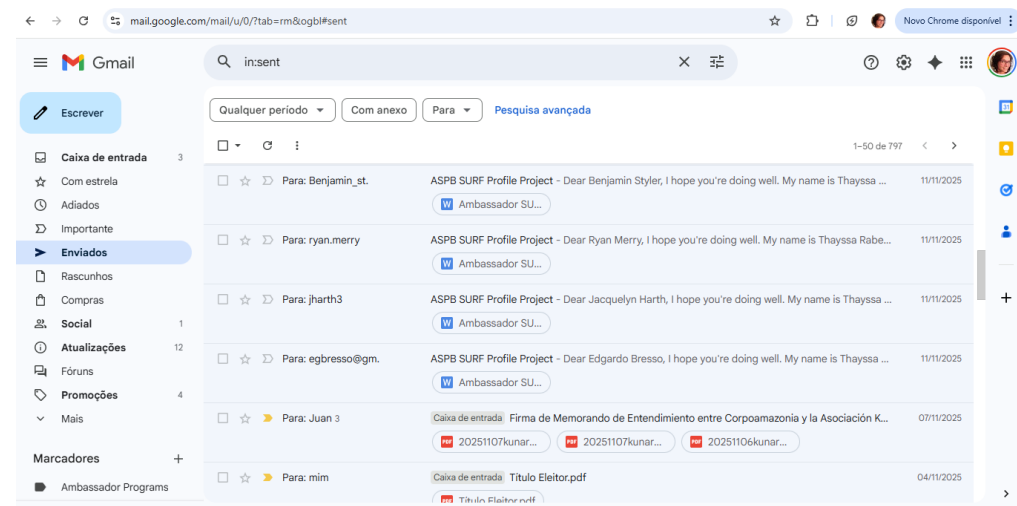


Figure 3: Outreach emails sent to former SURF awardees who agreed to be profiled.

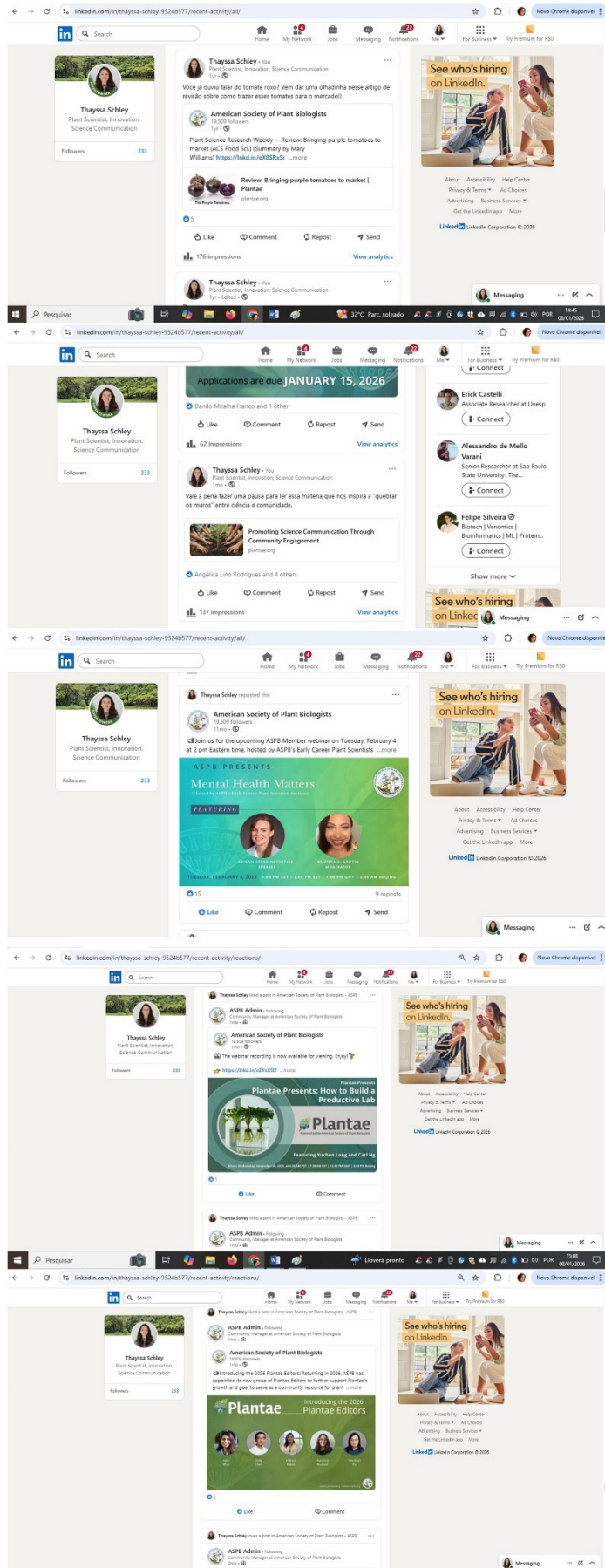


Figure 4: Examples of my engagement with ASPB content on LinkedIn.