FREE *OPTIMA MEMBERSHIP AND BOCCONEA VOLUMES*

Through an agreement with the Herbarium Mediterraneum Foundation it is now possible to pay OPTIMA membership fees or to purchase volumes of *Bocconea* by sending herbarium specimens to the Herbarium Mediterraneum in Palermo. This offer is regulated as follows:

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" (in particular the Middle East, Transcaucasia and the Crimea). Normally, material from the country of residence (if part of this area) should be given preference.
2. The herbarium specimens must be in good condition and contain complete information with 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 1.67 SFr. Each delivery will consist of a minimum of 18 herbarium sheets. When a group of botanists from the same institution plan to send herbarium specimens, a joint delivery is preferable.
4. Each collaborator will include a copy of the enclosed form specifying his/her name, the number of herbarium specimens sent, the credit earned and whether they wish to use it to pay OPTIMA membership fees or to purchase Bocconea volumes.
5. The package containing the herbarium specimens and the letter will be sent to: Prof. F. Raimondo, Dipartimento di Scienze Botaniche dell'Università, Via Archirafi 38, I-90123 Palermo, Italy.
6. Postage costs will be refunded to the senders by the Herbarium Mediterraneum.
7. At the end of each year, the Herbarium Mediterraneum will transfer the sum of OPTIMA membership fees earned by participants during the year to OPTIMA.

✂ ----------

Form to be included with the delivery of herbarium specimens. One form per participant.

Name:_____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Nº of herbarium specimens ( ) x 1.67 SFr/ specimen = _____ SFr. of credit.

I wish to use this credit to pay my OPTIMA membership fees (30.-SFr/year): _____ years of membership

I wish to purchase a copy of *Bocconea* vol. _____ at the OPTIMA member reduced price (see prices at the Publications Offer section of this OPTIMA Newsletter)

COTISATIONS A L'OPTIMA ET DES VOLUMES DE BOCCONEA

GRATIS

Par accord avec la Fondation de l'Herbarium Mediterraneum, il est désormais possible de payer ses cotisations à l'OPTIMA et d'acheter des volumes de *Bocconea* en envoyant des spécimens d'herbier à l'Herbarium Mediterraneum de Palerme. Cette possibilité est d'ores et déjà applicable selon les modalités suivantes :

1. Seuls des échantillons provenant de l'aire globale suivante pourront être acceptés: pays circum-méditerranéens sauf la France et l'Italie, plus le Portugal et la Bulgarie; îles atlantiques (Macaronésie); et domaine du "Flora orientalis" de Boissier (notamment le Moyen-Orient, la Trascaucasie et la Crimée). De préférence, ces échantillons proviendront du pays de résidence (s'il fait partie de l'aire globale mentionné ci-dessus).
2. Les spécimens d'herbier doivent être en bon état et comporter des informations complètes avec des étiquettes lisibles et définitives. L'Herbarium Mediterraneum se réserve le droit de retourner les spécimens jugés de qualité insuffisante.
3. Chaque spécimen d'herbier vaudra 1.67 SFr. Chaque livraison consistera en un minimum de 18 planches d'herbier. Quand un groupe de botanistes de la même institution prévoit d'envoyer des spécimens d'herbier, une expédition groupée est préférable.
4. Chaque collaborateur joindra une copie du bordereau de livraison ci-joint comportant son nom, le nombre de spécimens d'herbier envoyés, la somme payée et la destination du crédit (cotisation à l'OPTIMA ou achat de volumes de *Bocconea*).
5. Le paquet contenant les spécimens d'herbier et la lettre seront envoyés à : Pr. F. Raimondo, Dipartimento di Scienze Botaniche dell'Università, Via Archirafi 38, I-90123 Palermo, Italy.
6. Les frais d'expédition seront remboursés aux expéditeurs par l'Herbarium Mediterraneum.
7. A la fin de chaque année, l'Herbarium Mediterraneum virera à l'OPTIMA le montant des cotisations gagnées par les participants pendant l'année.

✂ ----------

Bordereau à joindre au paquet de spécimens d'herbier (un bordereau par participant).

Nom: _____

Institution: _____

Adresse: _____

Nombre de spécimens d'herbier ( ) x 1.67 SFr/ spécimen = _____ SFr.de crédit.

Je souhaite utiliser ce crédit pour payer ma cotisation à l'OPTIMA (30.-SFr): _____ années de cotisation

Je souhaite acheter un exemplaire de *Bocconea* vol. _____ au tarif réduit pour les membres de l'OPTIMA (voir les prix a la section "Publications Offer" de l'Informateur OPTIMA).

PUBLICATIONS OFFER

Ordinary and Institutional OPTIMA members are entitled to reductions on the prices of several publications!

From Al-Hadara Publishing,

Flora of Egypt. Volume 1 by Loutfy Boulos is available to OPTIMA members with a special discount of 18% (reduced price US$ 70.00, non-member price US$ 85.00). Details of the book can be found at http://www.alhadara.com. A downloadable form is available at this site. Payment by VISA and Master Card is accepted. Al-Hadara Publishing; 7, Abou El-Seoud Street, Dokki 12311, Cairo, EGYPT. Fax: 20 2 760 5898, E-mail: hadara@ritsec1.com.eg.

From the Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,

Flora of the Republic of Bulgaria. Volumes 4 (*Cactaceae* to *Saxifragaceae*), 5 (*Rosaceae*), 6 (*Fabaceae*), 7 (*Oxalidaceae* to *Araliaceae*), 8 (*Apiaceae* to *Cuscutaceae*) and 10 (*Scrophulariaceae* to *Valerianaceae*) are available to OPTIMA members. Prices are SF 48.- for volumes 4-8 and SF 52.- for volume 10. Postage is included in the price. Send your orders to: Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 23, Acad. G. Bonchev Str., 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria; E-mail: palam@iph.bio.acad.bg. Please credit the account: CB "Biochim" PLC, SWIFT Code: CBBIBGSF Branch "Batenberg" Code: 66084219; Bank account nº 3110024518; Institute of Botany, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria.

From the Med-Checklist Trust of OPTIMA, (Vidollet 17, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland),

Med-Checklist. Volumes 1, 3 and 4 are available to OPTIMA members with a special discount of 25% (reduced price: SF 76.50, SF 90.-, and SF 108.-, respectively). Please credit the account "Med-Checklist Trust of OPTIMA", No. CO 265614, with the Swiss Bank Corp., Geneva (payment on the postal cheque account of the bank, No. 12-172, is also possible - provided that the concept of the payment and the account of the "Trust" are clearly specified). If an invoice is needed, send an order to the "Trust".

From B. Cabezudo, Editor of Acta Botanica Malacitana,

Acta Botanica Malacitana, vol. 26 (December 2001) covers articles dealing with taxonomy, vegetation, reproductive biology, anatomy, aeropalynology, and plant geography and chorology. This volume, as well as vols. 15-25 are available to OPTIMA members with a special discount of 33% (reduced price: SF 20.- /each vol.; non-member price: SF 30.-). Moreover, previously published vols. 1-14 are also available to OPTIMA members at the special reduced price of SF 15.- /each. Please send this order and/or ask for further information at the following address: Dpto. Biología Vegetal, P.O. Box 59, E-29080 Málaga, Spain; http://webdeptos.uma.es/BiolVeg/00Indice.html; E-mail: abm@uma.es.

From the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali (Via Giolitti, 36, I-10123 Torino, Italy; Fax +39 011 4323331), *30% discount for OPTIMA members on the following books:*

- G. Bono. 1996: ***Flora y Vegetación del Estado Táchira Venezuela***. Monografie XX. 952 pp, 10 figs, 208 col. plates (cloth); Lit. 200000 + postage.
- D. Puntillo. 1996***: I Licheni di Calabria***. Monografie XXII. 296 pp, 104 figs, 335 color figs (cloth); Lit. 130000 + postage.
- A. Mercado Sierra, V. Holubová-Jechová and J. Mena Portales. 1997***: Hifomicetes demaciáceos de Cuba Enteroblásticos***. Monografie XXIII. 392 pp, B/W ill.; Lit. 140000 + postage.

Please send your orders directly to the addresses mentioned for the corresponding items.

From the OPTIMA Secretariat,

- B. Valdés & J. Pastor (eds.) ***Proceedings of the VIII OPTIMA Meeting***, *Sevilla, 25 September - 1 October, 1995. Lagascalia*, 19. Universidad de Sevilla, Sevilla, 1997. 942 pages, black and white illustrations (50% discount).
- P. Mouterde, ***Nouvelle flore du Liban et de la Syrie*** (33% discount).Vol. 1 (text & atlas), Vol. 2 (text & atlas), Vol. 3 (text & atlas). Single fascicles of the text of Vol. 3 are also still available upon request.
- H.W. Lack (ed.), ***Current projects on the Mediterranean flora - a register***. 2nd edition. (33% discount). Some copies of the 1st edition are still available.
- F.M. Raimondo & W. Greuter (eds.) ***Flora Mediterranea and Bocconea*** (70% and 20% 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 of 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 Mediterraneum" in Israel, March-April 1989.
Vol. 4: Current research on the biology of threatened plant species of the Mediterranean 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 Mediterranean Lichens (out of print).
Vol. 7: Proceedings of the Workshops on "Conservation 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 Islands.

Please place your orders to the OPTIMA Secretariat by filling out the order form on the next page

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Please send me the following publications (postage expenses are included in the shown prices):

Nouvelle flore du Liban et de la Syrie				
Volume	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price	Quantity	Value
Vol. 1	SF 188.-	SF 280.-		
Vol. 2	SF 188.-	SF 280.-		
Vol. 3	SF 188.-	SF 280.-		
Current projects on the Mediterranean flora - a register				
Volume	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price	Quantity	Value
1st edition	SF 10.-	SF 15.-		
2nd edition	SF 10.-	SF 15.-		
Flora Mediterranea (Volumes 1-11)				
Volume	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price	Quantity	Value
	SF 30.-	SF 100.-		

Bocconea				
Volume	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price	Quantity	Value
Vol. 1	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 2	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 3	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 4	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 5 (I and II)	SF 220.-	SF 270.-		
Vol. 7	SF 84.-	SF 105.-		
Vol. 8	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 9	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 10	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 11	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 12	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 13	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Vol. 14	SF 56.-	SF 70.-		
Volume	OPTIMA member Price	Non-member Price	Quantity	Value
Proc. of the VIII OPTIMA Meeting	SF 65.-	SF 115.-		
TOTAL SUM				

Payment:

- ☐ I am sending a bank transfer to the OPTIMA Publications Commission, account Nº 1651.05.02, 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).

Name:
Address:
Date & Signature:

Please send this order form to: OPTIMA Secretariat - Dr. J. M. Iriondo. Dpto. Biología Vegetal, E.U.I.T. Agrícola, Universidad Politécnica, Ciudad Universitaria. E-28040 Madrid, SPAIN

OPTIMA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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: ..... SF 30 .-
Life membership: ..... SF 460 .-
Institutional members: ..... SF 110 .-

Payments can be made in one of the following ways:

- Bank order to OPTIMA, account No. 396 199 00 D, Union Bank of Switzerland, CH-1211 Genève, Switzerland.
- International postal money order to: OPTIMA, account No. 396 199 00 D, Union Bank of Switzerland, postal account No. 12-2048-5, CH-1211 Genève, Switzerland.
- International bank cheque drawn on a Swiss bank or Eurocheque sent to OPTIMA Secretariat in Madrid.

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.

The undersigned applies for:

ordinary associate institutional membership of OPTIMA (check box as appropriate)

Name:	Country:
Surname:	Tel:
Institution:	Fax:
Street:	Email:
Zip code:	Web page:
City:	Signature:
Research interests:	Date:

Please sign and return to: OPTIMA Secretariat, Dr. José M. Iriondo, Dpto. Biología Vegetal, E.U.I.T. Agrícola, Universidad Politécnica, Ciudad Universitaria, E-28040 Madrid, SPAIN

par JOSÉ M. IRIONDO

Grâce au travail acharné, à la motivation élevée et à l'admirable hospitalité de nos collègues de Palerme, le Xème Colloque de l'OPTIMA fut un remarquable succès qui permit la participation, la communication et les échanges entre de nombreux botanistes méditerranéens. Depuis ce colloque, avec un nouveau comité international et diverses innovations concernant les Commissions et les Comités, l'OPTIMA entame une nouvelle période de six ans riche de perspectives séduisantes. Les succès de l'organisation dépendront pour une large part de la participation active et de l'engagement de ses membres. Votre participation, vos initiatives et vos idées sont primordiales : mobilisez-vous, prenez contact et participez à l'OPTIMA!

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL

En 2001, les membres du Comité ont approuvé le rapport annuel et le rapport financier pour 2000, soumis par le Secrétaire au nom du Président et du Conseil Exécutif. Le Comité a approuvé la proposition de la Commission des Prix d'attribuer la Médaille d'Or de l'OPTIMA au Pr Dimitrios Phitos. Il a également désigné le Dr Santiago Pajarón et le Dr Federico Fernández-González comme vérificateurs des comptes pour l'année 2000.

Au cours de l'été 2001, les membres de l'OPTIMA ont été invités à élire le nouveau Comité International pour la période 2001-2007. La participation des membres ordinaires de l'OPTIMA a été assez importante : pour 404 bulletins distribués, le Secrétariat a reçu 122 votes valides. La composition du nouveau Comité International figure sur la deuxième de couverture.

A l'occasion du Xème Colloque de l'OPTIMA qui s'est tenu à Palerme, le nouveau Comité International a pris les décisions suivantes:

- Dissolution du Comité de Programme pour le Xème Colloque de l'OPTIMA, avec ses remerciements pour le travail accompli, et établissement d'un nouveau Comité de Programme pour le XIème Colloque.
- Dissolution de la Commission pour la recherche en cours, de la Commission pour la diffusion de l'information et la mise en réseau, et de la Commission Sisyphus.
- Mise en place de la Commission de l'OPTIMA sur les Bryophytes chargée de promouvoir les études et les projets de recherches sur les différents sujets bryologiques.
- Mise en place d'un Comité de conseillers pour Euro+Med PlantBase, chargé d'informer le Conseil de l'OPTIMA et son Comité International du développement du projet Euro+Med PlantBase.
- Création d'un Comité Web de l'OPTIMA, chargé de coordonner et de mettre à jour les informations figurant sur les pages et les sites Web de l'OPTIMA.

Par ailleurs, le Comité International a approuvé que la dénomination de la Commission pour la caryosystématique soit modifiée en Commission pour la caryosystématique et la systématique moléculaire et que, de même, celle de la Commission pour la conservation des ressources végétales soit changée en Commission pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources végétales.

A l'unanimité, le Comité a approuvé le maintien des Commissions suivantes pour la période 2001-2007 : Commission des publications, Commission pour la recherche floristique, Commission des prix, Commission pour la cartographie des Orchidées dans la région méditerranéenne, Commission des lichens, Commission de l'Herbarium Mediterraneum, et Commission pour la diffusion des connaissances sur les plantes méditerranéennes.

Le Comité International a également accepté à l'unanimité la proposition du Dr Diklic' d'organiser le XIème Colloque de l'OPTIMA à Belgrade, et a décidé de reconduire le Conseil Exécutif avec la même composition pour la période 2001-2007. Santiago Pajarón et Federico Fernández González ont été remerciés pour leur collaboration en tant que vérificateurs des comptes de l'année 2000 et ont été réélus pour l'année 2001.

CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF

Dans la mesure où les comptes de l'OPTIMA se sont avérés déficitaires au terme des exercices des années 1998, 1999 et 2000, le Conseil a approuvé la diminution de la contribution à la Commission des Publications de l'OPTIMA de 11000.- SFr à 10000.- SFr. D'autre part, le Conseil a décidé d'augmenter la cotisation annuelle ordinaire des membres de 25.- SFr à 30.- SFr, celle des membres institutionnels de 90.- SFr à 110.- SFr et la cotisation de membre à vie de 375.- SFr à 460.- SFr. Les cotisations des membres étaient restées inchangées depuis 10 ans et le temps était venu de procéder à un ajustement en fonction de l'inflation.

En juin 2001, le Conseil Exécutif a préparé la liste des candidats à l'élection au Comité International 2001-2007. Deux mois plus tard, le Conseil a approuvé la recommandation de la Commission des Prix de décerner les médailles d'argent pour la période 1998-2000 au Dr C. Oberpieler pour "The systematics of *Anthemis* L. (Compositae, Anthemidae) in W and C North Africa" (1998), au Dr W. Lack pour "The Flora graeca story. Sibthorp, Bauer and Hawkins in the Levant" (1999) et aux Dr J. Simon et J. Vicens pour "Estudis biosistemàtics en *Euphorbia* L. a la Mediterrània occidental" (1999).

Au cours du Xème Colloque d l'OPTIMA que s'est tenu à Palerme, le Conseil a proposé Rosa M. Ros, Benito Valdés et José M. Iriondo comme secrétaires respectifs de la Commission de l'OPTIMA sur les Bryophytes, du Comité de conseillers pour Euro+Med PlantBase et du Comité Web de l'OPTIMA. Le Conseil a également décidé de maintenir inchangées en 2002 les cotisations à l'OPTIMA.

SECRÉTARIAT

Le Secrétariat s'est chargé de tenir les comptes de l'OPTIMA' ainsi que ceux de la Commission des Publications et de la Commission des Prix, de gérer le budget des publications et les fichiers des membres. Le Secrétariat de l'OPTIMA a également assuré les relations entre les membres du Conseil et du Comité et les groupes de travail et commissions de notre Organisation. Enfin, les activités en cours concernent l'édition de l'Informateur OPTIMA et la mise à jour du site Web.

DÉCÈS

Prof. William T. Stearn, Richmond, Royaume Uni, décédé en 2001.

Prof. Moustafa Sayed-Ahmed Abdallah, décédé en octobre 2001. Il était l'un des membres fondateurs de l'OPTIMA et travaillait à l'Herbier du Ministère de l'Agriculture, Agricultural Museum, Dokki, Le Caire, Égypte.

Prof. Kiril Micevski, R. F. Y. de Macédoine, décédé en 2002. Le Prof. Micevski fut membre du Comité International pendant plusieurs années et avait été récemment réélu pour la période 2001-2007.

Des notices nécrologiques détaillées sur ces membres éminents de l'OPTIMA seront publiées dans les prochains tomes de *Flora Mediterranea.*

LE POINT SUR LES COMMISSIONS

COMMISSION SUR LA RECHERCHE EN COURS

Dans la mesure où elle n'a eu aucune activité ces dernières années, ma Commission sur la recherche en cours a été dissoute au cours du Xème Colloque de l'OPTIMA à Palerme. Une réorientation des activités est envisagée afin de réunir des informations sur les membres et les projets de l'OPTIMA par l'intermédiaire de bases de données actives qu'il serait possible de consulter et d'enrichir par l'intermédiaire d'Internet. Le Pr. Pier Luigi Nimis sera chargé de créer ce cadre, seul ou en collaboration avec l'Expert Center for Taxonomic Identification (ETI) à Amsterdam. Pour plus d'informations à ce sujet, prendre contact avec : P.L.

Nimis, Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Trieste, Via Giorgieri 10, I-34127 Trieste, Italy. E-mail: nimis@univ.ts.it

COMMISSION POUR LA DIFFUSION DES CONNAISSANCES SUR LES PLANTES MEDITERRANEENNES

Le projet est bien avancé. Les chapitres d'introduction sont rédigés et la plupart des régions et pays sont déjà couverts. Quelques zones manquent encore mais devraient être bientôt rédigées. Les cartes et figures doivent être fournies dans certains cas. Les problèmes d'index et de références bibliographiques ont été discutés pendant le dernier colloque de Palerme. Une uniformisation de la nomenclature taxinomique utilisée par les différents auteurs de chapitres doit être envisagée à cet effet. Lorsqu'un manuscrit presque complet sera disponible, le secrétaire prendra contact avec les membres de la Commission des Publications pour faciliter la publication du livre. Renseignements supplémentaires : U. Plitmann, Department of Botany, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91904, Israel. E-mail: uzi@vms.huji.ac.il

COMMISSION DES PUBLICATIONS

Flora Mediterranea 11 et Bocconea 14 ont été publiés en 2000 et offerts aux participants au Xème Colloque de l'OPTIMA à Palerme. Flora Mediterranea 10 and Bocconea 13 avaient été publiés en 2000. Au Xème Colloque de l'OPTIMA, la Commission des publications a été tenue au courant de l'état d'avancement du livre sur la Vie végétale en Région méditerranéenne préparé par la Commission pour la diffusion des connaissances sur les plantes méditerranéennes. Elle se tient prête à coopérer à la publication de ce livre dès que le manuscrit sera disponible. Le problème du coût élevé de l'expédition de l'Informateur OPTIMA a également été étudié. Des solutions alternatives vont être explorées en coopération avec les membres des différents pays. Informations complémentaires : F. Raimondo, Dip. di Scienze Botaniche dell'Università, Via Archirafi 38, I-90123 Palermo, Italy. E-mail: raimondo@unipa.it

COMMISSION DE L'HERBARIUM MEDITERRANEUM

En plus de la supervision de la publication des numéros 10 et 11 de Flora Mediterranea et 13 et 14 de Bocconea en 2000 et 2001, la Commission de l'Herbarium Mediterraneum de l'OPTIMA après discussion a proposé que la Fondation de l'Herbarium Mediterraneum attribue sept Plaques d'argent d'Honneur à sept projets de Flores publiés ou en cours de publication (Flora Iberica, Flora Hellenica, Flore d'Arménie, Flore de Serbie, Flore du Maroc, Flore de Bulgarie et Flore des Bryophytes d'Italie). Les plans de masses préliminaires du bâtiment de l'Herbarium Mediterraneum ont été discutés avec les architectes. Informations supplémentaires : W. Greuter, Botanischer Garten & Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Königin-Luise Str. 6-8, D-14191 Berlin, Germany. E-mail: w.greuter@bgbm.org

COMMISSION DES CHAMPIGNONS

La *Check-list* des Champignons d'Italie (Basidiomycètes, Hyménomycètes) a été présentée au dernier colloque et il a été annoncé que le livre et le CD correspondants seraient publiés d'ici peu. Cette publication, subventionnée par le Ministère Italien de l'Environnement, faisait partie du programme de la Commission (points 4 à 9 publiés sous le titre 'Projects of the new OPTIMA Commission on fungi', Informateur OPTIMA, 34:6-8, 1999). L'intérêt à étendre cette activité à toute la région méditerranéenne a été souligné. C'est pourquoi la Commission a décidé de soumettre à l'UE une proposition consistant à produire une *check-list* des Champignons de la Région Méditerranéenne établie sur les données publiées et sur les listes de mycologues reconnus. La région couverte serait la même que celle couverte par le projet Med-Checklist. Dans le cadre de ce programme est envisagée une base de données de référence des Champignons de la partie méridionale du Bassin Méditerranéen.

La Commission a décidé de solliciter une aide financière à l'ENBI (European Network of Biodiversity Information) pour mettre en place un réseau d'information sur la mycodiversité dans la région Méditerranéenne, dans le cadre du thème de travail 5 de l'ENBI. Par ailleurs, la Commission a décidé de soumettre une préproposition pour un programme pilote de gestion des données naturalistes et floristiques, basée sur des listes de Champignons de régions choisies de la R2gion Méditerranéenne (France, Italie, Grèce et Espagne). Ce programme sera mené en collaboration avec la Société Italienne d'informatique FINSIEL, très expérimentée dans le domaine de la gestion des données naturalistes. Informations supplémentaires : S. Onofri, Tuscia University, Via S. Camillo de Lellis, Blocco D, I-01100 Viterbo, Italy. E-mail: onofri@unitus.it

COMMISSION SISYPHUS

La Commission Sisyphus a été dissoute en tant que telle au Xème Colloque de l'OPTIMA et transformée en

un Comité de Conseillers qui tiendra au courant le Comité International de l'évolution d'Euro+Med PlantBase. Informations supplémentaires : B. Valdés, Dpto. Biología Vegetal y Ecología. Universidad de Sevilla, Apdo. 1095, E-41080 Sevilla, Spain. E-mail: bvaldes@cica.es

COMMISSION POUR LA CONSERVATION DES RESSOURCES VEGETALES

Trois orientations principales sont prévues pour le mandat 2001-2007 : 1) l'encouragement à la création de nouvelles banques de graines en région Méditerranéenne et la mise en place d'un réseau pour stimuler la coopération et la coordination entre les banques de graines existantes ; 2) la création d'une banque de données sur quelques genres choisis de parents sauvages ; 3) la conservation des plantes médicinales et aromatiques. D'autres possibilités concernent la publication d'une Liste rouge des plantes menacées au niveau méditerranéen. Afin d'adapter le nom de la commission à cette gamme étendue d'activités, il devient pour la période 2001-2007 **"Commission pour la Conservation et l'utilisation durable des Ressources végétales".** Informations supplémentaires : D. Zohary. Dept. of Evolution, Systematics and Ecology. The Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91904, Israel. Email: zohary@netvision.net.il

COMMISSION POUR LA CARYOSYSTEMATIQUE

Cette commission pleine d'activités a poursuivi la production des Mediterranean Chromosome Number Reports toutes ces années. Le changement de l'un des éditeurs de cette rubrique de Flora Mediterranea a été annoncée : C. Blanché a remplacé F. Felber. L'Institut Botanique de Patras participe au projet Euro+Med PlantBase au titre des informations caryosystématiques. L'alimentation de la base de données chromosomique méditerranéenne à l'aide d'informations provenant d'autres bases locales ou régionales a fait l'objet de discussions. La Commission a l'intention d'ajouter à la base de données des informations sur les séquences de DNA et autres données provenant de la biologie moléculaire afin de traiter de systématique moléculaire dans sa totalité. En conséquence, le nom de la commission a été modifié en "**Commission pour la caryosystématique et la systématique moléculaire**" for the 2001-2007 term. Informations supplémentaires : G. Kamari, Botanical Institute, Dep. Biology, University of Patras, GR-26500 Patras, Greece. E-mail: Georgia.Kamari@upatras.gr

COMMISSION POUR LA RECHERCHE FLORISTIQUE

A l'a dernière réunion de cette commission, le problème des déficits financiers des expéditions précédentes a fait l'objet de discussions et les possibilités pour le prochain Iter ont été examinées. Les problèmes relatifs aux résultats des expéditions précédentes (étiquettes, distribution du matériel, publication…) ont été abordés. Il a été décidé qu'un rapport sommaire sur l'état des dix premiers Itinera serait préparé et publié dans un prochain numéro de l'Informateur OPTIMA. Le XIème Iter Mediterraneum aura lieu en Arménie du 11 juin au 2 juillet 2002. Informations supplémentaires : B. Valdés, Dpto. Biología Vegetal y Ecología. Universidad de Sevilla, Apdo. 1095, E-41080 Sevilla, Spain. E-mail: bvaldes@cica.es

COMMISSION POUR LA CARTOGRAPHIE DES ORCHIDEES MEDITERRANEENNES

La Commission a été renouvelée pour une dernière période avec un nombre de membres réduit (Baumman, Lorenz, Kunkele, Del Prete). Une fois le texte de la publication prêt, le Pr. Del Prete sera chargé de le réviser du point de vue scientifique. On peut espérer que dans les quelques années à venir le travail sera publié et mis à la disposition des membres de l'OPTIMA à un prix réduit. Informations supplémentaires : H. Baumann, Beethovenstr. 45, D-71032 Böblingen, Germany.

COMMISSION POUR LA DIFFUSION DE L'INFORMATION ET LA MISE EN RESEAU

Sans activité au cours des dernières années, cette commission a été dissoute au dernier colloque de l'OPTIMA. Ses objectifs et activités ont été confiés à une nouvelle commission nommée "**Commission Web de l'OPTIMA**". Elle sera chargée de rendre compte sur le Web de toutes les activités de l'OPTIMA . Cette commission établira des nœuds au moins à Madrid, Palerme, Trieste et Patras. D'autre part, un serveur sera créé et géré par Venturella. Informations supplémentaires : J.M. Iriondo, Dpto. Biología Vegetal. EUIT Agrícola, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, E-28040 Madrid, Spain. E-mail: iriondo@ccupm.upm.es

COMMISSION POUR LES LICHENS

Les *check-lists* de différents pays ou régions méditerranéens sont publiés ou au moins bien avancés. La prochaine étape est d'améliorer les liaisons entre les listes sur Internet puis d'exploiter ces données dans différentes directions telles que l'élaboration de cartes prédictives à l'aide de SIG. P.L. Nimis, Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Trieste, Via Giorgieri 10, I-34127 Trieste, Italy. E-mail: nimis@univ.ts.it

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OPTIMA NEWS

by JOSÉ M. IRIONDO

Thanks to the hard work, great motivation and splendid hospitality of our Palermitan colleagues, the X OPTIMA Meeting was a great success which made possible the participation, communication and exchange of many Mediterranean botanists. With a new International Board and innovations in the working Commissions and Committes, OPTIMA faces a new six-year term with fascinating prospects. The achievements of the organization will depend to a great extent on the active participation and enrollment of its members. Your collaboration, initiatives and ideas are essential: move on, get in touch and participate in OPTIMA!

INTERNATIONAL BOARD

In 2001, the Board members approved the annual report and the financial report for 2000, submitted by the Secretary on behalf of the President and the Executive Council. The Board approved the recommendation of the Prize Commission to attribute the OPTIMA Gold Medal to Prof. Dimitrios Phitos. It also appointed Dr. Santiago Pajarón and Dr. Federico Fernández-González as auditors for the year 2000.

During the summer of 2001, OPTIMA members were called upon to elect the new International Board for the 2001-2007 period. The participation of OPTIMA ordinary members in the elections was quite relevant: 122 valid ballots were received at the Secretariat out of the 404 ballots distributed. The composition of the new International Board is printed on the inside of the front cover.

At the X OPTIMA Meeting held in Palermo the new International Board made the following decisions:

- To disband the Programme Committee for the X OPTIMA Meeting, with thanks for the services rendered, and to establish a new Programme Committee for the XI OPTIMA Meeting.
- To disband the Commission for Current Research, the Commission for Information Transfer and Networking and the Sisyphus Commission.
- To set up the OPTIMA Commission on Bryophytes with the mandate to promote studies and research initiatives on different bryological topics.
- To set up the Advisory Committee for the Euro+Med PlantBase with the mandate to inform the OPTIMA Executive Council and International Board on the development of the Euro+Med PlantBase initiative.
- To establish the Web Commission of OPTIMA, with the mandate of coordinating and keeping the information of the OPTIMA web pages and web sites updated.

Furthermore, the International Board approved that the name of the OPTIMA Commission on Karyosystematics be changed to OPTIMA Commission on Karyosystematics and Molecular Systematics, and similarly, that the name of the OPTIMA Commission for the Conservation of Plant Resources be changed to OPTIMA Commission for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Resources.

The Board unanimously approved the continuance of the following Commissions for the 2001-2007 term: Publications Commission, Commission for Floristic Investigation, Prize Commission, Commission for the Mapping of Orchids in the Mediterranean Area, Lichen Commission, Herbarium Mediterraneum Commission and the Commission for the Diffusion of Knowledge of Mediterranean Plants.

The International Board unanimously approved the invitation of Dr. Diklic' to organize the XI OPTIMA Meeting in Belgrade and decided to maintain the same composition of the Executive Council for the 2001-2007 period. Santiago Pajarón and Federico Fernández González were thanked for their co-operation as auditors in the year 2000 and were re-elected for the year 2001.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Since the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 had closed with a negative balance for OPTIMA accounts, the Council approved to lower the contribution to the OPTIMA Publications Commission from 11000.- SFr to 10000.- SFr. Moreover, the Council decided to increase the ordinary membership fee for 2001 from 25.- SFr to 30.- SFr, the institutional membership from 90.- SFr to 110.- SFr and the life membership from 375.- SFr to 460.- SFr. Membership fees had remained unchanged for over ten years and the time had come to make an adjustment for inflation.

In June 2001, the Executive Council prepared the list of candidates for the election of the 2001-2007 International Board. Two months later, the Council approved the recommendation of the Prize Commission to award the OPTIMA Silver Medals for the period 1998-2000 to Dr. C. Oberpieler for "The systematics of *Anthemis* L. (Compositae, Anthemidae) in W and C North Africa" (1998), Dr. W. Lack for "The Flora graeca story. Sibthorp, Bauer and Hawkins in the Levant" (1999) and Dr J. Simon and Dr. J. Vicens for "Estudis biosistemàtics en *Euphorbia* L. a la Mediterrània occidental" (1999).

At the X OPTIMA Meeting held in Palermo the Council proposed Rosa M. Ros, Benito Valdés and José M. Iriondo as secretaries of the OPTIMA Commission on Bryophytes, the Advisory Committee for Euro+Med PlantBase and the OPTIMA Web Commission, respectively. The Council also decided to keep the OPTIMA fees for 2002 unchanged.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat was active keeping OPTIMA's accounts and the accounts of the Publications Commission and Prize Commission and managing publication sales and membership files. The OPTIMA Secretariat also functioned as a liasing centre for Council and Board members and the working groups and commissions of our organization. Further activities taking place at this moment include the edition of the OPTIMA Newsletter and the updating of the OPTIMA Website.

DEATHS

Prof. William T. Stearn, Richmond, United Kingdom, died in 2001.

Prof. Moustafa Sayed-Ahmed Abdallah died in October 2001. He was one of the founding members of OPTIMA and worked at the Herbarium of the Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Museum, Dokki, Cairo, Egypt.

Prof. Kiril Micevski died on 6 February 2002 in Skopje, F.Y.R. Macedonia. Prof. Micevski was a member of the International Board for many years and had been recently re-elected for the 2001-2007 term.

Full obituaries of these prominent OPTIMA members will be published in future volumes of *Flora Mediterranea.*

UPDATES ON COMMISSIONS

COMMISSION ON CURRENT RESEARCH

Having been inactive in the past years, the Current Research Commission was disbanded at the X OPTIMA Meeting in Palermo. A re-orientation of the activities is envisioned to produce information on OPTIMA members and projects through active databases in which input and consultation is made available through Internet. Prof. Pier Luigi Nimis will be in charge of producing this framework alone or in collaboration with

the Expert Center for Taxonomic Identification (ETI) in Amsterdam. For more information on this subject, please contact: P.L. Nimis, Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Trieste, Via Giorgieri 10, I-34127 Trieste, Italy. E-mail: nimis@univ.ts.it

COMMISSION OF DIFFUSSION OF KNOWLEDGE ON MEDITERRANEAN PLANTS

The project is quite advanced. Introductory chapters are written and most regions or countries are already covered. Some areas are still missing but will be written soon. Maps and Figures need to be provided in some cases. Indexing and references were discussed at the last meeting in Palermo. A standardization of the taxonomic nomenclature used by the chapter contributors needs to be approached at this point. Once an almost complete draft is prepared, the secretary will contact the members of the Publications Commission to facilitate the publication of the book. Further information: U. Plitmann, Department of Botany, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91904, Israel. E-mail: uzi@vms.huji.ac.il

PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

Flora Mediterranea 11 and Bocconea 14 were published in 2000 and offered to participants at the X OPTIMA Meeting in Palermo. Flora Mediterranea 10 and Bocconea 13 were published in 2000. At the X OPTIMA Meeting the Publications Commission was informed on the status of the book on Mediterranean Plant Life in preparation by the Diffussion of Knowledge Commission. The Publications Commission stands ready to cooperate in the publication of this book as soon as a draft is prepared. The problem of the high cost of postage for the OPTIMA Newsletter was also evaluated. Alternative ways will be explored through cooperation with members from various countries. Further information: F. Raimondo, Dip. di Scienze Botaniche dell'Università, Via Archirafi 38, I-90123 Palermo, Italy. E-mail: raimondo@unipa.it

HERBARIUM MEDITERRANEUM COMMISSION

In addition to supervising the publication of Flora Mediterranea 10 and 11 and Bocconea 13 and 14 in the years 2000 and 2001, the OPTIMA Herbarium Mediterraneum Commission discussed and proposed that the Herbarium Mediterraneum Foundation assign seven Honorific Silver Plaques to seven Flora projects published or in progress (Flora Iberica, Flora Hellenica, Flora of Armenia, Flora of Serbia, Flora of Morocco, Flora of Bulgaria and Flora of Italian Bryophytes). Preliminary distribution plans of the building of the Herbarium Mediterraneum were discussed with the architects. Further information: W. Greuter, Botanischer Garten & Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Königin-Luise Str. 6-8, D-14191 Berlin, Germany. E-mail: w.greuter@bgbm.org

COMMISSION ON FUNGI

The Checklist of Italian Fungi (Basidiomycetes, Hymenomycetes) was presented at the last meeting and it was announced that the corresponding book and CD would be published shortly. This publication, funded by the Italian Ministry of Environment, was part of the Commission program (points 4 to 9 published in 'Projects of the new OPTIMA Commission on fungi', OPTIMA Newsletter, 34:6-8, 1999). Interest in expanding this activity to all the Mediterranean was expressed. Thus, the Commission decided to submit a EU proposal for producing a Checklist of Fungi in the Mediterranean area, based on data from literature and from lists of recognized mycologists. The covered area will be the same as that covered by the Med-Checklist Project. Within this program a reference database on fungi from the southern part of the Mediterranean basin is envisioned.

The Commission has decided to ask the ENBI (European Network of Biodiversity Information) for financial support to establish a network of myco-diversity information in the Mediterranean area, within ENBI workpackage 5. Moreover, the Commission has decided to submit a preproposal for a pilot program for the management of naturalistic and floristic data, based on lists of fungi from selected countries of the Mediterranean Region (France, Italy, Greece and Spain). This program will be carried out in collaboration with the FINSIEL Italian informatic society, which is highly experienced in managing naturalistic data. Further information: S. Onofri, Tuscia University, Via S. Camillo de Lellis, Blocco D, I-01100 Viterbo, Italy. E-mail: onofri@unitus.it

SISYPHUS COMMISSION

The Sisyphus Commission was disbanded as such at the X OPTIMA Meeting and upgraded to form an Advisory Committee that will inform the OPTIMA International Board on the progress of the Euro+Med PlantBase. Further information: B. Valdés, Dpto. Biología Vegetal y Ecología. Universidad de Sevilla, Apdo. 1095, E-41080 Sevilla, Spain. E-mail: bvaldes@cica.es

COMMISSION FOR CONSERVATION OF PLANT RESOURCES

Three main lines of action are envisaged for the 2001-2007 mandate: 1) the promotion of the creation of new seedbanks in the Mediterranean and the establishment of a network to stimulate cooperation and coordination among existing seedbanks; 2) the creation of a data bank on selected genera of wild relatives; 3) conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Other possibilities include the publication of a Red List of Threatened Plants at the Mediterranean Level. In order to adapt the name of the commission to this wide range of activities the new name of this commission for the 2001-2007 mandate is "**Commission for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Resources**". Further information: D. Zohary. Dept. of Evolution, Systematics and Ecology. The Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91904, Israel. Email: zohary@netvision.net.il

COMMISSION FOR KARYOSYSTEMATICS

This active commission has been producing the Mediterranean Chromosome Number Reports all these years. The change of one of the editors of this section of Flora Mediterranea was reported: C. Blanché has replaced F. Felber. The Botanical Institute of Patras is participating in the Euro+Med PlantBase Project with a bead on karyosystematic information. The feeding of the Mediterranean Chromosome Database with information from other existing local or regional databases was discussed. The Commission aims to add information on DNA contents and other data from molecular biology to the database in order to treat molecular systematics in full scale. As a result of this, the name of this commission has been changed to "**Commission for Karyosystematics and Molecular Systematics**" for the 2001-2007 term. Further information: G. Kamari, Botanical Institute, Dep. Biology, University of Patras, GR-26500 Patras, Greece. E-mail: Georgia.Kamari@upatras.gr

COMMISSION ON FLORISTIC INVESTIGATION

At the last meeting of this commission, the problem of negative economic balances of previous Itinera was discussed and possibilities for the next Iter were explored. The problems related to the results of previous Itinera (labels, distribution of material, publication...) were approached. It was decided that a summary report on the status of the first ten Itinera will be prepared and published in a forthcoming issue of OPTIMA Newsletter. The XI Iter Mediterraneum will take place in Armenia from 11 June to 2 July 2002. Further information: B. Valdés, Dpto. Biología Vegetal y Ecología. Universidad de Sevilla, Apdo. 1095, E-41080 Sevilla, Spain. E-mail: bvaldes@cica.es

COMMISSION FOR THE MAPPING OF MEDITERRANEAN ORCHIDS

The Commission was renewed for a last term with reduced membership (Baumman, Lorenz, Kunkele, Del Prete). Once the text of the publication is ready, Prof. Del Prete will be in charge of having it reviewed from a scientific point of view. Hopefully in the next few years the work will be published and available for OPTIMA members at a reduced price. Further information: H. Baumann, Beethovenstr. 45, D-71032 Böblingen, Germany.

COMMISSION FOR INFORMATION TRANSFER AND NETWORKING

Having had no activity in the past years this Commission was disbanded at the last OPTIMA Meeting. Its purpose and activities have been reconducted into a new Commission named "**OPTIMA Web Commission**". It will be in charge of keeping account of all OPTIMA activities on the Web. This Commission will establish nodes in Madrid, Palermo, Trieste and Patras. Moreover, a listserver will be created and managed by G. Venturella. Further information: J.M. Iriondo, Dpto. Biología Vegetal. EUIT Agrícola, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, E-28040 Madrid, Spain. E-mail: iriondo@ccupm.upm.es

COMMISSION FOR LICHENS

The checklists from the different countries or areas of the Mediterranean are published or in most cases well advanced. The next step is to progress in the connections between the lists on the Internet and to further work with this data for different purposes like generating predictive maps with GIS. P.L. Nimis, Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Trieste, Via

Giorgieri 10, I-34127 Trieste, Italy. E-mail: nimis@univ.ts.it

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PERSONALIA

OPTIMA MEDALS

OPTIMA Gold Medal

Professor Dimitrios Phitos was awarded the OPTIMA Gold Medal at the X OPTIMA Meeting held in Palermo in September 2001. This medal is awarded every three years to a botanist who, by his or her activity, is considered to have made an ourstanding contribution to the phytotaxonomy of the Mediterranean Area. The text of the address delivered upon presentation of the award is reproduced below.

"Professor Dimitrios Phitos was born in 1928 in Piraeus, the harbour town of Athens. Having devoted a lifetime of endeavour and labour to the study of the plant world of his home country, Greece – the classical cradle of botany as a science, he has become the first Greek scientist after Theodoros Orphanides, and the second in post-classical times, to achieve fame and international renown in the fields of plant geography and taxonomic botany.

Phitos obtained his PhD in 1960 from Athens University with a thesis on the phytogeography of Central Euboea, under the supervision of Charalambos Diapoulis, then went to Germany and Austria to refine his botanical training and achieve full mastery of his subject. He spent the major part of six postdoctoral years in Munich then Vienna. Hermann Merxmüller became his mentor in biological thinking, model in scientific care, and teacher in modern research techniques. Munich was then (1961-1964) a leading think-tank in the domain of plant sciences, where a whole new generation of German botanists was being bred. For Phitos these were fascinating years that he will never forget. Up to the present day he loves and handles impeccably the German language. During his winter in Vienna (1965/1966), Phitos perfected his knowledge of Greek plants. Karl Heinz Rechinger was his tutor there, an ideal complement to Merxmüller's more theoretically minded personality. Rechinger, our century's most assiduous plant collector and expert floristic explorer, taught Phitos the ultimate secrets of plant collecting and refined his field botanist's flair.

Back to Greece, Phitos immediately undertook to put to profit the knowledge he had acquired. He was entrusted with the task of designing and organising the Institute of Botany at the newly founded University of Patras, the development of which became the leitmotiv of his professional life. His major concern was the fact that Greek botany had come to lag far behind forefront botanical research of that time, and he therefore devoted his whole active academic career to bridging that gap. Teaching as a reader of botany, then after 1972 as full professor, he came to essentially father modern Greek plant taxonomy – especially cytotaxonomy, a discipline which he newly introduced into his home country. He wrote the basic Greek students' textbooks on geobotany and systematic botany. He – and after him, his pupils – supervised well over a dozen PhD theses dealing with the taxonomy of a variety of plant groups *(Anthemis*, *Centaurea*, *Crepis*, *Limonium*, *Paeonia*, *Viola)* and the flora and phytogeography of several areas (Mts Kyllene and Gerania, the islands of Samos, Nisiros, and Crete, as well as Peloponnesus). The Institute in Patras, which with eight professors and lecturers is now the Country's major research centre for Plant taxonomy, is presently staffed entirely with Phitos's academic offspring. The Patras Herbarium, which in 1966 started at zero, has become the country's major plant collection, with over 150,000 well curated and adequately stored specimens.

The development in Greece, not only of taxonomic botany, but of biological research and environmental awareness as a whole owes much to Dimitrios Phitos. He was a founder and first president of the Greek Society of Biological Sciences and first vice-president of the Greek Botanical Society of which he was recently made an honorary member. He founded

Botanika Chronika, still the single Greek journal entirely devoted to the botanical sciences, and was its editor for 16 years. He actively and enthusiastically promoted the publication of a new, modern Flora of Greece, acting as the chairman of the steering committee of *Flora Hellenica* of which the first volume was published in 1997. Two years earlier he had secured publication of the *Red Data Book of rare and threatened plants of Greece*, of which he was the editor-in-chief and the author of many of its entries. His devotion to the pressing needs of nature conservation is witnessed, among others, by his many years of service in the managing board of the Greek Society for the Protection of Nature, which he presided for the term 1980-1982.

In an international context, Phitos served as regional adviser for Greece to the two major European botanical joint ventures of our time: *Flora europaea* and the *Atlas florae europaeae*. Even more importantly, he became a key-note player in Mediterranean plant taxonomy as one of the founders of OPTIMA, member of that organisation's first International Board (1974-1977), then for three consecutive terms (1977-1995) of the Executive Council, including as its President (1983-1989). He organised the initial OPTIMA Meeting in Crete in 1975, where the foundations of international co-operation in Mediterranean botany were laid, and also the sixth OPTIMA Meeting in Delphi in 1989, for which he co-edited the proceedings volume of almost one thousand pages.

Phitos is the author of well over a hundred scientific papers and several books, the acknowledged specialist of, e.g., Greek *Campanula*, *Arenaria*, *Aubrieta*, *Bolanthus*, the floras of Cephalonia and of the Northern Sporades, and one of the renowned plant systematists of our time.

Those who know Phitos well will first see the Greek in him. The generosity, the pride, sometimes – why not – the stubbornness that are characteristic of his nation pervade his personality. He may sometimes be harsh to those who harass him; but to his good friends, I can tell, he is kindness itself. Let me then conclude these words of appreciation on a personal note, by recalling how I came to get acquainted with Dimitrios, how our friendship started that makes it such a pleasant task to present him with OPTIMA's highest award. Our first meeting had all but happened in spring 1964, when we missed each other by just two days: mutually unaware of our travel arrangements, Dimitrios with the Rechingers and I with my father both visited the islands of Kythera and Antikythera almost simultaneously. They were there on 4-6 May, when they barely survived a stormy caique ride to Antikythera on the last day; I arrived as soon as they had left, on the eighth. As it were, we eventually met in early November 1966 on my return from my fifth Cretan journey, in Phitos's Athens home at Ampelokipi. Rechinger had by then committed him to contribute to our joint "Purgatorium" or *Chloris Kythereia* – to be published the following year. Phitos was somewhat ill at ease though, as he knew that in the meantime a young botanist from Athens, Artemios Yannitsaros, had started his PhD work on the flora of Kythera under Diapoulis's supervision. What a clash of interests between local botanists and their foreign hosts! Add that during our chats we soon discovered that we were about to describe the same new species independently. Plenty of ammunition, you might think, for a good fight among host and "neocolonialist", were it not for Oh, but you ignore Dimitrios' generosity of mind and unconditional commitment to the laws of Greek hospitality. As it is, the reverse happened: our first common evening sealed a lifetime's fecund collaboration; and the new *Campanula pinatzii*, an endemic of Karpathos in the southern Aegean, was published jointly, with Phitos choosing the epithet and I the place of publication and nomenclatural type.

Let me end by this anecdote which, I believe, has educational value as well as historical interest. It links Greek and European botany in the person of Dimitrios Phitos, it shows him as the catalyst he has been and continues to be. May he be able to continue for many years his productive scientific activity".

W. Greuter

OPTIMA Silver Medals

The OPTIMA Silver Medal is awarded every three years to the authors of the best papers or books on the phytotaxonomy of the Mediterranean Area that were published in the preceding three-year period. At the X OPTIMA Meeting held in Palermo in September 2001, the following botanists received this medal: **Dr. Christoph Oberprieler** for "The systematics of *Anthemis* L. (Compositae, Anthemidae) in W and C North Africa" (*Bocconea* 9, 1998), **Dr. Joan Simon & Dr. Josep Vicens** for "Estudis biosistemàtics en *Euphorbia* L. a la Mediterrània occidental" (Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Secció de Ciències Biològiques, Barcelona, 1999, and **Prof. Walter Lack** for "The Flora graeca story. Sibthorp, Bauer, and Hawkins in the Levant" (Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York & Tokio, 1999).

The texts of the addresses delivered upon presentation of the first two silver medals is reproduced below. The text corresponding to the medal for Prof. W. Lack was not available at the closing of this edition.

"Anyone who is foolhardy enough to get involved in the taxonomic intricacies of the *Anthemideae* group of the *Asteraceae*, and then produces such a comprehensive and detailed treatment as The Systematics of Anthemis L. (*Compositae*, *Anthemideae*) in W and C North Africa' (*Bocconea* 9: 1–328 1998) deserves a medal, and it is therefore with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation to present

Dr Christoph Oberprieler for the award of an OPTIMA Silver Medal for this work.

This revision includes not only detailed analyses of morphological features but data on the structure, anatomy and micromorphology (using scanning electron microscopy) of the cypselas that have played such an important part in this and in previous treatments of this group. My only regret is the use of the term 'achenes' instead of the more correct 'cypselas' for these structures! The revision also includes a thoroughly detailed study of the chromosomes of the members of the group, with karyotype analyses and morphometric data for each karyotype studies. Pollen morphology is also analysed.

In the *Anthemis boveana* group, species delimitation is studied using Principal Component Analysis in morphological characters while in the *A. pedunculata – A. punctata* complex, the techniques used are numerical analysis of morphological features and RAPD analysis.

The formal revision, with all the details of nomenclature, synonymy, descriptions, specimens cited and discussion, is excellently presented and well illustrated.

I have therefore much pleasure in presenting Dr Christoph Oberprieler for an OPTIMA Silver Medal".

V. Heywood

"Mr. President, Rectore Magnifico della Università di Palermo, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is for me a pleasure to present here the work which has been awarded the OPTIMA Silver medal for 2000, "Estudis biosistemàtics en *Euphorbia* L. a la Mediterrània occidental". This excellent book results from the fusion of two PhD Thesis submitted in the University of Barcelona in 1992 and 1993. Its authors, both Lectures of the Faculty of Farmacy, University of Barcelona, are Joan Simon Pallisé and José Vincens Fandos.

J. Simon Pallisé was born in Manresa, an industrial city close to Barcelona, and graduated in this University in 1985. In 1992 he got his PhD degree by the presentation and public defense of a Thesis which had been directed by J. Molero and C. Blanché, who are also OPTIMA members. He later moved from *Euphorbia* to the field of Conservation, has been working on reproductive biology and molecular biology (isozyme analysis), and is now responsible for the preparation of a Chromosome Atlas of Paraguay. He has also been responsible, together with the second author and J. Molero and C. Blanché for the preparation of *Euphorbia* for Flora Iberica vol. 8.

José Vincens Fandos was born in Palma de Mallorca (Balearic Islands) and graduated from Barcelona University in 1988. In 1993 he got his PhD degree after the submission of a Thesis whose directors were, once again, J. Molero and C. Blanché. He has continued working on *Euphorbia*. He has been responsible, together with J. Simon Pallisé, J. Molero and C. Blanché, for the preparation of *Euphorbia* for Flora Iberica, vol. 8, and he will be responsible for this genus in the Flora Helenica project.

In 1995 they both decided to apply for the prestigious prize "Pio Font i Quer" which the Institut d'Estudis Catalans of Barcelona gives every four years to a prominent PhD study. In 1996, the prize was given ex-equo to both of them. One of the advantages of the "Pio Font i Quer" prize is that the awarded work is published at the expense of the Institute. A great effort was then made by both authors, and Prof. J. Vigo, also an OPTIMA member, who edited the work to prepare a single and uniform book by fusing together what initially were two rather different PhD Thesis although similar in their general scope and orientation. This resulted in the awarded work.

This book includes a first general part, followed by the taxonomic revision of *Euphorbia* group *Flavicoma* (9 species) and group *Squamigera* (7 species).

An introduction on the history of *Euphorbia* taxonomy is followed by a list of populations used for biological studies and a list of consulted herbaria. Then, the methodology for the study of morphological and karyological characters is clearly explained. The main bulk of the book, this is, the taxonomical study of *Euphorbia* gr. *Flavicoma* and gr. *Squamigera* follows. Each group is handled in a similar way. There are detailed studies of morphological characters, most of them studied by stereo, optical and scanning electron microscopy. Nice descriptions and drawings of the habit are followed by the revision of all morphological and karyological characters. The study of foliar morphology and indument is exceptionally detailed. Pollen analysis is followed by the study of capsules and seeds. Simpson & Roe tests, generally used to show pollen variability, are extended to fruits and seeds. Keys to the identification of the recognized species by foliar, fruit or seed characters are included. The karyological study of the recognized taxa, apart from chromosome number and ploidy levels, includes karyotype descriptions, idiograms, and evaluation of karyotype asymmetry following Stebbins', Graulhüber & Speta and Romero indices. Numerical taxonomy (main components analysis and classification) is applied to analyse the numerous data obtained.

The taxonomic treatment of the groups (*Flavicoma* or *Squamigera*) includes keys for the separation of species and infraspecific taxa. The correct name is given for each recognized taxa, followed by the basyonym and homotypic and heterotypic synonyms, and, especially for the *Squamigera* group, the types. Detailed descriptions are given, together with dotted distribution maps and complete lists of the studied material. For each taxon a photocopy of a representative specimen (for gr. *Flavicoma*) or a line drawing (for gr. *Squamigera*) is also included.

Altogether this work constitutes an excellent revision of part of the genus *Euphorbia*, and well deserves the prize it has been awarded".

B. Valdés

CONSERVATION NEWS

CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR *NARCISSUS CAVANILLESII* A. BARRA & G. LÓPEZ (AMARYLLIDACEAE) IN PORTUGAL: A TRANSLOCATION ACTION

by ANTÒNIA ROSSELLÓ-GRAELL, DAVID DRAPER, ANA ISABEL D. CORREIA & JOSÉ MARÍA IRIONDO

Narcissus cavanillesii A. Barra & G. López is an autumn flowering endemic geophyte mainly distributed in SW Spain but rare in Portugal, Argelia and Morocco. This species is a priority *taxon* included in Annexes II and IV of the European Community Habitat and Species Directive (Council Directive - 92/43/EEC). Two plant localities of this *taxon* have been reported in Portugal and both of them will be affected by the construction of the Alqueva dam at the Guadiana basin (Alentejo region). This dam is going to cover 250 km^2 of land and it will be the largest one of its kind in Europe. One of the *N. cavanillesii* localities will be completely flooded and the other will be affected by changes in habitat and in human activities. According to IUCN criteria (2001), this species can be classified as Critically Endangered (CR) in Portugal.

In this context, a conservation program has been planned with the main goal focused on avoiding the extinction of *N. cavanillesii* in Portugal and guaranteing the survival of its populations. Furthermore, this program pursues an improvement from the original situation of the Portuguese populations in order to lower the threat status in Portugal from Critically Endangered (CR) to Endangered (EN) or Vulnerable (VU). This program is promoted by EDIA, S. A. and co-financed by EDIA, S.A. and European Regional Development Funds (ERDF).

This conservation program integrates several measures concerning different components of biological conservation. As a first step, a four-year plan has been started with the following main goals:

- **Acquisition of base-line information about *N. cavanillesii*.**

This information will provide the basic understanding of the species requirements needed to adequately manage the Portuguese *N. cavanillesii* populations and maximize their survival.

Thus, ecological requirements, population size, and spatial, demographic and genetic structure are being studied for the two populations. Studies regarding breeding system, reproductive success, dispersal and competition are also under way.

Data on ecological requirements of *N. cavanillesii* have been gathered based on Portuguese populations as well as nine Spanish localities visited in Autumn 2000. Most of the visited populations were very localized (small occupancy area), had a low coverage, a number of individuals below 10,000 and showed no outstanding specific edaphical or climate requirements.

During the last flowering season, Autumn 2001, several additional studies were carried out involving demography, phenology, breeding system, floral biology and insect flower visitors. Moreover, a comparative study with the congeneric species *Narcissus serotinus* L. was initiated to achieve a better understanding of *N. cavanillesii*. *N. serotinus* is widespread throughout the Mediterranean basin and cohabits at the two Portuguese locations with *N. cavanillesii*.

- **Translocation**

This operation is considered a mitigation action to avoid the loss of the population that would result from the flooding of one of the Portuguese localities. Thus, the action consists of the translocation of the population to a safe place with a high habitat suitability for the species. This kind of plant conservation action has never before been performed in Portugal.

The translocation was planned in two phases. First, a temporary translocation was performed in September 2001 and consisted of the removal of the population from the original site to a new location at a higher altitude near the original site. This step was needed to eliminate the risk of losing the population by an early flooding of the location. Thus, the translocation had to be carried out before the dam started filling with water, planned for December 2001, and before this autumn-

flowering geophyte initiated the active phase of its biological cycle, because at this stage the plant is more vulnerable to perturbations than at a latent bulb stage. This rescue was performed in collaboration with the Dep. Geociências of the University of Évora (Portugal).

The translocated population has about 1200 reproductive individuals (census elaborated in Autumn 2000). It is structured in 11 small patches from 0,5 m^2 to 8 m^2 on soil or schist rock and it was located very close to the Guadiana river at 127 m. a. s. l. The exact original location and orientation of the patches and individuals was geo-referenced by a GPS with differential correction accuracy. Each patch was moved to a higher altitude (142-146 m. a. s. l.), well above the mean water level planned for the dam (139 m. a. s. l.). The translocation maintained the original distance as well as the relative position between the patches in order to reproduce the original situation as much as possible. In this sense, habitat adequation of the receptor site was performed as needed before receiving the population. The effects of this first translocation on the population individuals is now under evaluation.

The definitive translocation is planned for late spring 2002. Three main considerations are being taken into account for the selection of the new location: i) suitability of the habitat, ii) historical range of the species and iii) protection status of the area. However, since we aim for the long-term conservation of the species, the possible effects of global change upon potential reception sites are also under study.

- **Monitoring** the dynamics of the populations

A monitoring program will evaluate the dynamics of both *N. cavanillesii* Portuguese populations. The study of life history processes and reproductive success over the years will allow us to evaluate the adaptation of the translocated population to the new location as well as the response of the other population to the increase in the dam water level and to changes in its ecological conditions.

- **Corrective actions**

According to monitoring results, corrective actions will be implemented as needed in order to maximize the survival of *N. cavanillesii* populations. In this sense, several propagation and *ex situ* conservation techniques are being developed. The plant material obtained and preserved through these protocols might be used in re-inforcement or re-introduction actions if an alarming decline of the population were detected by the monitoring program.

HERBARIUM NEWS[*]

edited by PALOMA BLANCO

PTERIDOPHYTES IN THE IBERIAN HERBARIA

by Mª CARMEN PRADA

The study of pteridophytes in the Iberian Peninsula was initiated by J. Cavanilles. Between 1799 and 1804 he published several works on Spanish and foreign ferns. In the 19th century few but interesting papers, such as those by M. Lagasca, D. García and S. Rojas Clemente, M. Colmeiro and J. Henriques, treated this group of plants. In terms of the number of publications devoted to pteridophytes, the first three decades of the 20th century showed a progressive increase, with contributions by F. Barras, R.B. Merino, S.J. Barnola, J. Cadevall and, especially, J. Ruiz de Azúa, who can be considered the first Spanish pteridologist, including

[*] Please send all items suitable for publication under this heading directly to the editor of this column: Paloma Blanco, Real Jardín Botánico, Plaza de Murillo, 2, E-28014 Madrid, Spain.

in his works not only floristic aspects but also anatomy and numerical analysis of characters.

The natural impasse due to the Civil War led to an almost complete stop of the pteridological research in Spain, lasting until the 60's. There was, however, a thriving period in Portugal with contributions by M.C. Rezende Pinto, R.T. Palinha, C. Romariz and R.B. Fernandes. Since 1960 a great amount of work on pteridophytes has been done and new perspectives have arisen after modern taxonomical concepts were assumed in the study of this group of plants. Classical floristic reports continued being the main activity of Iberian botanists; among them S. Rivas Goday, S. Rivas-Martínez, P. Montserrat, M. Mayor, M. Laínz, M. Costa, J. Fernández Casas, G. López and many others, made important contributions to the chorology of Spanish pteridophytes. Taxonomic studies of several groups were also initiated. Moreover, foreign pteridologists, especially from the British Isles and Central Europe, focused their interest on our pteridoflora and also contributed to the discovery or descrip-tion of new taxa. This was the case of B. Mollesworth, T. Reichstein, D.E. Meyer, A. Sleep, H. Rasbach, among others.

In the late 70's, stimulated by the enthusiastic leadership of S. Rivas-Martínez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and A.E. Salvo (Universidad de Málaga), the Iberian Pteridological Group (GPI) emerged as an organization devoted to the study of pteridophytes. Among their activities, and coordinated by T.E. Díaz, A. Penas and E. Puente (University of León), seven Exsiccata Pteridophyta Iberica were distributed between 1985 and 1995. Depending on the year, 12 to 17 Herbaria participated, and 962 sheets of Spanish pteridophytes, corresponding to 105 different taxa were distributed, greatly increasing the richness of pteridophyte collections. GPI is not active at present, but the interest in pteridophytes is still alive among a reduced group of Spanish botanists.

References for the pteridological publications by the authors mentioned above can be found in Salvo (1982), Salvo et al. (1981) and Prada (1982). Since 1989 Spanish pteridological papers have been listed yearly in the Pteridophyta section of Bibliografía Botánica Ibérica of *Botanica Complutensis*.

Due to their condition of vascular plants, pteridophytes are treated in the Herbaria in the same way as spermatophytes; they are not placed in special cryptogamic collections. In fact, except for the last two decades, most of the works dealing with pteridophytes were developed by phanerogamists.

A first list of the pteridophyte collections at different Iberian herbaria is now presented. In most cases information has been provided by their keepers, whose cooperation we would like to acknowledge. The list is arranged following the *Index Herbariorum* abbreviations.

ALME (Herbario de la Estación Experimental de Zonas Áridas, CSIC, C/General Segura 1, E-04001, ALMERÍA, Spain). It holds about 1400 sheets of Spanish pteridophytes belonging to 23 families. Aspleniaceae is the best represented with almost 500 sheets, followed by Adiantaceae, Aspidiaceae, Athyriaceae, Equisetaceae, Hemionitidaceae and Sinopteridaceae. Most of the material was collected by A. Castillo in the Almería Province. There is an old collection made between 1920 and 1970 with about 6.500 sheets, 67 of them being pteridophytes. This collection is very rich in species (about two sheets per taxon), but with little information on their labels. Important collectors are Brother Rufino Sagredo and Brothers Jerónimo and Mauricio. Regarding pteridophytes, Aspleniaceae and Athyriaceae are the two families with the most specimens. Keeper: Roberto Lázaro Suau. E-mail: lazaro@eeza.csic.es. Telephone: 34 950281045, Fax: 34 950277100.

BCN (Herbari, Universitat de Barcelona, Baldiri Reixac 4-6, Torre D, E-08028 BARCELONA, Spain). This Herbarium holds the collections of the previous BCF and BCC Herbaria, now united in BCN. It contains about 1600 sheets of pteridophytes, mainly from the northeastern Iberian Peninsula. Aspleniaceae and Dryopteridaceae are the two families with the most specimens. Important collectors are A. Carrillo, J. Carreras, T.M. Losa, J. Molero, J.M. Ninot and J. Vigo. The entire collection was revised by L. Sáez for the Atlas pteridològic de Catalunya i Andorra (*Acta Bot. Barcinonensia* 44:39-167, 1997). Keeper: C. Benedí. E-mail: benedi@farmacia.far.ub.es. Telephone: 34 934037019, 34 934024490, Fax: 34 934034592.

GDA-GDAC (Herbario de la Universidad de Granada, C/ Rector López Argüeta 8, E-18071, GRANADA, Spain). It keeps about 2700 sheets of pteridophytes, mainly from Andalusia. Important collectors are E. Salvo and J. Molero. Keeper: J. Eduardo Linares Cuesta. E-mail: elinares@ugr.es. Telephone: 34 958246329, Fax: 34 958243254. Herbarium information available at http://www.ugr.es/~herbario.

JACA (Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, CSIC, Avda. Regimiento Galicia s.n., E-22700 JACA, Spain) It keeps about 4000 sheets mainly from the central-western Pyrenees, Cantabrian Mountains and Iberic System Mountains (especially Moncayo), as well as the rest of the Iberian Peninsula, Menorca and Europe. *Asplenium*, *Equisetum*, *Dryopteris* and Athyriaceae are well represented groups, with more than 200 sheets each. Important collectors are P. Montserrat, L. Villar, G. Montserrat, D. Gómez, J.V. Ferrández and J.A. Sesé. Spores are generally available in most of the sheets. The collection is almost completely databased and it is possible to obtain taxonomical and

geographical lists as well as distribution maps. Keeper: D. Gómez. E-mail: dgomez@ipe.csic.es. Telephone: 34 974361441, Fax: 34 974363222.

LEB (Dpto. Biología Vegetal, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas y Ambientales, Campus de Vegazana, E-24071 LEÓN, Spain) The Herbarium holds about 2800 sheets, mainly from the north and northwestern Iberian Peninsula. Equisetaceae, Polypodiaceae, Sinopteridaceae (*Cheilanthes*), Thelypteridaceae, Aspleniaceae (*Asplenium*), Athyriaceae, Aspidiaceae and Blechnaceae (*Blechnum*) are especially well represented. Important collectors are A. Penas, E. Puente, J. Andrés, A. Terrón, M.J. López Pacheco, T.E. Díaz, C. Pérez Morales, M.E. García González, L. Herrero, F. Llamas, C. Acedo, M. de Godos, P. Fernández Areces and F.J. Pérez Carro. There is a palynotheca with about 1.300 slides. Keeper: E. de Paz Canuria. E-mail: dbvepc@unileon.es. Telephone: 34 987291494, Fax: 34 987291563.

MA (Real Jardín Botánico-CSIC, Pza. de Murillo 2, E-28014 MADRID, Spain). This Institution holds in the General Herbarium about 19500 sheets of pteridophytes, belonging to 195 genera from all over the world. 55% of the samples are from Spain, with representatives of all Iberian genera. Genera such as *Adiantum*, *Asplenium*, *Athyrium*, *Cheilanthes*, *Cystopteris*, *Dryopteris*, *Equisetum*, *Polypodium*, *Polystichum* and *Selaginella* are represented by more than 500 specimens. Important collectors are Brother Sennen, A. Caballero, E. Guinea, C. Vicioso, F. Bellot, E.F. Galiano, G. López, E. Valdés Bermejo, S. Castroviejo, J. Fernández Casas and F. Muñoz Garmendia. The collection has been recently databased. In the historical collections (Sessé y Mociño, Isern, Mutis, Ruiz y Pavón) there are more than 1000 sheets of pteridophytes of great interest. Keeper: M. Velayos. E-mail: velayos@ma-rjb.csic.es. Telephone: 34 914203017, Fax: 34 914200157.

MACB (Dpto. Biología Vegetal I, Facultad de Biología, Universidad Complutense, Ciudad Universitaria, E-28040 MADRID, Spain). It keeps about 3500 sheets of Spanish pteridophytes, mainly from central Iberian Peninsula. Aspidiaceae, Aspleniaceae, Athyriaceae, Equisetaceae, Polypodiaceae and Sinopteridaceae are the best represented families. Important collectors are M.E. Ron, E. Fuertes, M.A. Carrasco, M. Costa, A. Molina, S. Pajarón, A. Herrero, E. Pangua and C. Prada. The collection is being databased at present. Keeper: M.A. Carrasco. E-mail: carrasco@bio.ucm.es. Telephone: 34 913944781, Fax: 34 913945034.

MAF (Dpto. Biología Vegetal II, Facultad de Farmacia, Universidad Complutense, Ciudad Universitaria, E-28040 MADRID, Spain). It holds about 4200 pteridophyte sheets, from all over the country. *Adiantum*, *Dryopteris*, *Polystichum*, *Asplenium*, *Cystopteris*, *Equisetum*, *Isoetes*, *Thelypteris* and Lycopodiaceae are groups especially well represented. Important collectors are B. Lázaro Ibiza, J. Cuatrecasas, S. Rivas Goday, S. Rivas-Martínez, M. Ladero, E. Fuertes, C. Navarro, F. Fernández, J. Loidi, and P. Cubas. Keeper: J. Pizarro. E-mail: mafherb@farm.ucm.es. Telephone: 34 913941769, Fax: 34 913941774.

MUB (Dpto. de Biología Vegetal, Botánica, Campus de Espinardo, Universidad de Murcia, E-30071, MURCIA, Spain) It holds about 450 sheets from the region of Murcia. The main collectors are P. Sánchez-Gómez and F. Alcaraz. There is a palynotheca managed by Dr. J.S. Carrión. Correspondent: J. Guerra. E-mail: jguerra@um.es. Telephone: 34 968367011.

SALA-SALAF (Dpto de Botánica, Avda. Licenciado Méndez Nieto s.n., Universidad de Salamanca, E-37007 SALAMANCA, Spain) It keeps 4221 sheets mainly from the western Iberian Peninsula, especially Zamora, Salamanca and Cáceres Provinces. Genera such as *Isoetes*, *Ophioglossum*, *Polypodium*, *Cheilanthes*, *Asplenium*, and *Dryopteris* are well represented. The Herbarium has been databased. Keeper: F.J. Hernández. E-mail: herjavi@usal.es. Telephone: 34 923294469, Fax: 34 923294484.

VAL-VAB-VF (Herbari, Jardi Botanic, Universitat de Valencia, Calle Quart 82, E-46008, VALENCIA, Spain) The three herbaria from Valencia have been recently assembled and are located at the Botanical Garden. It keeps more than 1100 sheets, mainly from the areas of Marina Alta and Marina Baixa (Alicante), the Espadán Mountains (Castellón) and La Ribera region (Valencia). Equisetaceae and Aspleniaceae are the best represented groups. Important collectors are: A. Aguilella, J. Borja, M. Calduch, J.T. Corbín, M. Costa, C. Fabregat, E. Estrelles, R. Figuerola, J. Güemes, J.J. Herrero-Borgoñón, A.M. Ibars, J. Iranzo, S. López Udias, J. Mansanet, I. Martínez-Solís, G. Mateo, A. Olivares, J.B. Peris and J.Riera. Keeper: J.Güemes. E-mail: guemes@uv.es. Telephone: 34 963156810, 34 963864928, Fax: 34 963156826.

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WEB NEWS[*]

BOTANY DATABASES ON THE INTERNET

by JOSÉ LUIS BENITO

The **Kew Record Taxonomic Literature (TL)** database contains references of all publications relating to the taxonomy of flowering plants, gymnosperms and ferns. It also includes references on phytogeography, nomenclature, chromosome surveys, chemotaxonomy, floras and botanical institutions, along with articles of taxonomic interest in the fields of anatomy and morphology, palynology, embryology and reproductive biology, and relevant bibliographies and biographies. Each article on the database is divided into different fields (for instance author, title, added keywords) and searches may be made over the whole article or be limited to particular fields.

http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/bibliographies/KR/KRHomeExt.html

The **International Plant Names Index (IPNI)** is a database of the names and associated basic bibliographical details of all seed plants. Its goal is to eliminate the need for repeated reference to primary sources for basic bibliographic information on plant names. The data are freely available and are gradually being standardized and checked. IPNI will be a dynamic resource, depending on direct contributions by all members of the botanical community.

IPNI is the product of the collaboration between the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the Harvard University Herbaria and the Australian National Herbarium.

http://www.ipni.org

HYpermedia for Plant Protection (HYPPA) - Weeds. This encyclopedic database on plant protection catalogues the main weeds (580) of western Europe, describes the species at two stages: mature plants and seedlings, and provides information on their taxonomy, their distribution and their ecology. It is the internet version of the weed section of the HYPP©CDROM.

HYPPA is developed by the Weed Science and Agronomy Unit (INRA, France)

http://www.inra.fr/Internet/Centres/Dijon/malherbo/hyppa/

The **Index Synonymique de la Flore de France** of Michel Kerguélen is an alphabetic list of taxa of the wild and cultivated Flora of France, including synonymy and hybrids, with around 62,000 citations. The compilation has been carried out following the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. It also contains the bibliographic references corresponding to the diagnosis of taxa, chromosome numbers, and the type species of each genus.

http://www.inra.fr/flore-france/index.htm

PROJECTS

[*] Please send all items suitable for publication under this heading to the editor of this column: José Luis Benito Alonso Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, CSIC Apdo. 64. E-22700 Jaca, Huesca, Spain. E-mail: jlbenito@ipe.csic.es

THE SPANISH 'THREATENED FLORA ATLAS' PROJECT

by JUAN CARLOS MORENO

The new Spanish Red List of vascular plants was published at the end of 2000, as a result of a nearly two-year long effort of a great number of local botanists belonging to universities, botanic gardens, research institutes and public administrations. The Ministry of Environment, which provided technical support and partial funding, promoted the continuance of the work of this team with a project to elaborate an Atlas and a Red Book of the Spanish threatened flora from 2000 to 2003.

This project comprises the following objectives:

i) To compile the existing information of the Spanish vascular flora at risk (chorology, ecology, demography, biology, conservation status, etc.) in a preliminary database. As the red list links a vast number of taxa (1414 species and subspecies), only those plants which are extinct or included in the IUCN 'CR', 'EN' and 'DD' categories were selected, leaving the vulnerable taxa (720) for a second stage.

ii) To update and increase the field information of all the endangered species and a number of 'Data Deficient' taxa. This includes the mapping of the current distribution of about 500 species using the 1 km U.T.M. grid, making a census of all their recognized populations and identifying actual and potential risks for their survival.

iii) To analyse the population viability of a core of 40 selected species. Demographical parameters of these taxa will be monitored for three years at a first stage. Widening the use of the methodology of this branch of conservation biology among the Spanish botanists has been considered a collateral goal.

iv) To make a preliminary list of alien taxa in Spain, pointing out those species affecting the threatened flora and the results of their establishment.

v) To identify the most important areas of the Spanish threatened flora, looking for gaps in the network of national and/or regional protected areas and in the Natura 2000 network.

vi) To diagnose the trends of the endangered flora using the above-mentioned results, planning future actions and suggesting guidelines to monitor these species.

An elected steering committee composed of Angel Bañares, Gabriel Blanca, Santiago Ortiz, Juan Carlos Moreno and Jaime Güemes is in charge of the course of the project and the coordination of the regional subgroups (Canarian, Andalusian, Atlantic, Central and Mediterranean regions, respectively). To standardize the field work and data collecting, a methodological handbook has been edited under the supervision of José M. Iriondo, who will also be responsible for the treatment of demographic data.

Up to now, the preliminary database has been completed as well as the field work for 50% of the species. Future plans include the publication of a new Red Book, scientific publications, a database available on the internet and other electronic documents.

MEETINGS

THIRD INTERNATIONAL BALKAN BOTANICAL CONGRESS
"Plants of the Balkan Peninsula in the Creation of New Values"

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 18-24 MAY 2003

The Academy of Science and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, University of Sarajevo, the Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo, and the Coordination of the Center of Ecology and Natural Resources, Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo are organizing this congress that will include plenary lectures, introductory (key) lectures, oral presentations, poster presentations, workshops, discussion panels and professional excursions.

The themes of the congress are: Biodiversity - Structure, Dynamics and Management (Balkan Flora and Vegetation), Biosystematics, Taxonomy & Evolution, Horology & Phytogeography, Vegetation Science & Landscape Planning, Phytochemistry & Natural Products, Economic Botany & Ethnobotany, Structure and its Dynamics, Metabolism, Growth & Bioenergetics, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Genetical Engineering and Biotechnology, Ecology, Environmental Botany,

Conservation & Restauration.

The Mid-Congress excursion will be to the canyon of the Neretva river, a center of endemicity, and the Cvrsnica, Cabulja, Prenj. mountains. There will also be Pre-Congress and/or Post-Congress excursions from Sarajevo to: a) Vranica, Vlasic and Konjuh mountains (serpentine complex); b) Sutjeska National Park - Dubrovnik; c) Una river waterfalls - Plitvice lakes - Velebit mountain - Split.

For further information, please contact: Professor Sulejman Redzic Center for Ecology and Natural Resources, Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo. 33 Zmaja od Bosne St., 71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tel./ Fax: + 387. 33 64 91 96, E-mail: redzic0102@yahoo.com or 3bbc@email.com;

Web pages: http://tibbc-2003.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS[*]

6 April-20 October 2002

Floriade 2002. The Netherlands.

If you are touring Europe in 2002, you might want to see Floriade, a world horticultural exhibition in the Netherlands. The Floriade is held once every ten years; the theme for this year's event is "Feel the Art of Nature." It will be held in the district of Haarlemmermeer, close to Amsterdam's Airport Schiphol, amid 65 hectares (160 acres) of parkland. It is anticipated that more than 3 million people will attend. For more information, see http://www.floriade.com/

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8-10 May 2002

Robert Brown 200. Royal Botanical Gardens. Sydney, Australia.

In May 1802, nearly 200 years ago, Robert Brown first set foot in Sydney as surgeon-naturalist on Matthew Flinders' expedition. He returned several times over the next three years, making a pre-eminent contribution to knowledge of our local flora. A three-day conference celebrating his time in this region and his lasting scientific contributions will be held under the auspices of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Greening Australia (NSW)Inc., the Linnean Society of London, and the Australian Systematic Botany Society. The conference will include invited talks and contributed posters on two broad themes: 1) Brown's lasting influence on botanical systematics and 2) Changes in the vegetation of the Sydney region since his visit: current conservation and land management issues. For more information, see the web site at http://plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au/brown200/

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15-19 May 2002

André Michaux International Symposium. North Carolina, USA.

A major international symposium featuring the life, works, and times of André Michaux, noted French explorer, collector and botanist, is being planned for May 15–19, 2002. The symposium will feature various talks and academic presentations, workshops, field trips, historical re-enactments, and other activities that, altogether, should appeal to a variety of audiences. The goals of the symposium are to call attention to Michaux's important botanical contributions in North America; to place Michaux in his historical context and honor his life, work and legacy; to raise awareness of plants in the local environment; and to spark interdisciplinary studies involving France, the French language, science, gardening, botanical illustration, early American history and exploration, and geography. It is expected that the symposium proceedings will be published. The setting for this symposium is Gaston County, North Carolina, and the symposium will occur in the bicentennial year of Michaux's death. A partnership consisting of Belmont Abbey College, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden and Gaston Day School was formed to organize and promote the symposium. Major funding has been secured and other cooperators are also involved in the planning of this major event. The Southern Appalachian Botanical Society is a co-sponsor of this event. For further information on AMIS, please visit the web site at: http://www.michaux.org

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[*] Coordinated by S. Pajarón. Please, send your announcements to S. Pajarón, Dpto. Biología Vegetal I Fac. Biología, Univ. Complutense, Ciudad Universitaria, E-28040 Madrid, Spain. E-mail: SPAJBOT@eucmax.sim.ucm.es

17-19 May 2002

Rhododendrons in Horticulture and Science. Edinburgh, Scotland.

This international conference is being supported and sponsored by The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and The Royal Horticultural Society. The conference will provide a range of lectures by many internationally renowned speakers covering many aspects of rhododendrons and related plants. It will aim to provide a mix of horticulture and science that will appeal to a wide audience and will cover cultivation, collection and status in the wild, taxonomy including recent molecular work, problems with pests and diseases and the use of rhododendrons in modern gardens. There will be a poster display of recent work and an art exhibition of fine rhododendron paintings, many of which have been painted from the cultivated collections in Edin-burgh. For the benefit of inter-national delegates the conference immediately precedes the Chelsea Flower Show and coincides with The Floriades, a 3 month horticultural spectacular exhibition in the Netherlands held once every 10 years. Conference participation will be limited to 200. If there is sufficient interest, there will be workshops on rhododendron identification hosted by Dr. David Chamberlain and Dr. George Argent on 16th and 20th May and each restricted to 25 persons. A pre-conference tour of southern gardens and a post-conference tour of northern gardens will be arranged, but numbers will probably be limited to 30 persons per tour. To register interest please contact: Dr. G. Argent, Rhodo '02, The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh EH3 5LR, Scotland, United Kingdom; e-mail: g.argent@rbge.org.uk; fax: +44 (0)131 552 0382.

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6-8 June 2002

Sedges 2002 - International Conference on Uses, Diversity, and Systematics of Cyperaceae. Delaware State University, USA.

The sedges are a large, ecologically and economically important family found in many habitats and climates throughout the world. This conference is hosted by the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium of DSU and sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The first day is devoted to programs by researchers on an array of subjects including systematics, weed ecology, horticulture, conservation, wetland restoration, and ethnobotany. On the second day, field trips to local areas will enable conference participants to see a variety of sedges, mostly members of the large and taxonomically complex genus Carex. Identification workshops, again primarily for Carex, will be held on the third day.

To be placed on the mailing list for future notices and registration, please contact Robert Naczi rnaczi@dsc.edu

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10-14 June 2002

VIth Plant Life of Southwest Asia Symposium. Yuzuncu Yil University, Van, Turkey.

Lectures or posters on the following themes are invited: evolution and molecular systematics; ecosystems and vegetation; adaptations, speciation, biology and systematics in phanerogams and cryptogams; computer technology for the future of SW Asiatic Botany; Flora writing in SW Asia; ethnobotany and wild relatives of cultivated plants and phytochemistry. Deadline for registration is Friday, February 1, 2002. For more information please contact: Prof. Dr. Mehmet Koyuncu, VIth Plant Life of Southwest Asia Sympo-sium, Yuzuncu Yil University, Vice-Rector, Kampus, Van 65080, Turkey; Tel.: +90 432 225 1739; Fax: +90 432 225 1009; e-mails: mehmetkoyuncu@yyu.edu.tr mekoyuncu@hotmail.com

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22-27 June 2002

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY. The New York Botanical Garden. USA.

Symposium: Origins, Evolution, and Conservation of Crop Plants: A Molecular Approach.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.econbot.org/events/seb2002/seb_2002.html

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July 2002

6th Hieracium Workshop.

Taxonomy, Molecular Systematics, Karyology, Embriology, Reproductive Biology, Ecology.

For more information, contact: walter.gutermann@univie.ac.at

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5-7 July 2002

Flowers: Diversity, Development and Evolution. Institute of Systematic Botany, The University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland.

The conference will focus on the structure of flowers, their evolutionary origin, function, development and genetic control. Key researchers have been invited to speak, and we are very pleased to have positive responses from Spencer Barrett, Peter Crane, Pamela Diggle, James Doyle, Peter Endress, Claudia Erbar, William Friedman, Else Marie Friis, Pat Herendeen, Larry Hufford, Joachim Kadereit, Peter Leins, Susanne Renner, Louis Ronse De-Craene, Paula Rudall, Doug Soltis, Pam Soltis, Dennis Stevenson and Shirley Tucker. There will also be sessions for contributed papers and posters during the conference. Persons wishing to receive the second

circular, which will include the Registration Form, should complete the Expression of Interest form available at our website http://www.systbot.unizh.ch/flowers>. Completed forms should be sent to Ms. C. Burlet either by e-mail <burlet@systbot.unizh.ch>, electronically via the website, by regular post to: Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich, Zollikerstrasse 107, CH-8008, Zurich, Switzerland or by fax (00 41 1 634 8403).

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8-10 July 2002

Science for Plant Conservation – an International Conference for Botanic Gardens. Trinity college, Dublin, Ireland.

Botanic gardens throughout the world are actively involved in plant conservation at the local, regional, and international levels. Recently, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) published an international agenda for botanic gardens which identifies the importance of conservation research at botanic gardens.

The goal of this conference is to bring together conservation scientists from the world's botanic gardens and academia to share field, laboratory, horticultural, and analytical methods and results that will make measureable progress in plant conservation.

Please join us for this timely and important conference, as we make the research agenda for plant conservation science at botanic gardens. In addition to a three day conference, pre- and post-conference field trips will be available.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, or for more information, please reply to: Mary Foody (mfoody@tcd.ie) or Steve Waldren (swaldren@tcd.ie); Conservation Conference, Botany Department, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland. Phone: +353-1-608 1274; Fax: +353-1-6081147. http://www.rbg.ca/cbcn/science

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14-19 July 2002

SCB 2002 Annual Meeting. Canterbury, United Kingdom

The 16th Annual Meeting of the society of Conservation Biology. The meeting will be co-hosted by the Durrell Institute Of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) and the British Ecological Society (BES). The web site for the 2002 meeting is: http://www.ukc.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/scb2002/

Please visit this site for updates on registration, travel and accommodation, and the scientific and social program.

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4-7 August 2002

Botany 2002. Madison, Wisconsin USA.

The annual meeting of ASPT as well as of the Botanical Society of America, American Fern Society, Canadian Botanical Association, and the Phycological Society of America. The theme of the meeting will be "Botany in the Curriculum: Integrating Research and Teaching." For information about the meeting, see the web site http://www.botany2002.org/

A new FORUM focusing on botanical education and outreach will be held on Friday and Saturday (August 2–3), and it will be linked to the annual scientific meeting on Sunday (August 4) via workshops and field trips.

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9-16 September 2002

Sixth International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology. Patras, Greece.

The Congress will cover the general fields of Systematics and Evolution including, but not limited to, the following themes.

I. Classification and phylogenetic reconstruction. Likelihood, parsimony, optimisation, long-branch problems; Deep trees, multiple kingdoms; Universal phylogeny, tree of life; etc.

II. Evolution of genes and genomes. Comparative and Darwinian genomics; Genotype-phenotype mapping; Evolution of inheritance; Genomics, systematics, and biodiversity; Karyotype evolution; etc.

III. Evolution of form and function. The eukaryotic cell: genesis and evolution; Evolution of development; Homology; Evolution of cognition; Genetics of morphogenesis: patterns and constraints; Evolution of virulence, parasitism, toxicity; etc.

IV. Evolution in space and time. Coevolution, evolutionary ecology; Islands and endemism; Evolution and dispersal of Man; Biogeo-graphy; Tempo and rates of evolution; Molecular clock; etc.

V. Evolution through geological time. Interpreting the fossil record; Past environments; Evolution of Mediterranean biota; Dating the past; Extinction crises and past radiations; Stasis and disruption in the fossil record; Deep time evolution; etc.

VI. Global change and the biodiversity crisis. Why conserve: conservation vs. economics; Setting priorities; Extinction and survival; Scenarios of man-made changes and past catastrophes; Global stocktaking; In-situ and ex-situ conservation; Conservation and education; etc.

VII. Biodiversity and informatics. Global biodiversity informatics: the GBIF; Data and metadata in biodiversity; Handling large data sets for phylogeny; Biodiversity training; Natural history collections: value and needs; etc.

VIII. Attempts at synthesis: models and theories. Adaptive dynamics: co-evolution and speciation; Future concepts for biodiversity research; Purposes of classification; Modelling patterns and processes; The value of predictive tools; etc.

IX. Names, terms, concept. Diversity of names and life; Naming organisms in the information age; Phylogenetic nomenclature; Standard sets of descriptors; History of biodiversity research; etc.

X. Patterns and processes below the species level. Genomics and human phylogeny; Microevolution; Allele frequencies and population sampling; Gene flow; Speciation: sympatric, allopatric, parapatric; Genetic drift, mosaic populations; Adaptive strategies; Domestication; etc.

Further information: icsebinfo @biology.upatras.gr

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11-15 September 2002

TREE SEEDS 2002. Annual Meeting of IUFRO "Research Group for Seed Physiology and Technology. MAICh, Chania, Greece.

http://www.cc.uoa.gr/biology/TreeSeeds2002.htm

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13-18 October 2002

VIII Latin American Botanical Congress. Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

The Congress is being organized by the Latin American Botanical association (Asociación Latinoamericana de Botánica-ALB), the Colombian Botanical Association and the National University of Colombia, so far with financial support from the Latin American Botanical Network (RLB). The first circular has already been distributed via Internet. This VIII Congress continues a tradition which started in México City in 1972. We will be celebrating 30 years since the very successful first. Latin American Botanical Congress was held. The Organizing Committee is inviting the international botanical community to actively participate in this important gathering. Previous Latin American Congresses have attracted between 700 and 1500 participants. Many colleagues will remember that the 4th Latin American Congress was held in the city of Medellín, Colombia, back in 1986. For additional information please contact the Organizing Committee at the following e-mail address:congrbot@ciencias.unal.edu.co.

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31 March-5 April 2003

MONOCOTS III. The Third International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons and The Fourth International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, California, USA.

Comprising some 60,000 species, the monocots are a diverse and economically important group of flowering plants and the focus of significant and varied worldwide study. We invite you to participate in Monocots III, which combines the Third International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons and the Fourth International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution.

Topics will include morphology, anatomy, development, reproductive biology, molecular biology, cytology, genomics, genetics, biochemistry, paleobotany, phylogenetics, classification, biogeography, ecology, and data integration.

Sessions will be devoted to particular groups within monocots such as grasses and orchids. Monocots III will provide a rare opportunity for researchers in diverse fields to interact, share ideas, and form collaborations.

We invite proposals from those who wish to organize sessions. A call for contributed papers and posters will follow. The conference proceedings will be published.

For more information, please visit: http://www.monocots3.org