



## *Newsletter N° 40 (1-2)*

*December 2011*

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### **OPTIMA Newsletter**

OPTIMA Newsletter is a news journal for the presentation and discussion of issues pertinent to Mediterranean botany, published by the Secretariat of the Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area.

OPTIMA Secretariat  
Via Lincoln 2/A  
I-90133 Palermo, Italy.  
Tel.: + 39 091 23891209  
Fax: + 39 091 6165997  
E-mail: [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)  
<http://www.optima-bot.org>

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Herbarium Mediterraneum  
Panormitanum



# OPTIMA *Newsletter*

*Editors:* W. Greuter and G. Domina

*Lay-out:* M.J. Albert

## **Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area**

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## P U B L I C A T I O N S   O F F E R

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### **BARTER SPECIMENS FOR OPTIMA MEMBERSHIP AND BOCCONEA**

Through an agreement between OPTIMA and the Herbarium Mediterraneum Foundation, you may pay OPTIMA membership fees, or purchase volumes of *Bocconeia*, by sending herbarium specimens to the Herbarium Mediterraneum in Palermo. The following conditions apply:

1. Only specimens from the following areas are acceptable: peri-Mediterranean countries (except Italy and France), plus Portugal and Bulgaria, the Atlantic Islands (Macaronesia), and the domain of Boissier's "Flora Orientalis" (Middle East, Transcaucasia, Crimea). Material from the country of residence (if part of this area) should be given preference.
2. The herbarium specimens must be unmounted, in good condition, identified, and contain complete information on readable, durable labels. The Herbarium Mediterraneum reserves the right to return specimens judged to be of insufficient quality.
3. Each herbarium specimen will be worth 1 €. Each delivery will consist of a minimum of 30 herbarium sheets.
4. Each mailing will include the sender's name, the number of herbarium specimens sent, the credit earned and the purpose it is to be used for.
5. The specimens and form will be mailed to: Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum, Via Lincoln 2/A, I-90133 Palermo, Italy.
6. Please also send a communication by E-mail, to the OPTIMA Secretariat in Palermo (e-mail: [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)).

## ORDINARY AND INSTITUTIONAL OPTIMA MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO REDUCTIONS ON THE PRICES OF SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS

### WHEN ORDERED FROM THE OPTIMA SECRETARIAT

#### From the OPTIMA Secretariat

**Med-Checklist.** Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are available for OPTIMA members with a special discount (reduced prices: 83€, 101€, 92€ and 117€ respectively, including Shipping charges). Please ask for further information at the following address: OPTIMA Secretariat, via Lincoln 2/A, I-90133 Palermo fax 0039 0916238203, tel. 003909123891209, e-mail: [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)).

F.M. Raimondo & W. Greuter (eds.) *Flora Mediterranea* and *Bocconea* (70% and 30% discount). *Flora Mediterranea* and *Bocconea* are published by the Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum under the auspices of OPTIMA. These publications cover articles dealing with plant geography, floristics and systematic botany in its widest sense, relating to Mediterranean plants of all groups, whether living or fossil. A special emphasis is placed on articles that exceed national limits in coverage or by their general interest. *Flora Mediterranea* is a journal published annually with a variety of articles whereas *Bocconea* is devoted to monographic subjects:

- Vol. 1: Results of the First "Iter Mediterraneum" in south-eastern Spain, June-July 1988.
- Vol. 2: A check-list of Sicilian fungi.
- Vol. 3: Results of the Second "Iter Mediter-raneum" in Israel, March-April 1989.
- Vol. 4: Current research on the biology of threatened plant species of the Mediter-ranean Basin and Macaronesia: a database.
- Vol. 5: Proceedings of the VII OPTIMA Meeting in Borovetz, 18-30 July 1992, (I and II).
- Vol. 6: Contributions towards a checklist of Mediter-ranean Lichens (out of print).

- Vol. 7: Proceedings of the Workshops on "Con-servation of the Wild Relatives of European Cultivated Plants".
- Vol. 8: Catalogue des plantes vasculaires rares, menacées ou éndemiques du Maroc.
- Vol. 9: The systematics of *Anthemis* L. (Compositae, Anthemideae) in W and C North Africa.
- Vol. 10: An annotated checklist of the flora of the Abruzzo.
- Vol. 11: Results of the Fourth "Iter Mediterraneum" in Cyprus, April 1991.
- Vol. 12: Catalogue of the benthic marine macroalgae of the Italian coast of the Adriatic Sea.
- Vol. 13: Proceedings of the IX OPTIMA Meeting. Paris, 11-17 May 1998.
- Vol. 14: Checklist of the Lichens and lichenicolous Fungi of the Iberian Peninsula and Balearic Is-lands.
- Vol. 15: The officinal Flora of Sannio (Benevento, SE - Italy).
- Vol. 16: Proceedings of the X OPTIMA Meeting. Pal-ermo, 13-19 September 2001, (I & II).
- Vol. 17: Results of the Third "Iter Mediterraneum" in Sicily, May-June 1990.
- Vol. 18: Identification key and description of Mediter-ranean maquis litter microfungi.
- Vol. 19: Proocedings of the VI Conference on Plant Taxonomy in Alghero, 31 May - 2 June 2003.
- Vol. 20: A catalogue of plants growing in Sicily.
- Vol. 21: Proocedings of the XI OPTIMA meeting in Beograd, 5-11 September 2004.
- Vol. 22: Check-list of the Hornworts, Liverworts and Mosses of Italy.
- Vol. 23: Proocedings of the XII OPTIMA Meeting Pisa, 10-16 September 2007.

**Please send your orders to the OPTIMA Secretariat by e-mail or Fax**

## PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Please send me the following publications (postage expenses are included in the shown prices if not explicitly indicated):

Volume	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 1)	€ 83	€ 100
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 2)	€ 101	€ 131
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 3)	€ 92	€ 112
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 4)	€ 117	€ 144

***Flora Mediterranea (Volumes 1-20)***

	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price	Shipping cost
Each volume	€ 15	€ 50	€ 10

***Bocconea***

Volume	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price	Shipping cost
1	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
2	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
3	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
4	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
5 (I & II)	€ 140	€ 200	€ 10
6	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
7	€ 52	€ 75	€ 10
8	€ 35	€ 50	€ 10
9	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
10	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
11	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
12	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
13	€ 52	€ 75	€ 10
14	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
15	€ 35	€ 50	€ 10
16 (I & II)	€ 98	€ 140	€ 10
17	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
18	€ 35	€ 50	€ 10
19	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
20	€ 66	€ 95	€ 10
21	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10
22	€ 32	€ 50	€ 10
23	€ 38	€ 55	€ 10

*Proceedings of OPTIMA Meetings*

Number	Normal Price	Member Price	Shipping cost
II	€ 60	€ 48	€ 10
V	€ 125	€ 100	€ 10
VI	€ 60	€ 48	€ 10
VIII	€ 45	€ 75	€ 10
VII, IX, X, XI, XII	see Boccone vol. 5, 13, 16, 21, 23		

*OPTIMA Newsletter*, issues:

5, 6, 7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 17-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37(1), 37(2), 38(1-2), 39 (1-2)

	Normal Price	Member Price	Shipping cost
per issue	€ 10	€ 5	€ 6

*OPTIMA Leaflets*, issues:

24-29, 81-95, 113, 114, 115-124, 125-129, 130-134, 135-140, 141-147, 148-156, 157-164, 165-171, 172-177, 178-189, 190-198, 199-200, 201-215

	Normal Price	Member Price	Shipping cost
per issue	€ 16	€ 8	€ 6

*Publications on Orchids:* 1) Willing & Willing 1979: Index der Verbreitungskarten für die Orchideen Europas und der Mittelmeerländer; 2) Baumann & al. 1981: Orchideenforschung und Naturschutz im Mittelmeergebiet Internationales Artenschutzprogramm; 3) Künkele & Paysan 1981: Die Orchideenflora von Euböa (Griechenland); 4) Del Prete & Tosi 1981: Orchidee spontanea dell'Argentario; 5) Gözl & Reinhard 1984: Die Orchideenflora Albaniens; 6) Lorenz & Gemhardt 1987: Die Orchideenflora des Gargano (Italien); 7) Baumann & al. 1989: Die nomenklatorischen Typen der von Linnaeus veröffentlichten Namen europäischer Orchideen; 8) Künkele & Lorenz 1990: Die Orchideen in dem Bilderwerk des Carolus Clusius.

	Normal Price	Member Price	Shipping cost
per issue	€ 20	€ 10	€ 6

*Publication on Lichens:* Nimis & Poelt 1987: The lichens and lichenicolous fungi of Sardinia.

	Normal Price	Member Price	Shipping cost
	€ 30	€ 15	€ 6

**Orders:**

Send all orders to the OPTIMA Secretariat, via Lincoln 2/A, I-90133 Palermo, preferably by e-mail ([secre@optima-bot.org](mailto:secre@optima-bot.org)) or fax (+39 091 6238203). **Payment is required in advance. Please contact the secretariat for multiple dispatches.**

**Payment:**

- By Credit card, send an email to the secretariat ([secre@optima-bot.org](mailto:secre@optima-bot.org)), you will receive further instructions.
- I am sending a bank transfer to the OPTIMA Publications Commission, account N° E-1651.05.02 (IBAN: CH23 0078 8001 E165 1050 2) Banque Cantonale de Genève, Genève, Switzerland. (Please, include photocopy of bank slip).
- I am enclosing with this order form an International bank cheque drawn on a Swiss bank or a Eurocheque extended to OPTIMA Publications Commission.
- Please send me a pro-forma invoice (items sent upon receipt of payment).

# OPTIMA MEMBERSHIP

## Membership categories

**Ordinary** members receive the newsletters and the circulars, a free subscription to *Flora Mediterranea*, reduced rates on publications and on OPTIMA Meetings and all the benefits of being a full member.

**Institutional** members, in addition to the above, also receive a free subscription to *Bocconea*.

**Associate** members receive the newsletters and the circulars, but are not entitled to any other benefits.

Associate membership will become effective immediately upon receipt of the signed application form. Ordinary or institutional membership will become effective upon receipt of the signed application form and payment of the membership fee for the current year.

## Current membership rates:

Ordinary (personal) members: .....	€ 30.-
Life membership: .....	€ 450.-
Institutional members: .....	€ 100.-

Thanks to an agreement signed with the Società Botanica Italiana, it has become possible to pay the Membership dues for both associations – SBI and OPTIMA – with a single money transfer, and at the same time to benefit by a discount.

OPTIMA Ordinary + SBI: .....	€ 100.-
OPTIMA Ordinary + SBI + Plant Biosystems: .....	€ 127.-

Payments can be made in one of the following ways:

- Credit-card or PayPal account by PayPal, please send an e-mail to the Secretariat ([secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)).
- Bank transfer to OPTIMA, account No. 240-39619900D (IBAN: CH51 0024 0240 3961 9900 D; BIC: UBSWCHZH80A), Union Bank of Switzerland, CH-1211 Genève, Switzerland.
- International bank cheque or Eurocheque sent to OPTIMA Secretariat in Palermo.

Please, make sure your name is clearly written on your payment. Advance payment for two or more years, at current membership rates, are accepted. Pro forma invoices (also for life membership) and receipts of payment will be sent upon request.

Please send this order form to: OPTIMA Secretariat - Dr. G. Domina, via Lincoln, 2. I-90133 Palermo, Italy.

# OPTIMA NEWS

by GIANNANTONIO DOMINA

OPTIMA Newsletter n° 40 presents the same cover as n. 39, intermediate between newsletter 37 & 38 and the previous ones. The Newsletter is divided into two parts, the first with the News and the second with the Notices of Publications. The first section regarding news has become gradually thinner due to the fast and cheap channel represented by e-mail. The news here reported are only those that it makes sense to also produce as hard copy.

Short news from OPTIMA Commissions are included, limited to those that reported activity in 2010 and 2011.

## SECRETARIAT

2011. The Secretariat kept OPTIMA's accounts and the accounts of the Publications Commission and Prize Commission. It also administered the membership files and managed the distribution and sale of OPTIMA's publications. It worked as a liaising centre for the Council and Board members and the working groups and commissions of our Organization.

## DEATHS

Prof. Frank Bisby, U.K., died 25 October 2011.

## UPDATES ON COMMISSIONS

### PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

In 2010 the Herbarium Mediterraneum published the 20th volume of *Flora Mediterranea*, which was distributed to the regular members of OPTIMA free of charge.

The Newsletter 39(1-2), was published both in electronic format for distribution to the membership and in a small number of hard copies (150) for archival purposes and distribution to Institutional Members. Personal members may purchase the Newsletter for an extra 5 €.

## HERBARIUM MEDITERRANEUM COMMISSION

The commission is looking for new funding solutions to the building of the new seat of the Herbarium Mediterraneum after the withdrawal of the funding allocated by the Italian government, as part of the the 150th Jubilee Celebration for the Unification of Italy. The digitisation programme of the Herbarium until now, produced high-resolution digital images of 90,000 specimens.

## WEB COMMISSION

This Commission designs and implements the spread of information on OPTIMA activities by means of the OPTIMA Web Pages. New procedures for the spread of information (Facebook, etc.) were evaluated with poor success. The Website News section, and above all regular e-mailing, still appear to be the most suitable ways to communicate with OPTIMA members.



## A C T I V I T I E S

by GIANNANTONIO DOMINA

### **PLANT DIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL 2011: KNOWLEDGE, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PLANT BIODIVERSITY OF MEDITERRANEAN MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS**

The Plant Diversity Summer School: Knowledge, Conservation and Management of Plant Biodiversity of Mediterranean Mountain Systems was held from 29th August to 11th September 2011 in Castelbuono, Geraci Siculo, Petralia Soprana (PA) and Ucria (ME), under the lead of Francesco M. Raimondo who worked passionately for its organization with the assistance of Riccardo Guarino and Gianniantonio Domina. It was placed under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Biology and Biodiversity, the Faculty of Sciences and the Course of Doctorate in Plant Biodiversity and Landscape Ecology of the University of Palermo and the FIP (International Federation of Phytosociology). It was funded in part by the University Consortium of the Palermo's Province and also benefited by the support of OPTIMA, the International Foundation pro Herbario Mediterraneo, the Natural Museum Francesco Minà Palumbo and by the hospitality of the municipalities of Castelbuono, Geraci Siculo, Petralia Soprana, Ucria and of the Natural Parks of Madonie and Nebrodi. Thanks to these all supports, accommodation and meals could be offered to the participants, who had to pay only a little registration fee (250€, or 150€ for developing Countries) and their travel expenses.

The School was a learning experience of excellence for graduates, doctoral students and scholars who wanted to increase their knowledge of theoretical and applied aspects of conservation and management related to plant species and plant communities on the mountains of the Mediterranean Sea. The Summer School provided to the participants an opportunity to meet with leading experts in the field, share daily life, and establish contacts among themselves and with their

teachers. 25 participants had been selected from among the applications received. Up to two students per Mediterranean border Country were chosen in the first round, then the remaining places were assigned to further applicants from Mediterranean or other European countries. As a result participants were a mixed lot, coming from 9 different countries: Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Tunisia and Turkey. In addition, PhD students of the Course of Doctorate in Plant Biodiversity and Landscape Ecology of the University of Palermo participated on an ad-hoc basis. Five days were devoted to field activities on the Madonie, Nebrodi and Etna Mountains. Classes were held by international experts, all of them old friends won through OPTIMA, representing different disciplines such as vascular plants, vegetation science and taxonomy. They were: Salvatore Brullo, José A. Carreira, Avinoam Danin, Gianniantonio Domina, Giampietro Giusso del Galdo, Werner Greuter, Riccardo Guarino, Vernon Heywood, Pietro Mazzola, Gerald Parolly, Franco Pedrotti, Sandro Pignatti, Richard Pott, Francesco M. Raimondo, Mohamed Rejdali, Rosario Schicchi, Angelo Troia, and Benito Valdés. At the end of the course, after an exam that all students passed with good results, certificates of attendance were issued and 5 ECTS or 5 Italian CFU were acquired. A pleasant closing ceremony was held in the Botanical Garden of Palermo, in the presence of Dott. Antonio Ticali director of the University Consortium of the Palermo Province.

# M E E T I N G   A N N O U N C E M E N T S

## Don't miss the XIV OPTIMA Meeting in Palermo, scheduled to take place in September 2013!

The preliminary Scientific Program for the XIV OPTIMA Meeting shall include the following Symposia:

1. Taxonomy and floristics in Italy.
2. Progress in Mediterranean karyosystematics and molecular systematics.
3. Mediterranean *Umbelliferae*.
4. Floristic relationship of Italy with the Balkan Peninsula.
5. Collection data in the information age.
6. Taxonomic data in the information age.
7. Conservation: legal instruments and their application.
8. In-situ conservation of target species.
9. The present and future of Mediterranean floristics.
10. Mediterranean palaeo-palynology.
11. The Mediterrenean as source of ornamentals.
12. Writing monographs: Past, present and future.

Moreover, there will be room for four half-day symposia, one for each of the major non-vascular cryptogamic groups (Algae, Fungi, Lichens, Bryophytes).

25-28 April 2012

### BIT's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual World Congress of Biodiversity

Xhian, China

BIT Congress Inc. is proud to present BIT's 1st Annual World Congress of BioD 2012. With the theme of Today Eco-civilization, Tomorrow Happiness the conference will be held during April 25-28, 2012 in Xi'an, China. This event will continue to offer professionals in the field a multidisciplinary informative platform.

BioDiversity as the measure or degree of ecosystems determines species on earth. The topic of BioDiversity has been accepted as an important global issue, and the precarious balance are affected by various complicated aspects. The BioD 2012 is bringing together scientists, industrial leaders and decision makers from all over the world in a great range of subjects through cluster conferences, expositions, excellent lectures, tech tours and training programs.

#### Symposia

- 1: Global Policy, Economics and Actions on BioDiversity Protection

- 2: Breaking Research in Ecology and BioDiversity
- 3: Targets of BioDiversity
- 4: Environment Biotechnology and BioDiversity Conservation
- 5: Eco-Economy, Eco-Civilization and BioDiversity
- 6: Biologically Invasions and BioDiversity Management
- 7: Ecosystem Management and International BioDiversity Business

#### Deadlines

June 15, 2011 Start Date for online Abstract Submissions

June 30, 2011 Start Date for online Early Bird Registrations

August 15, 2011 Deadline for online Early Bird registration

October 15, 2011 Second Round of Abstract Submissions

February 25, 2012 Deadline for cancellation of hotel reservations

February 25, 2012 Deadline for abstract submission

For further information see: <http://www.bitlifesciences.com/BioD2012/default.asp>

23-25 March 2012

**Rencontres naturalistes 2012**

Elbeuf-sur-Seine, France

Days dedicated to Jean Péricart (1928 -2011)

In order to boost joint work between the different member associations FFSSN (Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelles) and a common reflection with respect to the Life Sciences and Earth, it appeared important that each association would be represented in this Assembly general.

FFSSN aimed the progress of science, protection of nature, development and coordination of Federated Associations and the French scientific development in the field of Life Sciences and Earth, it seems essential that everyone can give his opinion and discuss.

In 2012, a conference will be held at the FFSSN Elbeuf in partnership with the Museum of Elbeuf (CREA) and the Society for the Study of Natural Sciences of Tweed.

**Themes**

The dissemination of naturalistic knowledge.  
Exchanges, collaborations and work of the FFSSN member associations, the role of amateurs.  
Natural and cultural heritage.  
Collections of Life Sciences and Earth.  
The scientific and common names of species today.  
Taxonomy and legislation.

For further informations and specific enquiries write to: [jerome.tabouelle@orange.fr](mailto:jerome.tabouelle@orange.fr)

20-25 May 2012

**13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology**

Montpellier, France

For two decades, the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) has actively promoted and sup-

ported the inextricable linkages between biological and cultural diversity and the vital role of Indigenous and local peoples in stewardship of biological diversity and cultural heritage, which includes recognition of land and resource rights, as well as rights and responsibilities over tangible and intangible cultural and intellectual properties. The ISE is committed to understanding the complex relationships which exist between human societies and their environments. A core value of the ISE is the recognition of Indigenous peoples as critical players in the conservation of biological, cultural and linguistic diversity.

**Key Dates**

Call for individual contributions is now closed  
Early bird registration deadline 22 February 2012

For further information see: <http://congress-ise2012.agropolis.fr/ftpheb.agropolis.fr/en/Home.html>

24-27 May 2012

**21<sup>th</sup> European Vegetation Survey**

Vienna, Austria

The 21<sup>st</sup> Workshop of the IAVS Working Group for the European Vegetation Survey will take place in Vienna from Thursday 24 May to Sunday 27 May 2012, with a post-Workshop Excursion on Monday 28 May. Registration, Lectures and Poster Sessions will take place in the Main Building of the University of Vienna (see Venue).

**Main Topics**

Vegetation databases and large-scale classification  
Biogeographical patterns in vegetation  
Vegetation and global change  
Working Group on Vegetation Databases

This workshop is a joint meeting with the German Working Group on Vegetation Databases which is dedicated to the promotion of electronic plot archives

and coordinates activities concerning the stimulation, compilation, dissemination and utilisation of vegetation data. Since 2002 the Working Group has organised ten annual meetings. The 21st Workshop of European Vegetation Survey is at the same time the 11th Meeting on Vegetation Databases, focusing on Vegetation databases and large-scale classification.

### Programme Outline

Thursday 24 May Registration, Opening Ceremony, Sessions

Friday 25 May Mid-Symposium Excursions

Saturday 26 May Sessions, Social Dinner

Sunday 27 May Sessions, EVS Business Meeting, Closing Ceremony

Monday 28 May Post-Symposium Excursion to the Vienna Woods (restricted number of participants)

### Deadlines

Second Circular: January 2012

Registration & abstract submission: 28 February 2012

Payment: 31 March 2012

Final Circular: April 2012

For further information see:

<http://evs2012.vinca.at/index.shtml>

3-7 June 2012

## 50<sup>th</sup> ECSA Conference: Today's science for tomorrow's Management

Venice, Italy

Following the success of the renowned ECSA conferences and workshops, the 50th ECSA Conference: Today's science for tomorrow's Management will bring together researchers, environmental managers, policy makers and graduate students to present research results, explore collaborations and to spark new ideas, with the aim of learning about marine, coastal

and transitional systems worldwide, catching up on leading-edge techniques and, lastly, appreciating the constraints of the science and the management.

### Main Topics

- Ecosystem structure and functioning
- Systems analysis
- Anthropogenic change
- Ecosystem services and societal benefits
- Valuing ecosystems
- 'Future-proofing the science'

### Programme Outline

Sunday, 3 June

Registration

Opening Address

Drinks reception

Monday, 4 June

Scientific Presentations

Poster Viewing

Tuesday, 5 June

Scientific Presentations

ECSA meeting

Gala Dinner

Wednesday, 6 June

Scientific Presentations

Thursday, 7 June

A site visit may be organized by ECSA (TBD)

### Deadlines

Abstract Deadline 13 January 2012

Author notification deadline 24 February 2012

Author registration deadline 9 March 2012

For further information see:

<http://www.estuarinecoastalconference.com/index.html>

28 August -1 September 2012

## 3<sup>rd</sup> European Congress of Conservation Biology

Glasgow, UK

The Congress is hosted by the University of Cumbria's National School of Forestry and marks the 10th anniversary of the formation of the SCB-Europe. The theme of the congress will be "Conservation on the Edge" and we hope to attract participants from the conservation policy, practice and education arenas as well as academics and researchers. For ECCB2012 we have moved to the "edge" of Europe and in addition to the terrestrial themes which have been well represented at previous ECCB we hope to develop the participation of those involved in marine and coastal conservation.

Interaction and effective communication between researchers, policy makers, conservation practitioners and resource users is fundamental to the success of conservation endeavours. We especially welcome students and early career researchers. We invite all those involved in conservation to participate in the ECCB2012 which will be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) from 28 August to 1 September 2012.

For further information see:  
<http://eccb2012.org/index.asp>

October 2012

## **47° Congress of the Italian Society for Vegetation Science**

Perugia, Italy

The 47th Congress of the Italian Society for Vegetation Science will take place in Perugia, October 2012; it will include a one-day Excursion.

Scientific Committee: Carlo Blasi, Gianni Bacchetta, Francesco Bracco, Daniela Gigante, Riccardo Guarino, Giovanni Spampinato, Roberto Venanzoni

Organizing Committee: Roberto Venanzoni, Daniela Gigante, Flavia Landucci, Fabio Maneli, Silvia Poponessi, Alessandro Properzi

### **Main Topics**

Habitat Directive: Monitoring and Assessment in Natura 2000 Sites

Agriculture, Agroecosystems and Landscape

Syntaxonomy

Vegetation Databases

More informations will be soon available at:  
[www.scienzadellavegetazione.it](http://www.scienzadellavegetazione.it)



# NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS\*

by WERNER GREUTER

## General Topics

1. **Tod F. STuessy & H. Walter LACK (ed.) – Monographic plant systematics.** Fundamental assessment of plant biodiversity [*Regnum Vegetabile*, **153**. ISSN 0080-0694]. Gantner, Ruggell FL, 2011 (ISBN 978-3-906166-98-8). IX + 222 pages, 32 text figures, 2 tables; hard cover.

Many feel that monographic work nowadays is unfashionable, and some diagnose its decline, yet few fail to recognise its usefulness or, rather, the urgent need for it. A book written in support of monography is therefore not only a pleasant surprise but a welcome support for an important discipline that may well need it. As part of the prestigious *Regnum Vegetabile* series it will, let us hope, have an appreciable impact.

A team of ten renowned authors, the editors among them, has written a book with 12 commissioned chapters grouped in four parts: the first on policy (“importance of botanical monography”), the second on knowledge acquisition (“data and analysis”), the third on tools and craftsmanship (“literature and nomenclature”), and a final outlook (“perspectives”). The texts are well and competently written, most are easily understood (but for some you will need your maths, if you have them). I enjoyed reading some and scanning the others; yet I confess it left a shale aftertaste with me. Why so?

To my mind, the book suffers from a general lack of precise targeting. To begin with the obvious, I nowhere found a clear definition of what it means by “monography”. (Turning to the Oxford Dictionary for help I drew a blank: the word – a precursor of the modern “monograph” – no longer exists in the English language.) Accepting the term to mean “production of a monograph” does not answer the question: what is a monograph. Oxford again: “a detailed written study of a single specialized subject or an aspect of it”. But that is far too wide a definition for this book’s purpose. True, in the first chapter is a wish list of topics a “monograph” as here meant should cover; yet a definition proper I did not find. Nor could I find a clear statement of the readership the book wishes to address and the effects it hopes to produce.

Let me try to conduct that analysis by myself. In the concluding chapter mention is made of biotic resource managers (but they will, if anything, use the monograph itself, not this manual) and funding agents (who will not read it either). The main target group, then, are botanical teachers and post-graduate students. Speaking as one who wrote a monograph to obtain his PhD, I doubt whether this is a fair suggestion. Modern monographic work requires too many different skills, both experimental and traditional, for a single person to master. Monograph production nowadays calls for teamwork, which is the one notion one does not find in the book (as if the particle

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\* Please send all items for announcement or review directly to the column editor: Prof. W. Greuter, Herbarium Mediterraneum, Giardino Botanico, Via Lincoln 2/A, I-90123 Palermo.

“mono” referred to the author rather than to the subject). However, the editors’ final plea for more and better training in monographic work, in special courses in which all aspects and skills are taught, the modern as well as the traditional, deserves to be supported.

Some of the chapters are excellent contributions to such teaching, as they give a complete, concrete and competent overview of what monographers are supposed to know. Examples are Karol Marhold’s highly technical text on “Multivariate morphometrics”, Christiane Anderson’s basic introduction to “Literature and online sources”, and Nick Turland’s surprisingly full and well balanced treaty on botanical nomenclature – his successful debut as Rapporteur-général. Walter Lack’s essay on “Botanical Latin” ironically appears at a time when the Latin obligation for diagnosing new taxa disappears from the *Botanical Code*, but as many of the older botanical texts are in Latin it retains its reason of being.

The book was written with the aim of highlighting monographic work, and it is but natural that it tends to exalt its subject. In some places where monographs and Floras are compared, however, it is all but haughty. Monographers and Flora writers each work on an important aspect of plant taxonomy. They profit mutually but do not depend upon each other. To pretend, as the editors do, that “Floras ... cannot be done with any level of competence if monographic information for the plants within the region does not exist” is a trifle arrogant. Were that statement true there would be no Flora in existence with “any level of competence”. In my experience, a good monographer will use, and profit from, the first-hand information to be found in Floras just as much as the author of a Flora will, as a matter of course, take advantage of any relevant monograph that happens to exist – and they are few enough. To the extent to which the present volume can remedy that sad deficit, it is very welcome indeed. W.G.

2. Peter GOLDBLATT & Dale E. JOHNSON – **Index to plant chromosome numbers 2004-2006**. [Regnum Vegetabile, 152 (ISSN 0080-0694).] – Gantner, Ruggell FL, 2010 (ISBN 978-3-906166-89-6). IX + 246 pages; paper.

Welcome back home! *Index to Plant Chromosome Numbers* started at UC Berkeley for the year 1956 under Marion Cave, being first published as an independent series with 9 yearly issues (2 volumes, 1958-1965) in Berkeley then Chapel Hill. As from 1967 (index for 1965), 9 volumes (covering 1965 to 1974) were published as parts of the *Regnum Vegetabile* series, under the care of Robert Ornduff then Raymond Moore, whereupon Peter Goldblatt and the Missouri Botanical Garden took charge. The following 12 volumes, covering the years 1975 to 2003, appeared as *Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden*.

All this you can read, in more detail, in Goldblatt’s account (in *Taxon* 56: 984-86. 2007) in which we were informed that *IPCN*’s future was in jeopardy. At that point Tod Stuessy stepped in as *deus ex machina*, offering the help of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy to get the most recent Index printed. And here we are, with *Regnum Vegetabile* again hosting *IPCN*.

The future of *IPCN* is not secure, but looks brighter now than a few years ago (see Goldblatt & Lowry in *Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 98: 226-227. 2011). Contingent upon continued support by the IAPT under its new Secretary Karol Marhold, and thanks to Missouri’s commitment to continued data input and databasing, we may hope that future volumes can be produced regularly. The major challenge will be to find willing and competent editors to replace Peter Goldblatt and Dale Johnson who are stepping down. Their contribution, spanning 32 and 21 years, respectively, has been impressive and immensely valuable: our thanks to them both! W.G.



## Gymnosperms

3. **Robert P. ADAMS – Junipers of the world: The genus *Juniperus*.** 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. – Trafford, Bloomington, 2011 (ISBN 978-1-4269-5382-8). v + 426 pages, numerous black-and-white illustrations (photographs, maps, graphs), tables; laminated cover.

Editions of Adams's juniper monograph follow one another with astounding frequency. Just over two years have elapsed since the second edition was published, and less than seven since the first appeared (see OPTIMA Newslett. 3:(8-9). 2009; 39: (2). 1910), and already we behold the third. There are no fundamental changes to be mentioned with respect to its forerunners (see previous reviews), but many details, and of course the list of references, have been updated. New molecular data are included, resulting among other things in the reduction of *Juniperus mucronata* to varietal status under *J. blancoi*. Two chapters have been added that are entirely new, one on seed dispersal, the other on sex expression (how refreshing to see that some still dare to use the correct word, sex, where many would now sheepishly, and wrongly, write gender). These chapters, as all the others, abound in observations made by the author himself, e.g. of seed dispersal by harvester ants.

Edition three comes in the larger size of the first edition, but same as the (smaller) second it lacks the four plates of colour photographs. The soft-cover edition of the book is sold at US\$ 29.95 by Trafford ([www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com)), but the hardback edition that was also announced I could not find.

W.G.

## Dicotyledons

4. **Ernest SMALL – Alfalfa and relatives. Evolution and classification of *Medi-***

*cago*. – NRC Research Press, Ottawa, 2011 (ISBN 978-0-660-19979-5). XXXIV + 727 pages, numerous black-and-white illustrations (drawings, photographs, some graphs and maps), tables, 50 colour photographs; hard cover.

Ernie Small's work of a lifetime on the genus *Medicago* has resulted in an impressive, monumental monograph. From among other monographic studies it stands out by its use of plain language, so as to be understood by a practical readership including agronomists and breeders, and by the concomitant emphasis on applied aspects; which does not prevent it, however, from including all the classical elements such as descriptions, full synonymies and keys.

An important chapter deals with the circumscription of *Medicago* and its delimitation against other genera, the closely related *Trigonella* in particular. This is a field in which Small has done pioneer work, his use of flower features as the main criterion being widely followed in modern literature (including *Med-Checklist*). His illustration (p. 81) of the structures of the *Medicago* flower, with its explosive pollen release onto tripping pollinators, as opposed to the repeatedly functioning tripping mechanism of *Trigonella*, is helpful to understand the why and how of this distinction. Modern cladograms based on various nuclear and chloroplast gene sequences are reviewed and shown to differ widely depending on the marker used, so that the (partly new) sectional and subsectional classification here proposed, while taking into account the molecular studies, is based primarily – and wisely – on morphological traits. It was perhaps a bit risky to propose two new subsectional combinations under the general heading “Provisional sections and subsections”, but from the context it is clear that the names are definitely accepted and the expressed taxonomic doubt concerns only the taxa; so that one of the two combinations is validly published here, and the second fails to be so only because the in-

tended basionym lacks a Latin description (a few months too early, Earnie: starting next January your English diagnosis would have done the job!).

The most sizeable chapter, of over 60 pages, is devoted to the taxonomy of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*). This is a difficult, extremely variable complex of diploid and tetraploid, frequently hybridising taxa, some of which are now cultivated all over the globe. Synonymy involves hundreds of names and runs over pages and pages – a major tidying-up operation. Small's synthetic treatment recognises four subspecies, one additional variety and one named nothosubspecies. It looks nicely manageable.

The remaining 86 species of the genus are, oddly to my mind, treated in alphabetical order. The strength of this part of the monograph is the wide variety of aspects it considers and the impressive amount of literature that has been worked into it. Its weakness, I dare say, is the almost total absence of distribution maps. The written distribution statements, often reduced to an enumeration of countries (with Yugoslavia still being treated as a single unit), are a poor surrogate. The enumerations of representative collections help to an extent, but are error-prone. An example is *Medicago prostrata* subsp. *pseudorupestris*, for which a specimen from the Crimea is cited: neither the subspecies nor the species as a whole is known from there, or anywhere nearby, and duplicates of the same gathering are (correctly) cited under the Crimean subendemic *Medicago rupestris*.

The illustration is generous and informative, particularly the drawings. Some of the colour photographs (perhaps chosen by the publisher rather than the author?) are inappropriate, such as the one (5B) allegedly showing a botanic-garden-grown *Medicago strasseri* that is certainly misidentified; and worse, N° 4 of *Medicago marina*: that species may indeed be present in the background, but the plant featuring centrally in front is *Achillea maritima*. W.G.

5. **Krzysztof ROSTAŃSKI, Adam ROSTAŃSKI, Izabela GEROLD-ŚMIETAŃSKA & Paweł WĄSOWICZ – Evening-primroses (*Oenothera*) occurring in Europe. Więsolki (*Oenothera*) występujące w Europie.** – W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Kraków & University of Silesia, Katowice, 2010 (ISBN 978-83-89648-92-1). 157 pages, 6 drawings, numerous colour photographs, 61 maps, table; laminated cover.

Krzysztof Rostański is the undisputed Nestor of European *Oenothera* studies. Aged 80, he presents us here with the synthesis of over half a century of scientific endeavour. During that time, alone or in collaboration with others, he wrote at least 50 relevant papers, describing numerous new species and revising the genus country-wise for large parts of Europe. His *Oenothera* collections at the herbarium of the University of Silesia in Katowice-Chorzów comprises, we are told, about 10 000 specimens – by far the largest such collection on our continent, accounting for no less than one tenth of the whole KTU Herbarium.

The revision is fully bilingual (English and Polish) and treats 61 species found in Europe in the wild or in cultivation. [There are 30 more species that are mentioned only by name, having been found but locally, or not being extensively grown.] *Oenothera* is a New-World genus which, although not autochthonous with us, paradoxically includes several European endemics. This is due to its particular genetic setup: whenever its species hybridise (as they often do) they give rise to true-breeding, sexually reproducing plants that willy-nilly one considers as a species.

The present treatment includes full keys and descriptions. Moreover, all but two of the species are illustrated by several colour photographs showing the plant habit, live or in the herbarium, and details aiding identification (leaves, flower, indumentum, bud apex, whole fruit, capsule teeth). The book

will doubtless promote the study and improve the understanding of evening primroses throughout the European continent.

W.G.

### Floras

6. **Santiago CASTROVIEJO** † (gen. ed.), **R. MORALES, A. QUINTANAR, F. CABEZAS, A. J. PUJADAS & S. CIRUJANO** (vol. ed.) – **Flora iberica**. Plantas vasculares de la Península Ibérica e Islas Baleares. Vol. **XII**, *Verbenaceae-Labiatae-Callitrichaceae*. – Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid, 2010 (ISBN 978-84-00-09041-8, volume; 978-84-00-06221-7, set). LIV + 650 pages, map, 149 plates of drawings; cloth with dust jacket.
7. **Santiago CASTROVIEJO** † (gen. ed.), **S. TALAVERA, M. J. GALLEGO, C. ROMERO ZARCO & A. HERRERO** (vol. ed.) – **Flora iberica**. Plantas vasculares de la Península Ibérica e Islas Baleares. Vol. **XVII**, *Butomaceae-Juncaceae*. – Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid, 2010 (ISBN 978-84-00-09112-5, volume; 978-84-00-06221-7, set). XLVIII + 298 pages, map, 55 plates of drawings; cloth with dust jacket.

A year of bliss: two volumes of *Flora iberica* have been published in 2010. This is quite remarkable, taking into account the very thorough editing that the Flora undergoes before it is cleared for printing. The volume editors must have had a busy time. But then, Spain is rich enough in botanical brainpower to afford two full and fully different editorial teams of four to be entrusted with that job. Not to speak of the two dozen authors of the treatments.

Yes, indeed: Spain is a fortunate, a rich country, botanically speaking. And undoubtedly it owes that wealth to the very flora project that now benefits from it. We are

witnessing an upward spiral, a self-reinforcing process, just as real as, and infinitely more enjoyable than, the fatal downward spiral that has affected our discipline in other countries of Europe.

The two present volumes cover widely different groups of plants. The smaller one, N° 17, is devoted for one half to the aquatic (freshwater and marine) families of the former *Helobiae*, no less than 22 in number (and there might have been one more, had not *Cymodocea* been included in *Zannichelliaceae*), totalling only 58 species among them. The second half, disregarding the single naturalised representative of *Commelinaceae*, is devoted to *Juncaceae*, with only two genera but no less than 59 species. The *Juncus* treatment follows faithfully Snogerup's excellent revision, and that of *Luzula* Kirschner's, but both look very well structured and are (as the whole Flora) superbly illustrated. I for one will certainly often use the comparative drawings of fruiting *Juncus* perigons, grouped together on two opposite pages, which better than any key helps recognise the different species.

As to vol. 12, it has the major family *Labiatae* at its core, sandwiched so-to-say between two much smaller ones: *Verbenaceae* and *Callitrichaceae*, each with 10 species. *Callitriche*, another of those tricky aquatics with extreme phenotypic plasticity that makes it almost impossible to key them out properly, are also an example of a treatment that I will often consult when looking at non-Spanish plants, as the illustrations, quite apart from the text, are extremely helpful.

As to the *Labiatae*, much could and should be written about them, but I will limit myself to pointing out those genera which have a main centre of diversity in Spain, where they are represented by many species often difficult to define, last not least because of frequent intraspecific hybridization and introgression phenomena. They are: *Teucrium* (67 species, 22 hybrids), *Thymus* (36 species, 71 hybrids), *Sideritis* (34 species, 35 hybrids), and *Lavandula* (8 species,

9 hybrids). The present treatments are a major if basic step toward a proper understanding of the evolutionary processes that have led to their present multiformity. W.G.

- 8. Mariano GARCÍA ROLLÁN – Plantas españolas a más de 3.000 metros.** – Ministerio de medio ambiente y medio rural y marino, Madrid, 2010 (ISBN 978-84-491-1027-6). 143 pages, maps, numerous drawings, 73 colour photographs; laminated cover.

The idea of writing a Flora specifically for mountain plants is not without precedent. A well known recent example is Arne Strid's *Mountain Flora of Greece*. The present book, limited to plants found above 3000 m of altitude, starts so to say where Strid's Flora ends (there is no mountain reaching up to 3000 m in Greece, nor anywhere on the Balkan Peninsula) and is by consequence much less bulky.

There are three areas in Spain where such altitudes are found: Tenerife in the Canary Islands with the Teide volcano (3718 m); the Sierra Nevada in Andalucía, where Mt. Mulhacén attains 3482 m; and the Pyrenees close to the French border, where among several high massifs Mt. Aneto comes first, with 3404 m. Here, each of these areas is treated separately, as a florula with its own descriptions and keys, which is a sensible choice as there is scant overlap. In each florula, families are arranged alphabetically – but watch out: by Spanish family names, so you will have to look for *Scrophulariaceae* under the letter *e* (escrofulariáceas).

The Teide florula is an easy one, as it consists of a single endemic violet species. The number of high-mountain taxa in the Sierra Nevada (108) and Pyrenees (142) is not excessive either. The total number of species treated is 223, each of which is represented by an exceedingly rough and sketchy drawing; for the species that are common to the Sierra Nevada and the Pyrenees, 28 in number, there is a cross-reference

(without page number) to the former in the latter treatment.

In the preface we are told that the main advantage of climbing that high is the fact that, above 3000 m, one may be certain that one encounters only plants described in this book. One may also say, conversely, that the main advantage of confining the coverage to high altitudes is that the book is not too heavy to be carried that high. To which I may add that the colour photographs, while increasing weight, are the main justification to carry the book at all. W.G.

- 9. Enrico CASTROVIEJO & Gabriele GALLASSO – La flora esotica lombarda.** – Regione Lombardia & Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano, Milano, 2010. Pages [3]-273, map, 727 colour photographs, 1 CD-ROM; paper.

When you consider this book you will find, so-to-say, a medal with two very different sides: intrinsic value and facility of use. Concerning the contents' side, I am impressed. The authors and their many field aids have done an incredibly thorough job in documenting the alien flora of their home region of Lombardy, taking the whole extensive literature into account, complemented by new field observations and even herbarium studies. The known alien flora of Lombardy now comprises no less than 619 taxa, not counting 33 that are doubtfully native. Of these, 312 are of casual occurrence and 85 are archaeophytes, being therefore excluded from the treatment in the book, which is limited to 242 naturalised neophytes. (You may wonder, as I did, why these figures apparently do not tally; the only logical answer is that there must be 20 casual archaeophytes.) A valuable aspect of the authors' work is their painstaking investigation of doubtful published records, resulting in the exclusion of 37 species as having been mentioned in error, due to proven or probable misidentification, misplacement of localities, or a number of other causes.

The 242 species treated are each assigned a full page, on which you will find three colour photographs showing different aspects of the species, a concise synonymy and description followed by the indication of flowering period, origin, habitat, local distribution, history of introduction, status, risks and measures of control, as well as notes and bibliographic references. For the other 410 species (archaeophytes, casuals, doubtful natives) the reader is referred to the CD-ROM that accompanies the book. So far, no complaints whatsoever, and warm compliments to the authors. If only, sigh, the book could be used ...

Well, it can; but not by itself alone. First, you not only need normal glasses but a hand-lens to read the microscopic text. The single oversize text element is the plant's common name in Italian, which has no major relevance, not even an ordering function. The family sequence followed is a spinoff of APG III, with which a few forefront phylogeneticists are likely familiar (whereas most people of my acquaintance are pretty well acquainted with the Latin alphabet, here used to arrange genera and species). So you turn to the index; but nope – there is no index in the book, nor a table of contents, nor a list of references: that's all on the CD. So what you next need to find your way is a laptop, by which you can at least read the searchable pdf files with the missing essentials. But you still cannot get at the other information promised on the remaining 410 species, or perhaps even higher-resolution versions of the printed photographs. You have to install the reading software first, for which purpose you need Internet access – and if you are unlucky, as is my own case, the installation programme may refuse to function. Call me a fossil if you wish, but I still prefer a normal, self-contained book; and if there are additional features to it that are more conveniently distributed on a CD, fine with me, but not in a format that requires external, perhaps ephemeral software for reading. W.G.

**10. Pier Virgilio ARRIGONI – Flora dell'isola di Sardegna, 2, 3.** – Delfino, Sassari, 2010 (ISBN 88-7138-515-0, 88-7138-525-9). 623 + 550 pages, 281 + 234 plates of drawings or in facsimile, 9 maps; 2 hard cover volumes.

All or almost all has been said on this beautiful and masterly written Flora when the first of its volumes was presented (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (19-20). 2008). After a break of four years, two sizeable volumes have now been published simultaneously. They complete the treatment of the dialypetalous dicots with for the single exception of the umbel family. This means, in other words, that an estimated 40 % of the Flora is now available.

When in volume one much space has been devoted to introductory matter, the same is not the case now. All available space, discounting the index and table of contents, is devoted to the treatment proper. This follows faithfully the initial plan (see previous review), both with respect to the text and the illustration. Numerous original drawing have been skilfully prepared by the same four artists who illustrated volume 1, and many good reproductions of previously published ones, old and new, fill the gaps.

Orientation may pose a little problem. It is a pity that, starting with volume three, mention of the family name in the right-hand running title has been discontinued. Dahlgren's system, after which the families are arranged in the Flora, is unfamiliar to many, and with the number of published volumes increasing one feels the need for a cumulative index, still lacking. For my own benefit I have made a family index for volumes 1-3 (dicots only, omitting families not found in the wild but adding some important synonyms) which I reproduce below, as others may find it useful as well.

The most important families of volume 2 are Caryophyllaceae and the crucifers, whereas in volume 3 the legumes are in the lead, followed by *Rosaceae* at a distance. On

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the level of genus, however, *Limonium* is my favourite with its 34 closely related and critical, mostly endemic species and several additional subspecies. For that genus, as an

exception, two maps are provided to visualise the distribution of the local species: a welcome and useful addition. W.G.

<i>Aceraceae</i>	3: 491	<i>Leguminosae</i>	3: 78
<i>Aizoaceae</i>	1: 355	<i>Linaceae</i>	3: 473
<i>Amaranthaceae</i>	1: 419	<i>Lythraceae</i>	3: 362
<i>Anacardiaceae</i>	3: 494	<i>Malvaceae</i>	2: 303
<i>Aquifoliaceae</i>	3: 414	<i>Molluginaceae</i>	1: 437
<i>Araliaceae</i>	3: 536	<i>Monotropaceae</i>	2: 559
<i>Aristolochiaceae</i>	1: 177	<i>Moraceae</i>	1: 318
<i>Balanophoraceae</i>	3: 408	<i>Myrtaceae</i>	3: 378
<i>Berberidaceae</i>	1: 271	<i>Nyctaginaceae</i>	1: 354
<i>Betulaceae</i>	1: 347	<i>Nymphaeaceae</i>	1: 184
<i>Brassicaceae</i>	2: 410	<i>Onagraceae</i>	3: 381
<i>Buxaceae</i>	3: 414	<i>Oxalidaceae</i>	3: 507
<i>Cactaceae</i>	1: 358	<i>Paeoniaceae</i>	2: 281
<i>Cannabaceae</i>	1: 317	<i>Papaveraceae</i>	1: 273
<i>Capparaceae</i>	2: 408	<i>Phytolaccaceae</i>	1: 353
<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>	2: 7	<i>Plumbaginaceae</i>	2: 197
<i>Celastraceae</i>	3: 412	<i>Polygalaceae</i>	3: 484
<i>Ceratophyllaceae</i>	1: 187	<i>Polygonaceae</i>	2: 166
<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>	1: 360	<i>Portulacaceae</i>	1: 430
<i>Cistaceae</i>	2: 322	<i>Primulaceae</i>	2: 559
<i>Clusiaceae</i>	2: 287	<i>Rafflesiaceae</i>	3: 410
<i>Cneoraceae</i>	3: 501	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	1: 189
<i>Cornaceae</i>	3: 399	<i>Resedaceae</i>	2: 547
<i>Crassulaceae</i>	2: 579	<i>Rhamnaceae</i>	3: 462
<i>Cruciferae</i>	2: 410	<i>Rosaceae</i>	3: 15
<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	2: 387	<i>Rutaceae</i>	3: 501
<i>Elatinaceae</i>	2: 284	<i>Salicaceae</i>	2: 399
<i>Ericaceae</i>	2: 551	<i>Santalaceae</i>	3: 402
<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	3: 416	<i>Sapindaceae</i>	3: 491
<i>Fabaceae</i>	3: 78	<i>Saxifragaceae</i>	3: 7
<i>Fagaceae</i>	1: 336	<i>Simarubaceae</i>	3: 500
<i>Frankeniaceae</i>	2: 385	<i>Tamaricaceae</i>	2: 374
<i>Fumariaceae</i>	1: 290	<i>Thymelaeaceae</i>	3: 367
<i>Geraniaceae</i>	3: 510	<i>Ulmaceae</i>	1: 313
<i>Grossulariaceae</i>	2: 575	<i>Urticaceae</i>	1: 321
<i>Guttiferae</i>	2: 287	<i>Violaceae</i>	2: 361
<i>Haloragaceae</i>	3: 359	<i>Viscaceae</i>	3: 408
<i>Hypericaceae</i>	2: 287	<i>Vitaceae</i>	3: 470
<i>Juglandaceae</i>	1: 334	<i>Zygophyllaceae</i>	3: 506
<i>Lauraceae</i>	1: 176		

- 11. Vlado MATEVSKI – Flora na Republika Makedonija. Tom 2, sv. 1.** – Makedonska Akademija na Naukite i Umetnostite, Skopje, 2010 (ISBN 978-608-203-052-4). 187 pages, paper.

As expected (see my last review in OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (20-21). 2009) the current, new instalment of the Flora of the [F.Y.] Republic of Macedonia marks the beginning of its second volume. Vlado Matevski, succeeding to the sadly deceased Kiril Micevski, is the new general editor, being the author or co-author of all treatments except those of *Heliotropium*, *Moltkia* and *Lappula* (by M. Kostadinovski). *Boraginaceae*, to which the latter three genera belong, is by far the largest family, followed by *Gentianaceae*, *Convolvulaceae*, and four smaller ones. The treatment is conservative, with but a single new variety described and named in an Appendix (a white-flowered variant of *Anchusa procera*). Generic limits are mostly traditional, except that *Solenanthis* (but not *Rindera*) is included in *Cynoglossum*. Some generic segregates, although well supported by taxonomic studies, are not accepted (not even acknowledged by citation in synonymy), such as *Gentianopsis* (included in *Gentianella*) and *Anchusella* (left with *Anchusa*).

The general plan and appearance of the Flora remains unchanged, and no break of style is apparent under its new governance. Nevertheless, Matevski has introduced some improvements that will be welcomed by users, most especially the index of scientific names that is now provided for each individual instalment, as is an initial table of contents. There is now also an English foreword in which the general plan of the Flora is outlined. Volume 2 will encompass the sympetalous dicots (in the same way as Hayek's *Prodromus*) except for those families which, owing to their dialypetalous affinities, were already treated in vol. 1 (*Plumbaginaceae*, *Primulaceae*, *Ericaceae* and their allies). Publication is to take place

in 4 or 5 instalments, which means that the future ones (to include such large and complex families as *Labiatae*, *Scrophulariaceae* s.l., *Rubiaceae* and *Compositae*) will have to be considerably larger than the first. W.G.

- 12. Mostafa ASSADI, Ali Asghar MAAS-SOUMI, P. BABAKHANLOU & V. MOZAFFARIAN (ed.) – Flora of Iran.** No. **66:** *Campanulaceae*, by F. AGHABEIGI & N. JALILIAN (2010; ISBN 978-964-473-316-1); No. **67:** *Lythraceae*, by S. Yousef NAANAIE (2010; ISBN 978-964-473-317-8); No. **68:** *Scrophulariaceae*, by S. Saeidi-Mehrvarz, F. Attar, S. M. M. Hamdi, F. Sharifnia, M. Assadi, S. Yousef Naanaie & I. Mehregan (2011; ISBN 978-964-473-327-7); No. **69:** *Cistaceae*, by F. Gholamian (2011; ISBN 978-964-473-329-1); No. **70:** *Cucurbitaceae*, by S. R. Safavi (2011; ISBN 978-964-473-331-4); No. **71:** *Cyperaceae*, by M. Amini Rad (2011; ISBN 978-964-473-333-8); No. **72** and **73:** *Loranthaceae* and *Viscaceae*, by M. M. Dehshiri (2011; ISBN 978-964-473-336-9). – Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, [Tehran], 2010-2011. 126, 34, 484, 52, 30, 298, 10 + 14 pages, 37, 10, 117, 11, 5, 70, 2 + 2 drawings, 63, 13, 258, 16, 8, 135, 2 + 2 maps; 7 fascicles, paper.

The productivity of Iranian botany and botanists never ceases to amaze. Last time, speaking of the yield of a two-years period, I calculated that the output rate had approximately doubled with respect to the previous five years (see OPTIMA Newslett. 39:(9). 2010). During the past year I find that it has again more than doubled, being higher than for entire the foregoing two-year period. Eight families that include 460 wild species in 65 genera were treated on 1048 printed pages; 497 distribution maps and 254 full-page drawings having been prepared. Congratulations!

Concerning species diversity, it is concentrated in seven genera of the three larger families, *Scrophulariaceae* (defined traditionally rather than phylogenetically, i.e., in the wide sense but excluding e.g. *Plantaginaceae* and *Orobanchaceae*), *Cyperaceae* and *Campanulaceae*. They are: *Veronica* (60 species), *Carex* and *Scrophularia* (57 each), *Campanula* (44, not counting the 3 of *Symphandra*), *Verbascum* (42), *Linaria* (35), and *Cyperus* (31). All other genera have less than 10 species, partly owing to the fact that the currently prevailing split of *Scirpus* into half a dozen segregates has been accepted.

Botany is a flourishing discipline in Iran. The amazing proliferation of botanical institutions, positions and activities in the country results on one hand in a pressing demand for a new national Flora, written in Farsi so that all potential users can read and understand it; and on the other hand it means that the skills and brainpower needed to accomplish such a great task are readily available. The Flora itself is perhaps not very innovative (only one new variety in *Helianthemum* and one varietal new combination *Asyneuma* are being proposed) – but why should it? There is a plenty of papers in national and foreign journals in which new taxa are being described and additional ones recorded. The real need is for a critical assessment and synthetic presentation of the new and old data. This is what the Flora is required to do, and this indeed it does. W.G.

### Popular Books

13. Benito VALDÉS, Consuelo SANTA-BÁRBARA, D. MELERO, Verónica GIRÓN & Cristina VICENT – **Guía de las especies de interés de la flora de Doñana y su comarca.** – Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía, Sevilla, 2010 (ISBN 978-84-92807-41-3). 160 pages, 198 maps, numerous colour photographs; hard cover.
14. Benito VALDÉS, Verónica GIRÓN, Enrique SÁNCHEZ GULLÓN & Isaías CARMONA – **Guía de las especies de interés de la flora del Andévalo y la Sierra de Huelva.** – Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía, Sevilla, 2010 (ISBN 978-84-92807-42-0). 182 pages, 236 maps, numerous colour photographs; hard cover.

These two shapely volumes, published simultaneously, present themselves as Siamese twins. Their general plan and graphic presentation are identical, and they treat near contiguous territories in westernmost Andalucía, Huelva Province: the Doñana area and Andévalo with the adjacent Sierra de Huelva, respectively. The main body of the books is devoted to the presentation of the “interesting species” of vascular plants growing in the area, where “interesting” means taxa that are considered to be under threat, being either listed as threatened in the national and or regional red data lists or under evaluation for their future inclusion. The number of taxa under presumed threat is 117 for the Doñana area (8.4 % of 1387 taxa), 98 for Andévalo and Sierra de Huelva (7 % of 1412 taxa). Each is briefly described and illustrated by one or two colour photographs (exceptionally a drawing) on a single page, with maps of its distribution within the area and, more generally, in Andalucía. Three tabular annexes at the end provide, for each taxon, data on its habitat and habit, phenology and reproductive biology, and conservation status.

As is normal in the case of “Siamese twins” there is some degree of overlap between the two volumes, of species occurring in the territories of both; but it is surprisingly small: only 29 of the taxa are in common. Redundancy is even lesser when photographs are considered: for merely 13 of the taxa have the same pictures been used – which means, of course, that not all were taken within the geographical reach of the treatment, and makes one regret (but perhaps also explains) the fact that no places are mentioned for the individual photographs.



Another interesting comparison is between the second of the present volumes and the book on the flora and vegetation of Andévalo published two years previously by two of the same authors (see OPTIMA Newslett. 39: (17). 2009). That book, the coverage of which extends to include an area of equivalent size on the Portuguese side of the border, also has a chapter devoted to the threatened plant taxa of the area: 52 in total, of which all but one (*Scilla peruviana*) are treated again here, sometimes under a different name (e.g., the former “*Carex acuta*” has now been re-identified as *C. elata* subsp. *tartessiana*, illustrated by exactly the same photograph). The fact that now almost twice as many taxa (98 against 52) are considered as threatened in an area of only one half of the original size might appear to be alarming, were it taken to reflect a twofold increase of threat over a period of just two years. Surely, a more reasonable and less pessimistic interpretation is permitted: that it is not the threat but our knowledge of the facts that has doubled. For this increase of information, and for sharing it with a wide general public under an attractive typographical makeup, the authors and producers of both books deserve our gratitude. W.G.

**15. Ignazio MESSANA – Il sentiero delle orchidee.** – Provincia Regionale de Trapani, Alcamo, 2011. 125 pages, colour photographs, 2 maps; paper.

The orchid path to which the present picture book is devoted is situated in NW Sicily, Province of Trapani, on the western slopes of Mt. Bonifato above the borough of Alcamo. It is a meandering footpath that climbs the wooded slope, just inside the natural reserve “Bosco d’Alcamo”, at 500-600 m a.s.l. The mountain itself has been inhabited since early prehistoric times, as witnessed by some palaeolithic and many neolithic, Roman and Medieval artifacts (instruments, shards, coins) of which several are illustrated here, the author being as

proficient an archaeologist as a botanist and photographer.

Orchids are in the limelight, of which 28 taxa have been recorded and two dozen are represented by beautiful colour photographs. Another specialty of the area that features prominently is the local blend of peony, *Paeonia mascula* subsp. *russii*, with flowers ranging from pale pink to bright red. The concise but informative introductory texts entice the visitor to explore the mountain on his own and visit its secretive marvels, which include a “lovers’ path” well hidden between the high trees of a wooded ridge.

W.G.

**16. Neriman ÖZHATAY, Engin ÖZHATAY & Adil Önder ERDEM – Şile’nin doğal bitkileri** [Şile’s native plants]. – I. Basım, İstanbul, 2010 (ISBN 978-975-6494-02-8). 350 pages, numerous colour photographs, maps, graphs; laminated cover.

Şile is a small town on the southern shore of the Black Sea, c. 60 km east of İstanbul. Thanks to its extensive sandy beaches it is currently developing into a bathing resort, and since 2003 it hosts the campus of Işık University. This book was therefore produced with a twofold readership in mind: tourists and university students.

Among the fairly numerous books on Turkish wildflowers that have been published in recent years, this one stands out in several respects. It does not place emphasis on the rare, endemic species but on the plants one sees every day, and often overlooks. Many of those represented are widespread throughout the Mediterranean area and often beyond. In spite of the grouping of the pictures by flower colour, an arrangement that is apparently familiar with many users but is a didactically rather poor solution, the book is scientifically sound, the plants as far as I can tell are all correctly identified and named according to modern standards. And above all, the photographs themselves are of

a remarkably good quality, both by aesthetic standards and by the details they show, and are very neatly printed on paper of excellent quality. W.G.

### Floristic Inventories and Checklists

17. **Alain DOBIGNARD & Cyrille CHATELAIN – Index synonymique de la flore d’Afrique du Nord. Volume 1 Pteridophyta, Gymnospermae, Monocotyledoneae.** [Publication hors-série N° 11.] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Genève, 2010 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0120-9). 455 pages, 15 figures (drawings and black-and-white photographs), tables, map; laminated cover. Price: 30 CHF.
18. **Alain DOBIGNARD & Cyrille CHATELAIN – Index synonymique de la flore d’Afrique du Nord. Volume 2 Dicotyledoneae, Acanthaceae-Asteraceae.** [Publication hors-série N° 11a.] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Genève, 2011 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0123-0). 428 pages, tables, map; laminated cover. Price: 30 CHF.
19. **Alain DOBIGNARD & Cyrille CHATELAIN – Index synonymique de la flore d’Afrique du Nord. Volume 3 Dicotyledoneae, Balsaminaceae-Euphorbiaceae.** [Publication hors-série N° 11b.] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Genève, 2011 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0123-7). 449 pages, tables, map; laminated cover. Price: 30 CHF.

Dobignard & Chatelain’s *Index* is doubtless one of the most important works in Mediterranean plant science published in recent years. A synthesis based on the first author’s experience of a lifetime with North African plants and on an extensive survey of old and recent literature, the *Index* raises our knowledge of the flora of that area to the level at which *Med-Checklist* has been aspiring. One will note with satisfaction that,

within just one year, 3 of the projected 5 volumes have been published, the 2 remaining ones being actively prepared. Production speed is one feature in which the *Index* and *Med-Checklist* differ markedly, much to the former’s advantage.

Otherwise the two works are basically similar in concept and contents, if not in presentation and typographical layout. One may indeed consider the *Index* as a complement to the published *Med-Checklist* volumes, which it updates and slightly expands, and also as a forerunner of those hopefully yet to come. Just as *Med-Checklist* has been used as the avowed basis for the *Index*, the *Index* provides a foundation upon which *Med-Checklist* can henceforth build. It therefore suggests itself to compare the two works in some detail, e.g. with respect to area coverage, contents and arrangement.

The geographical coverage of the *Index* reaches beyond that of *Med-Checklist* to the west and south. Westward the central Macaronesian Islands are added: Madeira (including the Salvages) and the Canary Islands, but not the Azores or Cabo Verdes. To the south the situation is more complex, but owing to the poverty of the flora and the scant data available the differences are less substantial. Rio de Oro (the former Spanish Sahara) is included in Morocco, and Mauritania north of the 20<sup>th</sup> degree of latitude, with the Adrar Massif, is added – but only for Mediterranean and Saharan species, not for the Tropical African ones not otherwise present in the list. The same applies to the Tibesti Massif in N. Chad and to the northern part of Mali (to the latter only in theory, though, occurrence in that country is not being recorded explicitly). Last, Gebel Elba, also claimed by Sudan, has been allotted to Egypt.

Same as in *Med-Checklist*, taxa are arranged alphabetically within species, genera, families and major groups; but synonym entries are intercalated in the same, single alphabetic sequence, being cross-referenced to the accepted name. This means that each

synonym appears twice, in its alphabetic position and under the taxon to which it belongs; but the space so lost is recuperated at the end, where the index only lists names of genera and families. Such arrangement permits the listing of literature references under the name accepted in a given publication, which adds to precision. Contrary to *Med-Checklist*, varietal names (but not those at lower ranks) have been indexed consistently, even though varieties are not formally accepted. Natural hybrids are included under their nothospecific name (in vol. 1 the letter x was used instead of the multiplication sign and placed against the epithet, often in the same type; but from vol. 2 onward this confusing practice has been abandoned).

In an alphabetically arranged work the delimitation and nomenclature of families is critical. The *Index*, contrary to *Med-Checklist*, has opted for names ending in *-aceae* when an alternative exists, so that *Compositae* (*Asteraceae*) and *Cruciferae* (*Brassicaceae*) are placed ahead of, say, *Caryophyllaceae*. So far so good; but whereas in vol. 1, as promised in the preface, a fairly traditional family delimitation has been accepted, based on Brummitt's *Families and genera*, in the dicot volumes that promise was forgotten and user-friendliness was sacrificed on the phylogenetic altar. Thus *Capparaceae* are merged with *Brassicaceae*, *Phyllanthaceae* are separated from *Euphorbiaceae*, *Cordiaceae* and *Heliotrop[i]aceae* from *Boraginaceae*, and for the formerly ulmaceous *Celtis* one must look under *Cannabaceae*. The transference of *Callitrichaceae* to *Plantaginaceae* foreshadows the shift of most scrophulariaceous genera to the latter family. In short, we are to face the fact that we live in a changing world – which implies that the new classification, too, will soon be outlived.

Distribution is indicated in the same way as in *Med-Checklist*, by countries or territories. To the 5 North African units in *Med-Checklist* 3 have been added: Madeira, Canary Islands, and Mauritania. The status of a taxon in each territory is also indicated as in

*Med-Checklist*, using the same letters, with one exception: no distinction is made between doubtfully native taxa (D) and doubtfully naturalised xenophytes (P), the letter P being used indiscriminately for both. Endemic status is indicated only for single-territory endemics, not for taxa endemic to more than one of the countries covered: two regrettable differences, which result in unnecessary loss of information.

The data contained in the *Index* exist in digital format, in a searchable database accessible via the Internet ([www.ville-ge.ch/musinfo/bd/cjb/africa/index.php](http://www.ville-ge.ch/musinfo/bd/cjb/africa/index.php)). However, the printed text has obviously not been generated directly from that database – otherwise some errors could not be explained. Not that there are many of them, but they do exist: misspellings, misplacements (e.g., *Orchidaceae* preceding *Liliaceae*) and omissions (*Ephedraceae*, having been forgotten under the gymnosperms, had to find their place among the dicots). [Admittedly, automatic generation of print is not exempt of risk: having gone that way for the last *Med-Checklist* volume, I am familiar with those tricky, computer-generated systematic errors that programmers gently call bugs!]

The *Index* is taxonomically conservative. Nevertheless, knowledge progressing, some changes were unavoidable. Therefore each volume has several pages of Addenda in which new results are presented, modifications explained and novelties justified. For us botanists, these Addenda are the most exciting pages to read. In vol. 1 we find a revision of the *Allium pallens* aggregate, by J. M. Tison, followed by 47 pages of notes on grasses, most prominently *Festuca* and the *Triticeae* genera, by Dobignard. The Addenda in the other volumes are less extensive. They are again for the most part authored by Dobignard, with a contribution on various umbel species by J.-P. Reduron. All in all, 36 nomenclatural novelties are published in the text and/or the Addenda, including two species and one subspecies new to science.

In a general way, let me say that I am extremely happy with this *Index*. It will serve as a stimulus for North African botany and botanists, hopefully attracting many new disciples to our beloved science and most assuredly assisting enormously ourselves who are already committed to it. The very reasonable price, which reflects the financial support by the Emirates Centre for Wildlife Propagation, is not the least of its merits.

W.G.

- 20. Edouard LE FLOC'H, Loutfy BOULOS & Errol VELA – Catalogue synonymique commenté de la flore de Tunisie** [ed. 2]. – République Tunisienne, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Tunis, 2010 (ISBN 978-9938-9508-0-9). 500 pages, tables; flexible cover.

Tunisia's last national Flora, in 3 volumes, was started by Cuénod & al. in 1954 and concluded by Pottier-Alapetite in 1981. An excellent work in its time, its nomenclature is no longer up to date, taxonomic concepts at the genus and species level have meanwhile undergone considerable change, and the floristic exploration of the country has progressed. Therefore, the present critical checklist answers a real need; and it does so in a competent way, taking stock of an huge amount of literature. The list of references (26 printed pages!) is indeed impressive, which is hardly surprising in view of the expertise of the principal author, Edouard Le Floc'h, who published a bibliography for the country's flora, vegetation and ecology in 1992.

The present volume is a catalogue of taxa and names, with full source references but generally lacking locality data. Stress is placed on changes with respect to the last authoritative treatment, meaning the Cuénod / Pottier-Alapetite *Flora* and also the published volumes of *Med-Checklist*. Such changes, which appear in bold-face italics, are additions, deletions, expressions of doubt,

endemic or alien status, taxonomic merger or shift, rarefaction and (threatening) extinction, to mention just the most current categories. There are tabular lists of relevant taxa in the introductory chapter, in which 309 (definite or probable) additions, 114 (definite or probable) deletions and 66 cases of doubtful presence are enumerated – figures that are impressively high.

The *Catalogue* is essentially literature-based, but herbarium specimens have often been revised by specialists in cases of doubt, or are cited to document so far unpublished new records. The taxonomic approach is fairly synthetic. Whereas some distinctive varieties have been maintained, most of those mentioned in the *Flora*, along with numerous subspecies, are no longer recognised but relegated to synonymy. The text appears to have been printed before proofs could be corrected. Some of the numerous typos are rectified on an enclosed Errata sheet of three pages (in one case, mis-corrected: *Galactites tomentosus* must retain its masculine gender).

This book is in fact a second edition. A prior version, referred to rather cryptically in the introduction but not properly cited, was published privately by Le Floc'h in 2008 in Montpellier under a variant title (*Flore de Tunisie: catalogue synonymique commenté*), perhaps in a low number of copies, and ran out of stock almost immediately: a cogent demonstration, if need be, of the strong demand for this shapely, handy and extremely useful volume.

W.G.

- 21. Friedrich Karl MEYER – Beiträge zur Flora von Albanien.** [*Hausknechtia, Beiheft 15* (ISSN 0863-6451).] – Thüringische Botanische Gesellschaft e.V., Jena, 2011. 220 pages, 31 full-page black-and-white photographs, tables; paper.

When starting on his Albanian collecting campaigns in 1959 Meyer was aged 33, already an experienced botanist. During three consecutive years and for a total of four

months, spanning April to September, he explored the country from end to end and brought together an incredibly rich harvest of over 3500 gatherings of vascular plants. Together with Antonio Baldacci in the 1890s and Friedrich Markgraf in the 1920s he must be held as the principal botanical explorer of Albania. Yet his collections, the richest ever made in that country to date, have been tucked away in the attics (or was it the cellars?) of the Haussknecht Herbarium in Jena for half a century, inaccessible to botanists except for some punctual studies. Only now in his mature years has Meyer been able to fulfil his commitment and work up the material (and still there are his collections of musci and lichen-forming fungi to revise – a worthy challenge for interested specialists).

Here, now, are the results of Meyer's endeavours: a comely volume that, apart from listing all specimens in the familiar arrangement of *Flora europaea* (but with monocots placed ahead of dicots), abounds in critical observations of all kinds. The harvest of novelties is remarkable: 31 taxa (23 species, 8 subspecies) new to science, each illustrated by a full-page photograph of the type specimen, not to mention five new combinations. One may note that some other new taxa had been described earlier based on Meyer's Albanian material, such as *Acantholimon albanicum*, *Hypericum haplophylloides* subsp. *devollense*, *Noccaea cikaea*, and the liverwort *Frullania illyrica*.

A couple of maps showing itineraries and collecting locations as well as a geo-referenced locality list would have been useful additions. Even so, Balkan botany will ever be indebted to F. K. Meyer for this work.

W.G-

**22. Armen L. TAHTADŽJAN (ed.) – Konpekt flory Kavkaza, tom 2.** – Sankt-Peterburgskogo Universiteta, St. Petersburg, 2006 (ISBN 5-288-04040-0). 404 pages, 9 maps; hard cover.

**23. Armen L. TAHTADŽJAN (ed.) – Konpekt flory Kavkaza, tom 3(1).** – Tovariščestvo, Naučnyh Izdanij, St. Petersburg, 2008 (ISBN 978-5-87317-571-0). 469 pages, 9 maps; hard cover.

A full review of this new, major Caucasian botanical project has been written when the first volume was published (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (39-30).2009). What has then been said remains valid for the two new volumes presented here. It is good to note that the work's general plan has not changed, and will foreseeably not change even now when Armen Tahtadžjan, the founder and main editor, is no longer with us. Better still, the volume size has grown, so that the final goal is not as remote as one may initially have feared. Another positive point: whereas editorship and most of the authorship remains firmly in the hand of Russian botanists, the participation of Caucasian authors (Armenian, to be exact) is now appreciable.

The sequence of publication is rather original. Whereas vol. 1 unsurprisingly dealt with the first slot of families (N<sup>os</sup> 1-22: the pteridophytes and gymnosperms), vol. 2 jumps to the opposite end of the system (families N<sup>os</sup> 154-191: the monocots, with N<sup>o</sup> 171, *Arecaceae*, missing, presumably because it is absent from Caucasia). Vol. 3(1), with families N<sup>o</sup> 117-131 (the *Asteridae*) leaves a gap (families N<sup>o</sup> 132-153, the *Lamiidae*) that presumably is to be filled by vol. 3(2). For the remainder, wait and see.

Overall, the treatment adopted here is firmly rooted in Russian and Caucasian tradition, with the result that only few novelties had to be published: 17 new combinations in vol. 2, all of sectional, subspecific or varietal rank, and 14 in vol. 3(1), including 6 for species, are listed as new. Even these figures are in fact too high. A check of the declared novelties for *Compositae* alone reveals that nomenclatural editing of the volume has not been sufficiently thorough. The "new combinations" *Tanacetum daghestanicum* and *T.*

*tricholobum* had already both been made by the same author, Handžjan, in 2002. *Gala-tella linosyris* subsp. *fominii* and *Psephellus bagadensis* were validated by myself in 2005. *Psephellus adjaricus* (Albov) Mikheev is an illegitimate later homonym of *P. adjaricus* (Albov) Grossh. The latter name should have been adopted instead of the nomenclaturally superfluous *P. albovii* (Sosn.) Mikheev, also proposed here, creating a rather confused situation. The correct name for the former is: *Psephellus dimitriewae* (Sosn.), **comb. nov.** ≡ *Centaurea dimitriewae* [Sosn., Fl. Gruzii 8: 586. 1952, nom. inval., ex] Sosn. in Zаметki Sist. Geogr. Rast. 21: 59. 1959. W.G.

## Studies of Flora and Vegetation

**24. Juan F. MOTA POVEDA, Pedro SÁNCHEZ GÓMEZ & José S. GUIRADO ROMERO – Diversidad vegetal de las yeseras ibéricas.** El reto de los archipiélagos edáficos para la biología de la conservación. – ADIF & Mediterráneo Asesores Consultores, Sevilla, 2011 (ISBN 978-84-614-9023-3). 634 pages, numerous colour photographs, maps, graphs, tables, facsimiles, all in colour; hard cover.

Gypsum deposits and the soils derived from them are widespread in peninsular Spain, more so than in any other European country. Gypsiferous soils, along with ophiolithic and dolomitic ones, are well known as hosting a peculiar flora and vegetation, with plant taxa adapted to, or tolerant of, the particular kinds of stress associated with those types of substratum. Many gypsophilous taxa, along with their habitats, are presently under threat due to mining as well as attempted reforestation or conversion to agricultural land. The European Union, in its Habitat Directive, lists gypsicolous vegetation among its priority habitats. But the

question is: how much do we know about these habitats, vegetation types, and plant taxa?

In fact, quite a lot – but so far it was widely scattered through literature, and some of the knowledge was unpublished. Here now comes the synthesis that was missing so far: a monograph of plant life on gypsum in Spain, impressive not only by its bulk and weight but principally by its data content and the exemplary way in which the information is presented.

The gypsum deposits of Spain are partly of Triassic and partly of Tertiary (Messinian) age. They are restricted to the eastern half of the country, roughly east of a curved line running from Oviedo in the north through Madrid and Córdoba to Cádiz on the Mediterranean coast. There, they form so-to-say an immense archipelago of gypsum islands and island groups of all sizes. The characteristic vegetation of these islands consists of loose chamaephyte communities of the Gypsophiletalia order and patches of small annuals of the Sedo-Ctenopsion gypsophilae alliance. Many of the constituent species are endemic, some rare and/or very local, and often they are “gypsophytes”, found exclusively or almost so on gypsiferous soils.

Here starts one of the main problems faced by the authors: to decide which taxa are “gypsophytes”, and which are not. It is said in the preface that establishing a list of “worthy gypsophytes” is something like having to draw up a shortlist of candidates for the national football team. The problem was solved in a democratic way, by a poll of experts, with no less than 43 responding. A statistic analysis of the feedback resulted in a list of 71 “certified gypsophytes”, to replace an earlier, similar list based on a narrower sample of experts. The core of the book is a series of 77 fully illustrated and referenced case studies of gypsophilous taxa (4 of those listed had to be omitted, but 10 others were added), with descriptions, distribution maps, and plentiful information on ecology, biology,

threats and conservation status. Shamefully tucked away among the lot is one *Orobanchae* species described as new to science, and even better hidden one may spot the validation of two new combinations for species of the same genus. Cryptogams are not forgotten, of which the lichens in particular play a considerable role in the colonisation of soil crusts that are often formed in gypsiferous habitats.

A second core chapter of similar importance presents one by one the main gypsiferous areas of the country, 34 in all. There is no published precedent for the detailed description and cartographic delimitation here provided. The data provided here will no doubt be an invaluable asset for a sound conservation management. And conservation aspects, while not the main subject of the book, are certainly the principal concern of its authors and editors.

To the general reader from outside of Spain this book can provide many new insights. It will hopefully encourage research on gypsiferous habitats in other countries where, being smaller, they have so far been neglected.

W.G.

**25. Siegmar-W. BRECKLE & Daud RAFIQPOOR – Field guide Afghanistan. Flora and vegetation.** – Scientia Bonnensis, Bonn, Manama, New York & Florianópolis, 2010 (ISBN 978-3-940766-30-4). 863 pages + frontispiece, drawings, graphs, maps, tables, numerous colour photographs; hard cover.

In two respects this work is two books in one. Firstly and most patently with regard to language: it is fully bilingual, written entirely in English and Dari (one of two national languages of Afghanistan, a variant Farsi, written in Arabic script), disposed in two matching columns, with pagination running bottom to top as courtesy demands. Secondly in contents. Its first portion (to page 174) is a textbook on Afghan natural

history, with extensive, well illustrated and didactically excellent chapters on physical geography (including climatology), flora and vegetation, land use, ecology and conservation, and even some basic notions of nomenclature, plant morphology, collecting and collections – with family indexes to *Flora iranica*, *Flora of Iran*, and *Flora of Pakistan* as a final bonus. The second, much larger portion is a pictorial Flora, characterising and illustrating by colour photographs about 30 % of the country's flora (ca. 1200 species, not all of them fully identified). Descriptions are only given for families, for genera there are some indications of species contents, for species just a phrase mentioning a couple of salient features; however, distribution (within and outside the country), habitat, altitudinal range and flowering period as well as life form are reported consistently.

Afghanistan is not an easy country to visit and explore, and photographs taken there, including of plants, are scarce. This limitation had obvious consequences for the present book. The choice of species treated was conditioned by the availability of colour photographs, not all of which were taken in Afghanistan (some are even from Germany, or downloaded from the Internet). Author, place and date of each photograph are, however, faithfully recorded in an Appendix. Quality, both aesthetic and for identification purposes, varies considerably. On the positive side, there is no comparable collection of Afghan plant portraits in existence. Many species are here illustrated for the first time, and some had not before been recorded for Afghanistan. The authors hope (hopes that I share) that this be the first of a series of illustrated field guides, and that eventually an “electronic Flora”, enabling remote access to a complete range of Afghan plant photographs, be achieved. Future such books might, perhaps, avoid use of a type in which you need a hand-lens to distinguish between the letters *i* and *l*, as they appear in plant names.

W.G.

## Chorology

26. **Arto KURTTO, Heinrich E. WEBER, Raino LAMPINEN & Alexander N. SENNIKOV** – **Atlas florae europaeae**. Distribution of vascular plants in Europe, **15, Rosaceae (Rubus)**. – Committee for Mapping the Flora of Europe & Societas Botanica Fennica Vanamo, Helsinki, 2010 (ISBN 978-951-9108-16-2). 362 pages, maps, tables and graphs; paper.

The newest product of the extraordinarily ambitious project of mapping the vascular flora of the whole of Europe, the third of four *Rosaceae* volumes, is devoted in its entirety to the genus *Rubus*. It covers 763 taxa with 796 maps, numbered 3913 to 4708, plus 23 pages of critical corollary matter explaining the present status of European batology (research into brambles, as the book explains) and the taxonomical and chorological deviations of the *AFE* treatment from that in *Flora Europaea*.

Same as for the previous volume, the Finnish Secretariat could avail itself of the expertise of an authoritative monographer, this time Heinrich E. Weber of Bramsche, Germany.

*Rubus* mostly consists of apomictic taxa, here comprehensively treated on a large scale. The genus has never before been mapped for Europe in its entirety the genus, and the information from many territories is collated here for the first time. The taxonomic treatment and the maps are a complete summary of Weber's studies of a lifetime, complemented by those of many other European batologists. All data received by April 2010 have been incorporated.

The grid system used and the bicolour print are the same as in volumes 13 and 14. For the first time, full colour has been used in the introductory pages. The territorial limits in the maps are the same as were used in vol. 14, except that the borders of the Republics of Montenegro and Kosovo have been added.

European brambles include only few sexual and diploid taxa that can be considered as "biological species", the remainder form polyploid apomictic swarms of innumerable biotypes, each with its own distributional range. To be recognized as a species and mapped separately, such a biotype must have at least regional distribution, i.e., grow in an area of at least 50 km in diameter.

It is difficult, all but hopeless task to compare the treatments in *AFE* and *Flora Europaea*. In *AFE* 763 taxa of *Rubus* are mapped, of which only 147 are mentioned or accepted in *Flora Europaea*. Conversely, 302 taxa are included in *Flora Europaea* not in *AFE*. These differences cannot be explained away by the fact that numerous new species have been described since 1968, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume of *Flora Europaea* was published. Rather, we are told, it is a consequence of the different taxonomic approach that has been developed during the last 35 years.

The quality of the work is impressive in so far as the taxonomic frame is concerned, into which much effort has gone; the list of synonyms could have been expanded but would have made dull reading. As usual, an international network of experts provided data from their countries or regions and thus contributed to the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the volume. Obviously the reliability of the maps depends on the quality of the data sent in by the individual correspondents and country coordinators, on which the Editors can take but minor influence.

The single complaint that comes to mind is the high cost of the book: 140 €, or about 40 cents per printed page. But this is but a small blemish on such a remarkable work. The next volumes of the *Atlas* will be welcomed and are indeed eagerly awaited by many, also bearing in mind the considerable time still needed to complete the whole work.

Giannantonio DOMINA

27. **Xavier FONT I CASTELL & Josep VIGO I BONADA (ed.)** – **Atlas corològic de la**



**flora vascular dels Països Catalans.** Volum 16 [*ORCA: Atlas corològic*, 16.] – Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Secció de Ciències Biològiques, Barcelona, 2010 (ISBN 978-84-9965-029-6, volume; 978-84-7283-625-9, set). [504] pages, maps 3879-4113; paper.

When reviewing vol. 15 of this series (in *OPTIMA* Neswlett. 39: (15). 2010) I made the safe prediction that vol. 16 would bring the dicots to an end. It did better: it treats the four first monocot families in addition: *Alismataceae*, *Butomaceae*, *Hydrocharitaceae*, and *Juncaginaceae* (14 maps altogether). The main bulk, naturally, is devoted to the conclusion of *Compositae*: the end of *Cardueae* (9 maps) and the whole *Cichorieae* (212 maps).

As in previous volumes of the same series, the sequence, taxonomy and nomenclature of the *Flora manual dels Països Catalans* has been followed faithfully to the letter, with quite exceptional nomenclatural updates (*Hieracium flocciferum* replacing *H. briziflorum*, and *H. portae* substituted for *H. periphanooides*). Also in *Hieracium*, one notes two additional species that were not treated in the *Flora* (*H. castellanum* and *H. hoppeanum*, both of *Pilosella*), and conversely one misses a dozen that had been included there – all of them rare in the area, so that perhaps no precise locality data were available (just a guess, as no explanation is given). W.G.

**28. Jean-Paul THEURILLAT, Christian SCHNEIDER & Cyrille LATOUR – Atlas de la flore du Canton de Genève.** [*Publication hors-série* N° 13.] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Genève, 2011 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0122-3). 720 pages, 162 colour photographs, 72 graphs and maps in colour, 4 tables, numerous distribution maps, folded inset; hard cover.

The Republic and Canton of Geneva, as its proud official name runs, has now one

more reason for pride. Fruit of the joint effort of 20 years involving a great number of local botanists, amateurs and professionals alike, this voluminous Atlas makes of Geneva one of the botanically best known areas of Europe and the world. Its preparation was sponsored by the Botanical Society of Geneva and the renowned Conservatoire botanique; its maps, based on well over 100,000 individual records, show the distribution, in a grid of 1 × 1 km squares, of the 1437 vascular plant taxa known to be present in the area; the structured comments accompanying each map and also provided for non-mapped taxa, place the data of the recent past in an historical context embracing two centuries or more, reflecting the thorough screening of a full range of published data and the revision of the holdings of the rich herbaria of the Conservatoire. Congratulations!

The book is more than an Atlas of distribution maps. In its introductory chapters on the Canton's physical and political geography, its main habitats and vegetation types are described and illustrated by many masterly colour photographs, followed by an analysis of the flora, its past and present constitution and historical development. At the end there is a full inventory in the form of a list of names of all vascular plant taxa ever reported for the territory.

The main merit of this Atlas, in my view, is that it is an incredibly rich source of data. The data analysis, while thorough and valuable, suffers from a lack of stringency. Many basic notions are not or only cryptically defined, and some of the results are not easy to understand. Example: the actual vascular flora (those taxa of which the presence has been confirmed during the last 20 years) comprises 1437 taxa; 152 of them are new additions of the last 50 years, apparently more than compensating the 137 taxa lost during the last two centuries. How, then, can the "historical flora" consist of 2124 taxa? Part of the answer is: present-day botanists feel unable to distinguish critical

taxa in notoriously difficult groups such as *Hieracium* and *Rubus*, so that they, while members of the “historical” inventory (and doubtless for the most part still present today) are not accepted as members of the actual flora; so we are witnessing a loss indeed, but a loss of botanical skills rather than of botanical taxa. Another example is the notion of “potential flora”, in which the 137 lost taxa are added to the 1437 that are actually present. This notion is devoid of sense, as it does not take into account (natural or anthropogenic) turnover. Probably (disallowing variations in taxonomic concepts) the total flora present was not in any point of time richer in taxa than it is today, since the rate of immigration is in slight excess of the rate of loss. The change we observe is not a loss of diversity but an increasing trivialisation of the flora.

These critical thoughts do in no way belittle the immense merits of the work; rather, they are intended as a challenge to the interested reader, to look at the text for him- or herself. Those who are not fully proficient in French may be pleased to note that English translations are provided for the captions of all tables and illustrations (and they may regret that no similar translation is offered of the explanation of abbreviations, conventions and symbols used in the comments of the maps, provided in overview – in French of course – on a very practical foldout page).

W.G.

### Excursions

- 29. Ina DINTER (ed.) – Marokko.** Pharmakobotanische Exkursion 23.04. – 09.05.2010. – Privately published, Stuttgart, 2010 ISBN 978-3-00-033048-3). [2] + 113 pages, maps, figures, colour photographs, tables; paper.
- 30. Ina DINTER – Extremadura.** Botanische Exkursion mit ornithologischen Aspekten 1. – 18. April 2010. – Privately assembled/printed, Ostfildern, 2010. [1] + 60 sheets, maps, figures, colour photographs, tables; paper, plastic front cover sheet.
- 31. Ina DINTER – Nordostgriechenland mit Insel Thasos.** Botanische Studienreise 3. – 17. Juni 2010. – Privately assembled/printed, Ostfildern, 2010. [1] + 96 sheets + DVD-ROM, maps, figures, colour photographs, tables; paper, plastic front cover sheet.

Off, then, to new horizons! Ina Dinter has taken up the challenge in my last review (OPTIMA Newslett. 39: (14-15). 2010) and, back from her one-off South American escape, has resumed roaming different, ever new parts of the Mediterranean countries. The style of her relations is so practical and informative that she has started, not only to apply it to the botanical excursions organised by herself but to offer her skills to other tours, in which she was a humble participant. Such is the case of the pharmacobotanical excursion to Morocco, which took place in late spring 2010 under the joint leadership of Ursula Barthlen, pharmacist, and Werner Huber, biologist. The number of taxa noted, collected and/or photographed during the two and a half weeks of that trip sums up to an impressive total of 450. (Of course, it is less certain than usual that all plants are correctly named, N. Africa being new ground for Mrs. Dinter; for example, the photograph on p. 43 shows *Daucus carota*, not *Ammi visnaga*.) As always, synthetic lists with localities are provided at the end, which makes all these booklets a valuable source of floristic data. If only the localities were geo-referenced! I would not be surprised if Mrs. Dinter next time took a GPS with her so as to fulfil even the latter wish.

The list in the Extremadura booklet (219 taxa) is relatively short, perhaps due to the fact that, for once, no preparatory excursion was made. The Thasos tour, however, was carried out twice, first alone in 2009 (resulting in a preliminary guide that was not distributed in

print but is included in the DVD), the second with the group in June 2010. Only the first half of the excursion was devoted to the N. Aegean island of Thasos; the second half led to the mountains of E. Makedhonia (Pangeo, Falakro, Lailia, Meniki) and to the Nestos river gorge. As a result, all in all, over 600 taxa are listed – and there may be some more to add, as many of the hundreds of beautiful plant photographs on the associated DVD are alas unnamed. W.G.

**32. Pietro MINISSALE, Saverio SCIAN-DRELLO, Leonardo SCUDERI & Giovanni SPAMPINATO – Gli ambienti costieri della Sicilia meridionale.** Escursione della Società Italiana di Scienza della Vegetazione, 14-18 aprile 2010. Guida itinerario [*Ambienti e Paesaggi*, 1.] – Bonanno, Acireale (Ro), 2010 (ISBN 978-88-6561-001-5). 74 pages, 24 figures (graphs and maps), 29 tables; paper. – 10 €.

During 5 days, the 2010 excursion of the Italian Society for Vegetation Science visited 11 coastal area spaced all along the southern and western half of the Sicilian coastline, from the SE corner of the island, south of Noto, to its NW extremity at Mt. Cofano, NE of Trapani. A variety of coastal habitats and vegetation types were to be seen: sandy shores and dunes (of which, contrary to the island's northern coast, this sector has plenty), ponds, marshland and lagoons, clayey flats, shrubby slopes, and coastal rocks.

This booklet, prepared as a guide for the excursion participants, includes general accounts of the various landscapes and habitats, detailed descriptions of the individual sites (each with a small topographical map), and tables characterising the various vegetation units to be seen, many of them not previously published. Four pages of bibliographic references are an important element of the useful information that is here provided. W.G.

## Conservation Topics

**33. Rafael ROBLES – Conservación y desarrollo sostenible del mar de Alborán.** Elementos estratégicos para su futura gestión. **Conservation e développement durable de la mer d'Alboran.** Eléments stratégiques pour sa gestion future. – UICN, Gland & Málaga, 2010 (ISBN 978-2-8317-1254-3). 112 pages, drawings, tables and maps, numerous colour photographs; laminated cover.

The name Alborán is known to botanists principally through the Island of that name, but in fact it applies to the entire, narrow western end of the Mediterranean Sea, from the Strait of Gibraltar to a line linking the Cabo de Gata east of Almería with Cape Fégalo near Oran. In April 2009 an international meeting of experts took place in Oujda (Morocco), with the conservation and sustainable development of the Alborán Sea as its subject. The participants to that meeting issued a declaration with a number of concrete recommendations, the present brochure being one of its spin-offs.

The booklet deals with the marine and coastal habitats of the area, its present state, the threats it faces, and measures that have been or should be taken to avert them. It deals with animals of all kinds, macroalgae, and seagrasses, but barely with terrestrial organisms. Disappointingly, the Alborán Islands lying in the middle of the homonymous sea, even though it hosts two supposedly endemic and definitely threatened vascular plant species, is mentioned only in passing. For marine biologists and conservationists of marine habitats, however, the publication is a mine of valuable information and pertinent suggestions. W.G.

**34. Riccardo GUARINO & Anna GUGLIEMO (ed.) – Il litorale di Manfredonia (Gela).** Natura e storia da proteggere. – Caspur-

Ciber, Roma, 2010 (ISBN 978-88-6561-001-5). 127 pages, numerous colour photographs, one drawing, tables and graphs, one loose, folded map in colours; laminated cover.

Gela on the southern coast of Sicily was once a botanical Mecca, but much of its naturalistic attractions were thoroughly ruined when the place became a gold-digger city. Black gold it was: Petrol was discovered in Gela's subsoil in 1956, but the initial enthusiasm has subsided and petrochemical activities are now in decline. Nevertheless, vast surfaces of coastal dunes and scrubland have by now been sacrificed to urban, industrial and touristic expansion and are irretrievably lost. Few areas remain relatively unaffected. One of them, which has been declared a Site of Community Importance (SCI) under the European Union's Habitat Directive, is the subject of the present book.

As is stated toward the end of the text, there are many regional, national and international laws and regulations that, in theory, grant protection to the site. But theory is one thing, actual facts may differ. As Franco Raimondo has it in the preface, if Manfria is not to remain protected on paper only, it must first of all become a reason of pride for the local community. This is, obviously, the purpose of the present book, a purpose that, well written and superbly illustrated as it is, it cannot fail to achieve (provided, of course, that the local community takes the trouble to read it).

Eleven different authors describe the natural environment of the region, its plants and animals, in well readable style but nevertheless with considerable scientific detail. Human impact and economic prospects are discussed dispassionately. An attractive chapter is devoted to the cultural patrimony of Gela, which was an important centre in Greek antiquity. Strangely, one finds scattered references to a dozen "annexes" throughout the text, but neither are such Annexes included nor are they formally

cited and enumerated anywhere in the book. From the reader's point of view, they can be easily dispensed with – and anyway, the reader has no choice. W.G.

**35. Toni NIKOLIĆ, Jasenka TOPIĆ & Nina VUKOVIĆ – Botanički važna područja Hrvatske** [Important Plant areas of Croatia]. – Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 2010 (ISBN 978-953-0-61925-8). 529 pages, numerous photographs, maps and tables, all in colour; laminated cover.

The program to define a national network of Important Plant Areas for Croatia started in 2006 in partnership with Plant Life International (UK) and with funding from a Dutch governmental agency. Within less than 4 years it produced the comprehensive study documented in this book, selecting, characterising and delimiting 94 IPAs with a total area of 9543 km<sup>2</sup>, corresponding to 17 % of Croatia's total land surface. Half of that area is already protected now; the remainder requires protected status, hopefully to be achieved, at least in part, through incorporation in the Natura 2000 network. An interesting conclusion reached by the authors is that the main factor presently threatening Croatia's plant and habitat diversity is the decline of traditional rural and pastoral activities.

The introductory chapters of the book provide statistical data, outline the criteria for defining IPAs, and map relevant parameters. The main body consists of descriptions of the 94 individual IPAs, arranged alphabetically by names. Several are well known, among them whole Adriatic islands (Vis, Korčula, Krk), parts of them (Pag, Rab), or the scoglio of Jabuka, once home to the now extinct *Dianthus multinervis*. The largest single IPA is Mt. Velebit (over 2000 km<sup>2</sup>), famous through Degen's Flora. General maps to locate each MPA, detailed maps with contour lines, gorgeous landscape and habitat photographs and portraits of relevant plants illustrate the descriptive text. Beside

being a documentary source of unequalled wealth and precision, the book is therefore an attractive, infinitely varied display of Croatia's natural wealth and beauty. W.G.

**36. Nazik KHANJYAN – Khosrov Forest Reserve.** – Vard Hrat, Yerevan, 2009 (ISBN 978-99941-889-1-8). 100 pages, 101 colour photographs, 3 maps, 4 tables; hard cover.

The first notice of protected areas in Armenia, we are told, dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century B.C. – probably one of the oldest known historical records of nature conservation. However, the modern system of modern, legally protected territories is much younger: It celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, and the present book was written to commemorate that jubilee. Its basic language is Armenian, but a full English translation of the text is provided at the end, and figure captions are bilingual.

Khosrov Forest Reserve is situated in the very heart of Armenia, SE of Erevan: a country of mountains and deep ravines on the southern slopes of high, snow-covered peaks, with landscapes of breathtaking beauty. It is one of the country's two first national parks, so declared in 1958 together with the Shikahogh State Reserve. On an area of scarcely 240 km<sup>2</sup>, corresponding to 1 % of the national territory, it is host to more than half of Armenia's vascular plant species, almost one third of the whole Caucasian flora.

All this, and many more details, one can read in this shapely, elegant oversize volume, of which the pictures portraying plants and animals, or showing landscapes and cultural remains, are the major asset. The only regret a biologist may feel relates to the absence of Latin scientific names in the figure captions: designations such as oak or bluebell are simply too vague. W.G.

**37. Catherine LAMBELET-HAUETER, Christian SCHNEIDER & Bertrand**

**VON ARX – Conservation des plantes vasculaires du canton de Genève: espèces et sites prioritaires.** [*Publication hors-série* N° 12.] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Genève, 2011 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0121-6). 298 pages, colour photographs, maps and graphs in colour, tables, fold-out map, folded coloured map in pouch; laminated cover.

This is the companion volume to the Atlas of distribution maps mentioned above under #28. Both build on the same set of data, and share the glory of making the Canton of Geneva one of the floristically best explored and most thoroughly evaluated areas of the globe. The two books are complementary: Whereas the Atlas builds on taxa as the basic unit, the present book concentrates on sites. It does not of course ignore species, and indeed it starts with a tabular Red List of the Canton's actually or potentially threatened species, assessing their priority status for conservation purposes. The core portion is an inventory of priority sites, with their characteristics and important plant species, for each of the alphabetically arranged 45 municipalities of the Canton. That portion of the book is illustrated by impressively good and well printed, often full-page colour photographs of selected sites and some of their plants – pictures that only apparently lack explanatory text (all captions are grouped together at the end of the volume).

The book is extremely well structured and, contrary to its unequal twin, easy to read and to understand. Following clearly defined criteria, 433 localities have been identified and mapped as Priority Sites, for a total area of 3¼ km<sup>2</sup> or 1.2 % of the Canton's surface area – perhaps one should better say: 1.8 % of the green area, as one sixth of the Canton is built over and one sixth covered by the lake. The size of the sites varies between 1 m<sup>2</sup> and 50 ha, the smallest being a roadside colony of locally endangered *Lepidium graminifolium*. The

largest site, which belongs to the top priority category, came as a surprise to me who has been living for many years in its immediate neighbourhood: it is the eastern end of the runway of Geneva's airport, or rather, the meadows surrounding it, where among other species the adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) has found its home. W.G.

### Gardens and Gardening

- 38. Francesco Maria RAIMONDO & Maurizio ROTOLO** – La cultura della biodiversità. **L'Orto Botanico di Palermo.** – Provincia Regionale, Palermo, 2010 (ISBN 978-88-96762-12-7). 151 pages, numerous photographs (mostly in colour), maps, facsimiles; cloth with dust jacket.

Don't let yourself be fooled by the title: This is by no means the same book as the "Orto Botanico di Palermo" published in 1993 with a bilingual text, or its smaller version of 1995 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 30: (49). 1996; 31: (21). 1997), both of which by the way are still on sale, the latter in a new, English-only edition. Nor is it a classical visitor's guide through the Garden's living collections, as the reference to biodiversity in the subtitle might make believe (that reference is merely a homage to the Biodiversity Year 2010). It is not devoted primarily to the plants but to gardens, to the history of their concepts and structures, to the genesis of buildings and arrangements. It is a book on ideas and ideals, a homage to THE Botanic Garden – meaning that in Palermo – and, implicitly, to the work of a lifetime of its director, Franco Raimondo, who wrote two of the chapters and conceived the whole work. For his future biographer, this outsize volume will be the best possible key to Franco's personality, to the endeavours and achievements of a life devoted in large part to the reshaping and development of his *Orto*, the core and major crown jewel of his reign.

The book starts on a masterly written essay, by the second author, on the roots and first concepts of gardens in general, with the three main evolutionary lineages: cloistered gardens, gardens of delight, and botanical gardens. Raimondo then describes the origin and early fates of botanical gardens and botanical science in Sicily, up to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, at the end of which Palermo's *Orto* was founded. Another chapter, by Natale Surano, is devoted to the Garden's foundation itself and to the various subsequent reshapings of its boundaries. An important contribution, again by Raimondo, is on the concepts underlying the present arrangement of the living collections, rooted as they are in the Garden's history. There are special texts on the choice of colours for the restoration of the "Gymnasium" building at the Garden's main entrance, a unique architectural monument, being Sicily's earliest building in neoclassical style; on the classical Macadam technique used to renew the alleys; and on historical views of the Garden as they appear on postcards. Most of the plentiful illustrations are large-size colour photographs by Luca Lo Bosco, which, speaking for themselves by their sheer beauty, were in no need of being explained; a few of them show actual plants, but a majority is on monuments and buildings – among them many with details of the Gymnasium that presently, much to my delight, hosts my collections of botanical books and dried plants. W.G.

- 39. Carolina LO NERO & Francesco Maria RAIMONDO** – **L'Orto Botanico di Palermo. Una guida per ragazzi.** – Mercurio, Palermo, 2010 (ISBN 978-88-902693-1-8). [1] + 83 pages, illustrated in colour; paper.

Yet another book on Palermo's Botanic Garden? Indeed, but again a completely different one. It is based on the notion of the Garden as an ideal environment for education, and its targeted readership are school

kids. [Yes, I know: *ragazzi* means boys not kids; but in southern Europe, where girls are less complex-ridden than farther north, it is still politically correct to address both sexes by the same masculine word when no neuter term exists.] So this is a children book, and partly written by the same illustrious botanist we have learnt to know (see previous item) as the Garden's director. Used to teach university students, Franco Raimondo has not found it difficult to switch to a somewhat younger audience. The texts, throughout, are not only accurate but enticingly written, full of anecdotic detail, with some easy puzzles (no sudoku!) strewn among the didactic portions. And then there are the illustrations: just delightful. They appeal to me now and, I am sure, would have fascinated me when I was a boy. But then, who is to judge how youngsters of the new generation feel – other than themselves? Well, looking at the school classes roaming the grounds just outside the room where I sit writing, I can tell: their verdict is positive. W.G.

### History and Arts

**40. Franca RAPONI – “Zingaro”. La riserva in arte e natura.** [*Collana Natura e aree protette*, 14.] – Temi, Trento, 2010 (ISBN 978-88-89706-90-9). 144 pages, numerous illustrations in colour and black-and-white (photographs, paintings, facsimiles); hard cover with dust jacket. Price: 20 €.

The Zingaro Nature Reserve is not unknown to the faithful readers of this column. The thorough exploration of its botanical aspects by Raimondo and his team has resulted in at least two major publications: an iconography of its endemic element in 1986 and an inventory of its flora and vegetation in 1998 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 20-24: (51-52). 1988; 34: (14). 1999). A picturesque, rocky stretch of coast in the NE corner of the Trapani Province, rising abruptly from the

Castellammare gulf to a height of over 900 m, it has inspired the artist Franca Raponi to many of her works.

This being said, the book is neither a botanical text (apart from Raimondo's concluding chapter) nor is the Zingaro its central theme as the title indicates. Its main subject is Franca Raponi herself. She has created, among many other things, a touring exhibition named “Mediterranea Ariaterra-fuocoAcqua”, that was launched in 1995 in Palermo's Orto Botanico as part of its bicentenary celebrations. Drawings and paintings (watercolours and mixed techniques), photographs mostly in black-and-white, and her large, typical “compositions” testifying to her origin from a florist family, made of dried plant parts of many kinds together with shells, rocks, and other unanimated objects: all these are illustrated here, placed in the context of the artist's wanderings, thoughts and experiences: they start in Umbria, shift to Scopello at the southern limit of the Zingaro area, then to Zingaro itself, to Pantelleria, to Palermo. That great traveller of antiquity, Odysseus, has inspired not only many of her works (named Ulisse, Penelope, Itaca, Circe) but much of her life of a passionate artist and – did you guess? – sailor. W.G.

**41. Stefan STANEV – Istorija na botanikata v Bălgarija** (do 1944 godina). – Pankskij Hilendarski, Plovdiv, 2010 (ISBN 978-954-423-631-1). 701 pages, tables; 24 extra plates of facsimiles and portrait photographs in black-and-white; hard cover.

The history of the botanical exploration of Bulgaria starts with itinerant naturalists who crossed the country, publishing accounts with some mention of its plants: Domenico Sestini travelling from Constantinople to Bucharest in 1779, John Sibthorp in 1794 on his second voyage to Turkey and Greece, E. D. Clarke on his travels through the Orient in 1799-1801, Dumont d'Urville sailing along the Black Sea coast in 1819-1820. The

first real expeditions to Bulgarian were those of Frivaldszky von Frivald and his collectors, in 1833-1835, whose itineraries are mapped on one of the plates. All this happened when Bulgaria was under the Turkish yoke. Not before the country reached its independence, in 1878, did resident Bulgarian botanists enter the scene.

The present book is therefore essentially covering the period from 1878 to 1944. It does so by disciplines, each filling its own chapter, the first of which deals with the country's botanical institutions. The following ones are on morphology and anatomy; embryology and cytology; physiology and biochemistry; floristics; taxonomy; phytogeography; ecology; vegetation science; palaeobotany; and ethnobotany. Portraits of Bulgarian and some foreign botanists illustrate the text, which is written in Bulgarian and followed by an extensive English summary.

W.G.

#### 42. Avinoam DANIN – Botany of the Shroud.

The story of floral images on the Shroud of Turin. – Danin, Jerusalem, 2010 (ISBN 978-965-91520-0-1). 104 pages, photographs (mostly in colour), drawings, maps, tables, graphs; flexible cover.

An exciting booklet on a fascinating topic. The Shroud of Turin, which according to traditional belief is the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, had lost much of its glory in 1988 when a tissue sample was radiocarbon-dated as medieval, but has resurfaced in public interest since it was shown in 2005 that the corner from which the sample had been taken was of a rewoven portion. The main portion of the tissue is therefore necessarily older, and as long as no new isotope dating is available, the credibility of the shroud remains unaffected.

The Shroud shows as if by imprint the front and back of a human body, and it also bears similar imprints that must be interpreted as representing plant parts: flowers, flower heads, thorns, a reed cane. These are

by no means clear images, and indeed the least convincing aspect of the book are the photographs documenting them, as be it through shortcomings of print or poor quality of the original, they are poor evidence for Danin's findings. With forensic precision and his skill and experience of a field botanist Danin could identify several species, among them *Gundelia tournefortii*, *Glebionis coronaria*, *Cistus creticus*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Zygophyllum dumosum*, *Rhamnus lycioides* and the aptly named *Ziziphus spina-christi*. The interesting conclusion is that the shroud must have been used between Jerusalem and Hebron, the only area where these species grow within a short distance from each other, and that the likely season, when they all bloom, is March to April. In scientific slang, Danin's findings are consistent with the hypothesis that the Shroud of Turin is the "real thing".

This is, in short, the story that the book tells; but it has other merits. Being written in an autobiographic style, it conveys fully and vividly the author's enthusiasm, his investigative zeal and his joy of discovery, while documenting step by step how it all happened; and through its many colour photographs of plants it is an excellent incentive for all who may be considering a visit to Israel in springtime.

W.G.

### Names and Nomenclature

43. Yusuf MENEM & Ali A. DÖNMEZ (çeviri [translation]) – Uluslararası Botanik Adlandırma Yasası (Viyana Yasası) [International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Vienna Code)] Onyedinci Uluslararası Botanik Kongresinde (Temmuz 2005, Viyana, Avusturya) kabul edilmiştir. – Doğan Matbaacılık, Ankara, s.d. ["2006"] (ISBN 978-9944-62-521-0). xxiii + 573 pages; hard cover.

It is interesting to consider the languages into which the various editions of the Inter-



national Code of Botanical Nomenclature have been or are being translated, as one may expect there to be a clear correlation with the rise and decline of plant taxonomy in the nations concerned. From the beginning (the Candolle Rules of 1868) the *Code* was published in three languages: French, English and German, a pattern that was upheld consistently up to and including the Sydney Congress of 1981 (as a single exception, a Spanish version was added to the Paris Code, published in 1956). At Berlin, in 1987, French and German lost their privileged status, but officious translations in both languages were prepared for two more terms (Berlin and Tokyo *Codes*), after which the tradition came to an end. Conversely, other language versions started to proliferate: I am aware of translations of either or both the St Louis and Vienna *Codes* into at least Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian, and Spanish. Here now comes the family's latest child: Turkish. As with the other nations mentioned, it bears witness of the almost explosive development of taxonomic botany in that country, which is the richest in plant diversity of the Mediterranean area and boasts an astounding number of new universities, most with their associated botany department.

The book is an exact match of the official (English) *Code*. Placing both side by side on a bookshelf you hardly note a difference: same size, same colour, same print, same cover material – just the spine text runs upward rather than downward. Not a word of English inside, though. Yet the translation is (abusively) declared as belonging to the *Regnum vegetabile* series, with the same volume number as the English *Code* and the same ISSN number. Appendices II to VI have been reprinted identically (no need to translate anything there, except the heading, introductory paragraphs and running title). The Turkish version of the Glossary is potentially useful even for those who, like the reviewer, is unfamiliar with the Turkish language. W.G.

44. **David L. HAWKSWORTH – Terms used in bionomenclature.** The naming of organisms (and plant communities). – Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Copenhagen, 2010 (ISBN 87-92020-09-7). 215 pages; paper.

Ariadne's thread through the labyrinth of nomenclatural jargon: that is what this tiny booklet represents. Leafing through it one is amazed at how many useless, unwieldy, malformed terms nomenclaturists of all domains have managed to invent so as to keep their words and deeds well hidden from the world at large. The official *Codes* each provide their own glossary for the official terms they use, and these were of course also incorporated. However, the bulk of the entries are the "unofficial" terms, many of them obsolete but still to be encountered in past nomenclatural discussions.

David Hawksworth's new book follows upon his earlier "Draft glossary of terms used in bionomenclature", published in 1994 by the International Union of Biological Sciences. The draft comprised 1175 entries, as compared to over 2100 of the current version. Coverage encompasses botanical (incl. mycological), zoological, bacterial and viral nomenclature, overarching endeavours such as the *BioCode* and *PhyloCode*, and also special domains like cultivated plant and phytosociological nomenclature. A helpful tool indeed for those who dare enter the jungle of nomenclatural writing. W.G.

45. **C. D. BRICKELL, C. ALEXANDER, J. C. DAVID, W. L. A. HETTERSCHIED, A. C. LESLIE, V. MALECOT, Xiobai JIN & J. J. CUBEY – International code of nomenclature for cultivated plants (ICNCP or Cultivated Plant Code),** incorporating the rules and recommendations for naming plants in cultivation. Eighth edition, adopted by the International Union of Biological Sciences International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. [*Regnum*

*Vegetabile*, **151** (ISSN 0080-0694) & *Scripta Horticulturae*, **10** (ISSN 1813-9205).] – International Society for Horticultural Sciences, Leuven, 2009 (ISBN 978-90-6605-662-6). XIX + 184 pages; laminated cover.

The *ICNCP*, which provides for the special nomenclature of distinguishable groups of cultivated plants, sees itself as a complement to the botanical *Code*. The epithets of cultivated taxa (yes: they are now again called taxa, a term that had been eradicated from the foregoing edition) are always used in association with a name of a genus or species, which is normally a Latin name governed by the botanical *Code* (it may also, exceptionally, be a designation of the plant in a modern language). The *ICNCP* recognises taxa at three levels or ranks, of which the lowermost and best known is the cultivar, the next higher the group. The third and highest has been newly introduced in the present edition, its use being currently restricted to the orchid family. Its name is *grex*, a term that had been used in the past but had subsequently been abandoned.

For the outsider cultivar nomenclature is remarkably complex. Beside the *ICNCP*, which tells how names of cultivated taxa must be formed in order to be established, there is a manifold system of registration authorities, some national, others international and specialised on definite groups (e.g., families or genera), the latter operating under the authority of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences. There is also another, completely independent system for designating cultivated plants: trade names. They are not governed but on the contrary discouraged by the *ICNCP*, but nonetheless they exist and enjoy legal protection within countries. The *ICNCP* endeavours to guide the user and producer of cultivar, group and *grex* names through this maze, and it seems to me that in its new edition it fares better than its forerunners did. The extensive appendices, most of which are new or substantially improved, are very helpful, especially

one named “Nomenclatural filter” and the subsequent “Quick guide for new cultivar names”. There is also a useful Glossary at the end. W.G.

**46. Giörgos SFÉKAS – Ta koiná onómata tòn futôn tês Elládas. – George SFIKAS – The common names of the plants of Greece – “Anthofóros”, Kéntro Prostaías kai Melétês tês Ellênikês Hlôridas, Arguroúpolês, 2009. 75 stapled sheets; no cover.**

Most European countries have Floras that give common-language equivalents for scientific plant names, and these designations are now used by and large by the general public. Greece has not. Understandably, this deficit causes difficulties of communication, e.g. in teaching. The present unpretentious brochure is offered by amateur botanist Giorgos Sfikas as a possible standard list, to fill the gap. It consists of 75 stapled sheets printed on one side, with four pages of introductory text (in Greek only; no translation is offered) and three tables in which the 985 genera of the Greek flora are enumerated, with their scientific name, the proposed Greek equivalent, and the English name. In the first table, arranged alphabetically by Latin names, there is an additional column with Greek vernacular designations, when more than one is in common use or when the single one that exists has for some reason not been adopted. The second and third table, in which the additional column is lacking, are otherwise similar but arranged, respectively, by Greek and English standard names. Moreover, in the introduction a recipe is given for forming standard species names by translating the epithet. In the future, it may be a good idea to produce a list of Latin epithets and their standard translations, too.

It was a bold move for a non-professional to come forth with a standard list of his own, and I doubt not that it will be heavily criticised by local academic botanists. And criticism it needs, because it is by

no means flawless. I do not know which source Sfikas has used for his inventory of Greek plant genera; but some of those listed (*Wulfenia*) do not grow in that country, others (*Wagenitzia*) are now generally considered as synonyms, and several, quite apart from recent taxonomic spits, are lacking (*Ebenus*, *Hainardia*, *Petromarula*). There is a rather high number of misspellings, too: *Ditrichia*, *Ecbalium*, *Gallium*, *Haptaptera*, *Legusia*, etc., of which those that have entered the transcribed Greek names proposed as standard (*Hermarthria*, *Hamatolobium*) are particularly regrettable. In spite of these shortcomings the list has merits. It will hopefully encourage Greek botanists to join efforts and come up with an improved, consensual version. To the non-Greek, one benefit of the list might be to teach them on which syllable the stress is placed in scientific names of Greek origin, as they are often pronounced incorrectly – thinking for instance of *Ádonis* and *Eucályptus*. W.G.

### Festschrifts

**47. Farid BENSETTITI, Frédéric BIORET, Vincent Boulet & Franco PEDROTTI – Centenaire de la phytosociologie** [*Braun-Blanquetia*, **46** – ISSN 0393-5434]. – Association Amicale de Phytosociologie & International Association for Vegetation Science, Camerino, 2010. 423 pages, photographs (mostly colour), drawings, graphs maps, tables; laminated cover.

This sizeable jubilee volume is dedicated to Jean-Marie Géhu, currently the Nestor of French vegetation science, and was presented at the International Meeting celebrating the First Centenary of Phytosociology held at Brest on 3 to 5 November 2010. It comprises 53 papers on a variety of phytosociological topics, 9 of which are of a general nature and are placed ahead of the 44 more special ones. A salient feature of the book, rarely

met nowadays, is its multilingual nature, with papers written in five different languages: English (20), French (14), Italian, (11), Spanish (5) and German (3).

Most of the special topics relate to individual countries, in their majority Euro-Mediterranean (Portugal to Transsilvania, North Africa), some North American (Canada to Mexico) and one East Asian (China). An unsurprising blank area is Scandinavia, where Braun-Blanquetian phytosociology never managed to become popular. Much more astonishing is the complete absence of contributions from Switzerland, the discipline's home country.

Two of the general papers are essentially anecdotic, featuring the two early leaders of phytosociology: the Swiss Josias Braun-Blanquet after whom the discipline is named and the German Reinhold Tüxen. Six concern individual countries (Britain, France, Japan, Poland, Rumania, Russia), mustering the nationwide spread and achievements of phytosociology. The very first paper, which I mention last, I found particularly to my liking: Sandro Pignatti's retrospect on a century of phytosociology (in Italian), full of historical facts and reminiscences but also of profound considerations on the discipline's scientific roots, its intrinsic epistemological problems and the tasks, chances and challenges of the years ahead. W.G.

### Reprints

**48. Arne STRID & Barbro STRID – Sibthorp & Smith, Flora graeca volumes 3-4, 1819-1824.** Annotated re-issue. – Gantner, Ruggell FL, 2009 (ISBN 978-3-906166-80-3). v + 412 pages, 200 colour plates, maps; hard cover with dust jacket; price: 228 €.

The second tome of the *Flora graeca* re-issue (see OPTIMA Newsletter 39: (30-31). 2010, for the first) comprises volumes 3 and 4 of the work, i.e., plates 201-400. The

publication model is unchanged. Ferdinand Bauer's masterly plates are reproduced from old (but good) Kodachrome slides, reduced in scale by various (unfortunately unspecified) degrees with respect to the original. For showing the plants' general appearance the size is good enough, but for the correct interpretation of details this is often unhelpful. The analytical details given on each original plate were partly in natural size and lettered in lower case, partly enlarged and in upper case. This might have been mentioned for the benefit of the reader; but, anyway, no captions are provided.

The text facing the plates is by the editors: comments that are certainly informative, but a poor surrogate for the missing original text. For species occurring in Greece, Greek distribution maps generated from the Flora Hellenica Database are provided. Synonymies are sometimes a bit confusing, as in the case of *Cynanchum acutum* (plates 250 and 251), where *C. monspeliacum* is first treated as a synonym but just afterwards features as if it were an accepted name. The name *Ziziphus zizyphus*, proposed for rejection and meanwhile indeed rejected, should not have been used. Names misapplied by Smith are cited consistently (and misleadingly) as if they were later homonyms. The name accepted in the original work can usually be seen at the bottom of the plate but is sometimes cut off, in which case the reader is left to guess (see the example of *Limonium sinuatum* / *Statice sinuata*, plate 301). A new combination is validly published under *Sternbergia*.

On the positive side, the interpretation of Sibthorp's plants given by the Strids is this time for the most part plausible. I disagree only in one case: *Acer obtusifolium* is not synonymous with *A. sempervirens*, nor is the corresponding plate (#361) a mixture. Both the fruiting and flowering branch there represented are typical *A. obtusifolium* as it grows in Cyprus, and neither is Cretan *A. sempervirens*.

The publisher, Sven Koeltz, deserves our gratitude. By accepting to publish this work

he has made one of the cornerstones of East Mediterranean botany – and one of the rarest and most costly natural history books ever produced – available to a wider public. W.G.

### Congresses and Meetings

49. **Thomas BORSCH, Peter GIERE, Jana HOFFMANN, Regine JAHN, Cornelia LÖHNE, Birgit NORDT & Michael OHL (ed.) – Biosystematics Berlin 2011**, 21-27 February 2011. **Programme and abstracts.** – Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, 2011 (ISBN 978-3-921800-68-3). 434 pages (+ 6 pages corrigenda and addenda); paper (+ 2 loose sheets).

The Biosystematics Congress in Berlin was the result of amalgamating three congresses or meetings, each with its own tradition, of which the International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB) is the best known on a global scale. ICSEB VII was originally scheduled for 2009 in Mexico but had to be cancelled; it was salvaged thanks to the efforts of its new leaders, Thomas Borsch, president, and Regine Jahn, secretary. Jahn is also the current president of the Society for Biological Systematics (GfBS) of which it was the 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Finally, the section on Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology of the German Botanical Society added a small but perceptible botanical bias to an otherwise “holobiological” event.

This is in fact the singularity of both ICSEBs and GfBS Meetings, making them attractive to systematists: they are devoted to the study of organismic diversity irrespective of the organism studied, i.e., they bring together specialists from all fields, zoological, botanical, microbiological alike. By their theme, most of the symposia and general lectures cut across the established discipline boundaries. The five main Conference topics that the Organising Committee had

defined were: Trends in Taxonomy; Organisms in Time and Space; Evolution of Form and Function; The Evolutionary Thought; and Inventorying and Managing Biodiversity. Six hundred participants from 55 countries were expected to attend and present 570 scientific contributions. The present book comprises the outline programme of the event and the abstracts of the lectures and posters.

Ten plenary lectures and 50 symposia were on the programme. Not all can be mentioned here, and my selection is to some degree arbitrary. Among the plenaries, let me name Ed Wiley's account of 60 years of phylogenetic systematics; Sandy Knapp's thoughts on the changing face of taxonomy; Peter Stevens' portrait of the taxonomist as an individualist; and Olivier Rieppel's changing metaphors of order in nature. The (shortened) titles do not tell you everything: read the abstract! Of the symposia, each of two hours, 20 were set aside for contributed papers. Two double symposia were botanical only: Polyploid plant complexes (organised by to-be IAPT secretary Karol Marhold) and Euro-Mediterranean plant diversity. Some had methods and techniques as their focus: two on the management of natural history collections; one on nomenclature, at which a renewed initiative for an overarching BioCode was presented, discussed and supported; several on informatics (long-term data storage; biodiversity informatics; digital identification methods; and a "bazaar" for software tools). And then there were the various aspects of biological systematics, to name, among others: chromosomal studies (chaired by OPTIMA vice-president Georgia Kamari); palaeontology; sequencing and genomics; genes and morphology; next generation phylogenetics; tempo and mode of evolution; niche evolution; plant-animal interactions; pathogenic and symbiotic relationship.

ICSEB VIII is scheduled to take place in Korea in 2015 under Regine Jahn's leadership. If you find the programme of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition as attractive as I do: note the date! W.G.

**50. Simonetta PECCENINI, Gianniantonio DOMINA & Cristina SALMERI (ed.)** – Società Botanica Italiana, Gruppo per la Floristica e la Biosistemica Vegetale. **La Biodiversità vegetale in Italia: Aggiornamenti sui gruppi critici della flora vascolare. Comunicazioni.** – Società Botanica Italiana, Firenze, 2010 (ISBN 978-88-85915-03-9). 56 pages; paper.

**51. Simonetta PECCENINI & Gianniantonio DOMINA (ed.)** – Società Botanica Italiana, Gruppo per la Floristica. **Loci classici, taxa critici e monumenti arborei della flora d'Italia. Comunicazioni.** Orto Botanico, La Sapienza Università de Roma, 14-15 ottobre 2011. – Società Botanica Italiana, Firenze, 2011 (ISBN 978-88-85915-05-3). 70 pages, figures, maps, tables; paper.

Each year in October the Group for Floristics and Plant Biosystematics of the Italian Botanical Society meets and encourages its members to present workbench studies or progress reports of their relevant research. They are presented in the form of short papers of 2 (exceptionally 3) printed pages, collated into a booklet and distributed to the participants at the meeting (in 2011 the number of pages permitted has apparently been raised from 2 to 4 or 5). Each meeting has a given focus, reflected in the title of the booklet, which for 2009 had been "Critical Groups of the Italian Flora" (see OPTIMA Newslett. 39: (32). 2010). In 2010, updates on such critical groups had been asked for; in 2011, the call was for data on nomenclatural type localities, critical taxa and monumental trees.

The 2010 booklets has 23 short papers, dealing in particular with the following genera: *Allium* (by Brullo & al., with one lectotype designation), *Aquilegia* (by Nardi, entirely in Latin, a language that is thereby enriched with new terms for DNA and Impact Factor), *Cirsium*, *Crocus*, *Iris*, *Lemna*, *Orchis*, *Pancreatium*, *Petagnaea*, *Pinguin-*

*cula*, *Puccinellia*, *Romulea*, *Utricularia*, and *Vicia*.

In 2011 the papers were 17, plus one that missed the deadline and is added on a loose sheet, lettered *a-b*. The identification of nomenclatural types and type localities for taxa described from Italy is progressing on several fronts in parallel, partly on a regional basis (Calabria, Sardinia, Sicily), partly family-wise (*Chenopodiaceae*, “included” in *Amaranthaceae*), but mainly – and most sensibly – by authors: Allioni, Bertoloni, Lacaita, Linnaeus, Presl, Sebastiani & Mauri, where Peruzzi’s list of endemic Italian taxa first described by Linnaeus is of note, as are one new lectotype designation by Domina and several by Brullo & al. The latter authors also propose one new species name and 3 new subspecific combinations (in *Centaurea*, *Erodium*, *Hornungia*, and *Trifolium*). Critical taxa are referred to for the genera *Armeria*, *Astragalus*, *Brassica* and *Helichrysum*, the latter with a new species described by the two Brulli (*H. archimedeam*, on p. 56; not a nom. nov. as they claim, and with a holotype not a lectotype).

W.G.

**52. Angelo TROIA & Francesco Maria RAIMONDO** (ed.) – Atti del convegno internazionale **La *Calendula* di Trapani, espressione emblematica dell’endemismo mediterraneo minacciato**, Trapani, 20 febbraio 2010. Proceedings of the international meeting The *Calendula* of Trapani, an emblematic threatened Mediterranean endemic, Trapani, Italy, 20 February 2010. [*Naturalista Sicil.* **35**(1) – ISSN 0394-0063]. – Società Siciliana di Scienze Naturali, Palermo, 2011. Pages [2] + 1-129, black-and-white photographs, maps, graphs, facsimiles, tables; paper.

*Calendula maritima*, also known as *C. incana* subsp. *maritima*, is a member of the polymorphic, critical complex of perennial *Calendula* taxa inhabiting the western and

central Mediterranean area. Its choice as the core subject of an international expert meeting had several good reasons, including the still unresolved problems of its taxonomic status and distribution, but was essentially motivated by its beauty, its rarity, and the threat of extinction faced by many of its populations. The central papers of the present proceedings volume deal with these factors. They are surrounded by other, general contributions, which on one hand set the scene for the particular play here performed but on the other hand, conversely, might benefit by taking into account the particular *Calendula* experience.

Setting the scene is not a simple operation. In the present case it involved outlooks on the biological aspects, in the three initial papers: biogeography (by Sandro Pignatti), endemism (by Franco Raimondo), taxonomy (by Fabio Garbari); and conservational questions: of survival under a regime of global climatic change (by Vernon Heywood), of experiences with conservation management in other countries with comparable conditions, such as Spain (Benito Valdés, Patricia Pérez-Rovira), Morocco (Mohamed Rejdali) and the Mediterranean islands in general (Bertrand de Montmollin), and of specific risks faced by small declining populations with a particular reproductive biology (Gianni Cristofolini). The editors are to be congratulated for having managed to fit together the pieces of the initial jigsaw puzzle into a well integrated whole. To the prominent circle in attendance I address my compliments for having written and approved a well balanced, meaningful concluding document. May it fulfil its purpose!

W.G.

### New Journals

**53. PhytoKeys.** A peer-reviewed open-access journal launched to accelerate biodiversity research. Issue **1** (print: ISSN 1314-2011; online [http://www.phytokeys.com]: ISSN 1314-2003) – Pensoft Publishers,

Sofia, 2010. 77 pages, drawing, map, graphs, colour photographs; laminated cover.

We are living in a rapidly changing world, and the rate of change increases logarithmically. You feel your head spinning with the speed of change? So what? As it spins faster every day, you will soon lose that feeling. Now that's enough for philosophy: to the facts.

*PhytoKeys* was launched November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, junior by two years to *ZooKeys* of the same publisher. Within the year it has reached issue 6 (*ZooKeys*, within 3 years, issue 137). The subtitle is its programme in a nutshell: peer-reviewed (as every serious journal today); open-access (meaning that reading is free and the author, or his institution or grant, pays); quick, meaning a time lag of 1-2 months between submission and publication; online: it is primarily an electronic journal, immediately accessible to everyone, with a simultaneously published and identical print version. But that's only the start.

The driving brainpower behind *PhytoKeys* (and *ZooKeys* as well) is Ljubomir Penev. (Did you believe that the name Pensoft has something to do with a pen, once used for writing? Forget it.) He is, let's put it mildly, a bright fellow, and he is riding the cutting edge of modern data-handling and communication technology – a razor-sharp edge, for sure. He will tell you that e-publishing, today, is common-place, but the future, the exciting prospect, are the links. Links, in electronic texts, can be and should be everywhere: links within the paper (from the citation to the reference, or table, or figure, as appropriate); links to your data sources (you need not write everything again that others have written); and, most importantly, links from the outside to your data. For that purpose you use what are called specific tags, telling your readership (sorry, you were thinking of persons? Nope, your main readership are machines) what it is you

are writing: a genus name? a specific epithet? a new taxon? A type specimen? Its date, collector, locality, herbarium? a description? a key? – whatever. Tags permit the automatic analysis of your paper, and tags can be put into place (we are told) automatically by adequate editing software. Interested to get at such software? *PhytoKeys* has it ready for you, it is called ... Pensoft Markup Tool.

But that's not the whole story yet. The next act of the play is staged at Melbourne. At the end of July 2011 the XVIII International Botanical Congress, following the recommendation of its Nomenclature Section, decides to abrogate the law we have followed since times immemorial, that publication for the purpose of nomenclature is by printed matter – by ink on paper, as the zoologists have it. A proposal had been submitted to permit electronic-only publication under specified conditions, the change to become effective at the beginning of 2013. The Congress not only approved that proposal enthusiastically (Ljubomir was there to applaud), but even advanced the starting date by one year. *PhytoKeys* has a declared policy to adhere to the tenets of the Botanical Code (which, incidentally, will also change its name). This means that, in theory, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December Pensoft's commitment to publish a hard-copy edition comes to an end. The publisher will perhaps decide to go on for the time being, but not I should think indefinitely.

Of course, *PhytoKeys* is not the first electronic journal. It has been among the first decided supporters of the open-access idea, and it has the experience, structures and wits to combine speed of publication, high quality standards and sophisticated editing techniques. It has not yet, but will doubtless soon have, an impact factor assigned. Become its reader – it's for free – and if you like the style, you may well choose it as outlet for your next publication. I might do so myself (pensioners, it is said, may apply for a discounted publication fee). W.G.





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**Submission of contributions to OPTIMA Newsletter:** Articles and news related to Mediterranean botany are welcome. Please send all texts as a Microsoft Word file to the pertinent Commission Secretary, or directly to the OPTIMA Secretariat.

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