



## *Newsletter N° 39 (1-2)*

*November 2010*

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### **OPTIMA Newsletter**

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

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ISSN 0376-5016 38: 1-17 (1)-(33), (2010), OPTIMA Newslett.

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The *OPTIMA Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the support of:*



Dipartimento di Scienze Botaniche  
Università degli Studi di Palermo



Herbarium Mediterraneum  
Panormitanum



# OPTIMA *Newsletter*

*Editors:* W. Greuter and G. Domina

*Lay-out:* M.J. Albert

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

### **Executive Council 2007-2013**

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

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

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

1. Only specimens from the following areas are acceptable: peri-Mediterranean countries (except Italy and France), plus Portugal and Bulgaria, the Atlantic Islands (Macaronesia), and the domain of Boissier's "Flora Orientalis" (Middle East, Transcaucasia, Crimea). Material from the country of residence (if part of this area) should be given preference.
2. The herbarium specimens must be unmounted, in good condition, identified, and contain complete information on readable, durable labels. The Herbarium Mediterraneum reserves the right to return specimens judged to be of insufficient quality.
3. Each herbarium specimen will be worth 1 €. Each delivery will consist of a minimum of 30 herbarium sheets.
4. Each mailing will include the sender's name, the number of herbarium specimens sent, the credit earned and the purpose it is to be used for.
5. The specimens and form will be mailed to: Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum, Via Lincoln 2/A, I-90123 Palermo, Italy.
6. Please also send a communication by E-mail, to the OPTIMA Secretariat in Palermo (e-mail: [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)).

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

### WHEN ORDERED FROM THE OPTIMA SECRETARIAT

#### From the OPTIMA Secretariat

**Med-Checklist.** Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are available for OPTIMA members with a special discount (reduced prices: 83€, 101€, 92€ and 117€ respectively, including Shipping charges). Please ask for further information at the following address: OPTIMA Secretariat, via Lincoln 2/A, I-90123 Palermo fax 0039 0916238203, tel. 00390916238232, e-mail: [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)).

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

- Vol. 1: Results of the First "Iter Mediterraneum" in south-eastern Spain, June-July 1988.
- Vol. 2: A check-list of Sicilian fungi.
- Vol. 3: Results of the Second "Iter Mediter-raneum" in Israel, March-April 1989.
- Vol. 4: Current research on the biology of threatened plant species of the Mediter-ranean Basin and Macaronesia: a database.
- Vol. 5: Proceedings of the VII OPTIMA Meeting in Borovetz, 18-30 July 1992, (I and II).
- Vol. 6: Contributions towards a checklist of 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.
- Vol. 15: The officinal Flora of Sannio (Benevento, SE - Italy).
- Vol. 16: Proceedings of the X OPTIMA Meeting. Palermo, 13-19 September 2001, (I & II).
- Vol. 17: Results of the Third "Iter Mediterraneum" in Sicily, May-June 1990.
- Vol. 18: Identification key and description of Mediterranean maquis litter microfungi.
- Vol. 19: Proocedings of the VI Conference on Plant Taxonomy in Alghero, 31 May - 2 June 2003.
- Vol. 20: A catalogue of plants growing in Sicily.
- Vol. 21: Proocedings of the XI OPTIMA meeting in Beograd, 5-11 September 2004.
- Vol. 22: Check-list of the Hornworts, Liverworts and Mosses of Italy.
- Vol. 23: Proocedings of the XII OPTIMA Meeting Pisa, 10-16 September 2007.

**Please place your orders to the OPTIMA  
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## PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

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

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

### ***Flora Mediterranea (Volumes 1-19)***

<b>Volume</b>	<b>OPTIMA member Price</b>	<b>Non-member Price</b>	<b>Shipping cost</b>
	€ 15	€ 50	€ 10

### ***Bocconea***

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

**Proceedings of OPTIMA Meetings**

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

**OPTIMA Newsletter, issues:**

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

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

**OPTIMA Leaflets, issues:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Orders:**

Send all orders to the OPTIMA Secretariat, via Lincoln 2/A, I-90123 Palermo, preferably by fax (+39 091 6238203) or e-mail ([secre@optima-bot.org](mailto:secre@optima-bot.org)). **Prior payment is required. Please contact the secretariat for multiple dispatches.**

**Payment:**

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

# O P T I M A M E M B E R S H I P

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## Membership categories

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

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

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

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

## Current membership rates:

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

Thanks to an agreement signed with the Società Botanica Italiana, it has become possible, as from the current year 2010, to pay the Membership dues for both associations – SBI and OPTIMA – with a single money transfer, and at the same time to benefit by a discount.

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

Payments can be made in one of the following ways:

- Credit-card or PayPal account by PayPal, please send an e-mail to the Secretariat ([secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)).
- Bank transfer to OPTIMA, account No. 240-39619900D (IBAN: CH51 0024 0240 3961 9900 D; BIC: UBSWCHZH80A), Union Bank of Switzerland, CH-1211 Genève, Switzerland.
- International postal money order to: OPTIMA, account No. 240-39619900D, Union Bank of Switzerland, postal account No. 12-2048-5, CH-1211 Genève, Switzerland.
- International bank cheque or Eurocheque sent to OPTIMA Secretariat in Palermo.

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

Please send this order form to: OPTIMA Secretariat - Dr. G. Domina, via Lincoln, 2 I-90123 Palermo, Italy.

# OPTIMA NEWS

by GIANNANTONIO DOMINA

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

## INTERNATIONAL BOARD

In 2009 and 2010, the Board members approved the annual report and the financial report for 2008 and 2009, respectively, submitted by the Secretary on behalf of the President and the Executive Council. It also appointed Prof. Pietro Mazzola and Giuseppe Venturella as auditors for the years 2010 and 2011.

In 2010 the International Board met in Antalya and approved unanimously the recommendation of the Prize Commission to attribute the Gold Medal to Prof. Dr. Friedrich Ehrendorfer. Upon recommendations of the Executive Council, the Board furthermore decided:

- To accept the invitation, presented by Raimondo, to hold the next, XIV OPTIMA Meeting in Palermo, Italy, in September 2013.
- To disband the Programme Committee for the XIII OPTIMA Meeting, with thanks for their excellent services, and appoint a new Programme Committee for the XIV OPTIMA Meeting.
- To undertake efforts to revive the Committee for Algae.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

In 2009 the Council approved the minutes of the Executive Council Meeting held in Pisa in 2007. In 2010 the Executive Council approved the nominations made by the Prize Commission for the designation of the OPTIMA Silver Medals.

At its Meeting held at the XIII OPTIMA Meeting in Antalya, the Executive Council decided:

- To appoint F. Sales from Coimbra as a new member of that commission.

- To appoint H. C. Başer, from Eskişehir, as new member of this commission.
- To leave the OPTIMA membership fees for 2011 unchanged.

The Council defined the themes for Symposia to be held at the XIV OPTIMA Meeting, selected suitable persons to organise each Symposium as its Convener, and appointed the new Programme Committee with the following membership: Raimondo, Šiljak-Yakovlev, Jury, Marhold, Vitek, Fennane, Heywood, Valdés, Raab-Straube, Stuessy, Ros, Venturella, and Seaward.

## SECRETARIAT

2009-2010. The Secretariat kept OPTIMA's accounts and the accounts of the Publications Commission and Prize Commission. It also administered the membership files and managed the distribution and sale of OPTIMA's publications. It worked as a liaising centre for the Council and Board members and the working groups and commissions of our Organization.

## DEATHS

Prof. João Manuel Antonio Paes do Amaral Franco, Portugal, died 8 May 2009.

Prof. Kazimierz Browicz, Poland, died 11 June 2009.

Prof. Andrea Di Martino, Italy, died 30 August 2009.

Prof. César Gómez-Campo, Spain, died 6 September 2009.



Prof. Santiago Castroviejo Bolibar, Spain, died 30 September 2009.

Prof. Armen Takhtajan, Armenia, died November 2009.

Prof. Tone Wraber, Slovenia, died 6 July 2010.

Full obituaries of João do Amaral Franco, Andrea Di Martino, César Gómez-Campo, Santiago Castroviejo and Armen Takhtajan have been published in *Flora Mediterranea* 19.

## UPDATES ON COMMISSIONS

### PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

Chair: F. M. Raimondo, Palermo

Secretary/Treasurer: G. Domina, Palermo

Members: J. Iriondo, Madrid

S. L. Jury, Reading

W. Greuter, Berlin

U. Plitman, Jerusalem

In 2008 the Herbarium Mediterraneum published volume 18 of *Flora Mediterranea*, and volume 22 of *Bocconea* entitled: Check-list of the Hornworts, Liverworts and Mosses of Italy.

In 2009 the Herbarium Mediterraneum published the 19th volume of *Flora Mediterranea*, which was distributed to the regular members of OPTIMA free of charge. Volume 23 of *Bocconea*, being the Proceedings of the XII OPTIMA Meeting Pisa, 10-16 September 2007, was also published.

Publication of the Newsletter was resumed in 2009 with volume 38(1-2), in electronic format for distribution to the membership and in a small number of hard copies (150) for archival purposes and distribution to Institutional Members. Personal members may purchase the Newsletter for an extra 5 €.

### COMMISSION FOR THREATENED PLANTS (formerly: commission for the conservation and sustainable use of plant resources)

Chair: D. Zohary, Jerusalem

Secretary: J. M. Iriondo, Madrid

Members: T. Constantinidis, Patras

D. Draper, Lisboa

T. Ekim, Ankara

E. Gabrielian, Erevan

V. H. Heywood, Reading

A. Santos, Puerto de la Cruz

The Commission met in Antalya (2009). It decided to continue to focus its efforts on the study of the reproductive biology and genetic systems of selected genera of higher plants, their distribution and adaptation to different ecological environments, in order to optimise the existing strategies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation. Legal issues linked with germplasm collecting were discussed. Contacts between seed banks and their common activities will be supported.

### COMMISSION FOR FLORISTIC INVESTIGATION

Chair: B. Valdés, Sevilla

Secretary: E. Vitek, Wien

Members: S. Bančeva, Sofia

R. Baldini, Firenze

T. Constantinidis, Patras

G. Domina, Palermo

T. Ekim, Ankara

M. Fennane, Rabat

O. Fragman, Jerusalem

D. Jeanmonod, Genève

J. Mathez, Montpellier

J. Molina, Montpellier

F. M. Raimondo, Palermo

S. Redžić, Sarajevo

At its meeting held in 2010 in Antalya, this Commission explored the possibilities for organising a XIII Iter Mediterraneum. An expedition to Libya or another N African Country was envisaged. The problems with the results of the Itinera were discussed (labels, distribution of material, publication...). New objectives of collecting (sampling of dried leaves under silicagel for DNA extraction) were envisaged.

#### PRIZE COMMISSION

Secretary: W. Greuter, Berlin

Members: V. Heywood, Reading

D. Phitos, Patras

F. M. Raimondo, Palermo

B. Valdés, Sevilla

The Commission received and considered nominations for the OPTIMA Gold and Silver Medals, to be awarded at the XIV OPTIMA Meeting in Antalya in March 2010. It recommended that the awardees be:

- Friedrich Ehrendorfer (Gold);
- Jean-Pierre Reduron – *Ombellifères de France* (5 volumes, 2007-2008) (Silver)
- Ignazio Camarda & Franca Valsecchi – *Alberi e arbusti spontanei della Sardegna* (2008) (Silver)
- Santiago Castroviejo (gen. ed.), C. Benedí, E. Rico, J. Güemes & Alberto Herrero (vol. ed.) – *Flora iberica*, Vol. XIII (2009) (Silver).

#### COMMISSION FOR KARYOSYSTEMATICS AND MOLECULAR SYSTEMATICS

Chair: G. Kamari, Patras

Secretary: C. Blanché, Barcelona

Members: M. Ančev, Sofia

M. B. Crespo, Alicante

M. Erben, München

E. Nazarova, Erevan

C. Oberprieler, Berlin

N. Özhatay, Istanbul

D. Papeš, Zagreb

L. Peruzzi, Pisa

S. Šiljak-Yakovlev, Orsay

R. Verlaque, Marseille

The commission met in Antalya in 2010. Mediterranean Chromosome Number Reports have been produced uninterrupted since 1991. So far, 1708 chromosome records have been published, covering most of the Mediterranean countries or territories included in the Med-Checklist, plus the Caucasus area and the Canary Islands. In the last three volumes (2007-2009), a total of 91 new numbers have been reported. The database PhytoKaryon remains operational. Thanks to funds from Patras University, the data input continues. The database now holds over 47,000 records on more than 11,000 taxa, based on 1200+ references. Other satellite databases follow the OPTIMA standards and continue to progress. CromoCat (Barcelona team) reached 10 years of work (1999-2009) and is fully operational, currently holding 50,508 records with 7078 bibliographic references. At Antalya, the Commission decided to promote the field collection of material suitable for a DNA bank. The following requirements were defined: a) at-cost availability of DNA material; b) high quality, long-term storage of DNA material on which molecular studies have been performed, so that results can be verified, extended, and complemented and c) complete on-line documentation of each sample, including the provenance of the original material, the place of voucher deposit, information about DNA quality and extraction methodology, digital images of vouchers and links to published molecular data if available. The commission will prepare DNA sampling and extraction protocols not only for botanists involved with karyosystematics and molecular systematics but also for other OPTIMA members and botanical amateur associations.

**HERBARIUM MEDITERRANEUM COMMISSION**

Chair: W. Greuter, Berlin  
 Secretary: F. M. Raimondo, Palermo  
 Members: G. Kamari, Patras  
 J. M. Iriondo, Madrid  
 S. Jury, Reading  
 B. Valdés, Sevilla  
 G. Venturella, Palermo

Bad news here: The funding allocated to the building of the new seat of the Herbarium Mediterraneum by the Italian government, as part of the the 150th Jubilee Celebration for the Unification of Italy, were withdrawn and allocated to the reconstruction of l'Aquila, destroyed by an earthquake. Other funding solutions are under evaluation. The digitisation programme of the Herbarium started in 2008. Until now, high-resolution digital images of 80,000 specimens have been prepared.

**WEB COMMISSION**

Chair: G. Venturella, Palermo  
 Secretary: G. Domina, Palermo  
 Members: C. Blanché, Barcelona  
 P. Bareka, Patras  
 J. M. Iriondo, Madrid  
 K. H. Kan Başer, Eskisehir  
 S. Onofri, Viterbo  
 R. M. Ros, Murcia  
 N. Surano, Palermo  
 E. Vitek, Wien

This Commission designs and implements the spread of information on OPTIMA activities by means of the OPTIMA Web Pages. The Commission met in Antalya. It decided to evaluate new procedures for the spread of information (Mailing lists, Facebook, etc.).

**COMMISSION FOR THE DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE ON MEDITERRANEAN PLANTS**

Secretary: U. Plitmann, Jerusalem  
 Members: V. H. Heywood, Reading  
 J. M. Iriondo, Madrid  
 J. Mathez, Montpellier  
 O. Vasić, Beograd

The Commission for the Diffusion of Knowledge on Mediterranean Plants met at the XIII OPTIMA Meeting in Antalya. It decided to continue to work, with renewed impetus, on the projected book "Plant Landscapes of the Mediterranean". Introductory chapters are written and most regions or countries are already covered, although some areas are still missing. A sample of the book should be ready in the next year in order to start negotiations with publishers, with the assistance of the Publication Commission. Three chapters are written in French and will have to be translated into English. Maps and figures with information on vegetation, biological associations or distribution of dominant species need to be provided in electronic format for some chapters. Indexing and references were discussed. References will not be cited in the text but a selection of group 20 references per chapter will be presented at the end of the book. A taxonomic homogenisation will have to occur at that point.

**COMMISSION ON BRYOPHYTES**

Secretary: R. M. Ros, Murcia  
 Members: M. Aleffi, Camerino  
 T. Blockeel, Sheffield  
 W. El-Sayed El-Saadawi, Cairo  
 Adnan Erdag, Aydin  
 A. Ganeva, Sofia  
 I. Herrnstadt, Jerusalem  
 H. Kürschner, Berlin  
 V. Mazimpaka, Madrid

M. Sabovljević, Beograd

C. Sérgio, Lisboa

The Commission stands ready to participate, for bryology, in the organisation of a symposium devoted to Bryophytes in the XIV OPTIMA Meeting.

J. Molina, Montpellier

J. M. Montserrat, Barcelona

F. Sales, Coimbra

P. A. Schäfer, Montpellier

E. Vitek, Wien

R. Vogt, Berlin

### COMMISSION ON FUNGI

Chair: S. Onofri, Viterbo

Secretary: G. Venturella, Palermo

Members: C. Denčev, Sofia

D. L. Hawksworth, Madrid

B. Ivančević

D. Minter, U.K.

J. Mouchacca, Paris

The OPTIMA Commission on Fungi is involved with the European network on conservation of fungi. It will also organise a mycological symposium at the forthcoming OPTIMA Meeting in Palermo.

The Commission will work toward a Mediterranean Checklist of Fungi (for which the Italian Checklist constitutes the starting point) and intends to create a database with Mediterranean literature, to be made available online.

A questionnaire to be circulated among Mediterranean herbaria was prepared, with the aim of updating and improving the information held by Index Herbariorum and to survey the needs of Mediterranean herbaria. The Commission met in Antalya and decided to promote herbarium data digitisation and facilitate access to the data. Herbaria that have already started the process can support the others, especially smaller ones, by (1) preparing a set of recommendations on minimum requirements for digital images (Domina, Vitek, Sales); (2) promoting the development of online presentation of the *Auxilium ad Botanicorum Graphicem* and other collections of old botanists' handwritings; and (3) encouraging the standardisation of relevant information held in databases. OPTIMA could offer Web services for linking data from herbaria that already have an image server or hosting images of herbaria that still do not have this possibility, always preserving copyrights.

### COMMISSION ON MEDITERRANEAN HERBARIA

Secretary: G. Domina, Palermo

Members: M. Fennane, Rabat

D. Jeanmonod, Geneva

J. Mathez, Montpellier

### COMMISSION FOR LICHENS

Secretary: M. Seaward, Bradford

Members: nominations pending

The commission intends to have its own meetings every few years, to coincide if possible with the main OPTIMA Meetings.

## F I E L D W O R K N E W S

**XIII EXPEDITION OF OPTIMA ITINERA MEDITERRANEA**

## Expedition to Tunisia

(27th March – 12th April 2011)

The 13° OPTIMA Iter will be held in Tunisia from 27th March to 12th April 2011. It has been organized by OPTIMA (Francesco Maria Raimondo and Giannantonio Domina from Palermo) in cooperation with ATUTAX (Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie) and its President, Mohamed Elyes Kchouk from Tunis. The Iter will cover the regions of Sbeitla and high steppes of Kasserine (forest of Alep Pine and Alfa steppes), Cap Bon, including sectors of Korbous and Djebel Abderrahmane, and Zaghouan and El Fahs, Kroumirie region (Tabarka, Ain Draham), especially the Tunisian cork oak forest (subéraie). A detailed programme will be provided in the near future.

There will be 12 places for non-Tunisian participants, senior and junior, and 4 places for Tunisian participants. The latter will be shared among 12 Tunisian botanists taking turns during the 3 stages (Sbeitla, Cap Bon, Kroumirie). OPTIMA will take care of selecting the 12 extra-Tunisian Participants. ATUTAX will select the 12 Tunisian participants.

**Cost**

The cost of the expedition will be about 1800 € for extra-Tunisian Senior Botanists and 1200 € for extra-Tunisian Junior Botanists. This amount will

cover the use and maintenance of cars, accommodation and meals, starting March 27<sup>th</sup>, some organisational and administrative expenses, and the cost of the Tunisian participants. Junior participants can, in case of need, apply to the OPTIMA Council for a grant of 300 €. Payment has to be made before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The estimated cost can vary by 10%, depending on the exchange rate between Euro and Tunisian Dinar.

**Applications**

The deadline for application is November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Applications must be sent by e-mail to [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org) and, unless receipt is confirmed by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be considered as not received. Participants will be selected by the Executive Council of OPTIMA, and notified of the outcome before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, in good time to obtain the necessary authorisations from the Tunisian Government. Those selected will also receive additional information.

For general rules that regulate OPTIMA Expeditions see B. Valdés in OPTIMA Newsletter 20-24: 44-46 (1988); Lagasalia 15 (extra): 131-137; and Bocccone 1: 7-8 (1991).

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

by GIANNIANTONIO DOMINA

**PLANT DIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL 2010: KNOWLEDGE, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PLANT BIODIVERSITY OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL AND INSULAR SYSTEMS**

The first Plant Diversity Summer School: Knowledge, conservation and management of Plant Biodiversity of Mediterranean Coastal and Insular systems was held at Palazzo Sales in Erice (TP) from 3th to 14th September 2010, under the lead of Francesco M. Raimondo who passionately wanted this school and worked hard for its achievement. This course was placed under the auspices of the Department of Botany, the Faculty of Sciences and the Course of Doctorate in Vegetal Resources of the University of Palermo. It was funded for a part part by the Provincia Regionale di Trapani, and also benefited by the support of OPTIMA (the Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area) and the International Foundation pro Herbario Mediterraneo, and by the hospitality of the municipality of Erice. Thanks to these all supports, accommodation and meals could be offered for free to the participants, who had to pay no registration fee but only their travel expenses.

The School was a learning experience of excellence for graduates, doctoral students and scholars who wanted to increase their knowledge of theoretical and applied aspects of conservation and management related to plant species and plant communities on the islands and coastlands of the Mediterranean Sea. The Summer School provided to the participants an opportunity to meet with leading experts in the field, share daily life, and establish contacts among themselves and with their teachers. Thirty participants had been selected from among the 55 applications received. Up to 2 students per Mediterranean border Country where chosen in the first round. and the

remaining places were distributed between the further applicants from Mediterranean or other European countries. As a result participants were a mixed lot, coming from 9 different countries: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey. In addition, Phd students of the Course of Doctorate in Vegetal Resources of the University of Palermo participated on an ad-hoc basis. Three days were devoted to field activities in the archaeological areas of Segesta and Selinunte, on the Island of Marettimo, in the Pond of Marsala, and on Mt. Cofano on the Tyrrhenian coast. Classes were held by international experts, all old friends made through OPTIMA, representing different disciplines such as phycology, mycology, vascular plants, vegetation science, and taxonomy: they were: Avinoam Danin, Gianniantonio Domina, Giuseppe Giaccone, Werner Greuter, Riccardo Guarino, Vernon Heywood, Pietro Mazzola, Luigi Naselli Flores, Sandro Pignatti, Angelo Rambelli, Francesco M. Raimondo, Angelo Troia, Benito Valdés, and Giuseppe Venturella. At the end of the course, after an exam that all students passed with good results, certificates of attendance were issued and 5 ECTS or 5 Italian cfu were acquired. A pleasant closing ceremony was held, with the presence of Dott. Giuseppe Poma and Salvatore Daidone, respectively president and member of the Provincial Council of Trapani.

It is planned to organize such a Summer School every year, focusing alternately on mountains and coasts & islands. See you then, perhaps, next year in Sicily, at the Summer School on Mediterranean Mountain Systems?

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

**First half of September 2011 in Castelbuono (PA) Sicily**

For the second year, the Department of Botany, the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Palermo and the University Consortium of the Province of Palermo, with the scientific support of OPTIMA (the Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area), the *Museo Naturalistico Francesco Minà Palumbo*, the *Ente Parco delle Madonie* and the International Foundation *pro Herbario Mediterraneo*, organize, with the logistic and financial support of the Municipality of Castelbuono and the *Provincia Regionale di Palermo* the School on Plant Biodiversity of Mediterranean mountain systems. It will take place in the first half of September 2011, in Castelbuono (PA) Sicily.

This year the Summer School focuses on theoretical and applied aspects of knowledge, conservation and management of plant species and plant communities of the Mediterranean Mountains. Field and laboratory activities will also be provided. Classes will be held by international experts. The lectures will be in English. The course will last 12 days, at the end, after an exam, the Director will issue a certificate of attendance and acquisition of 5 ECTS or 5 Italian cfu. The school is open to 40 participants

(minimum 20). Up to 2 students per Mediterranean border Country will be selected in the first place. For any places still available after that first round will be made available to further selected applicants from Mediterranean or other European countries. Candidates with a three or five years University degree in a scientific discipline related to the study of plant biodiversity will be accepted.

The school is funded by Institutional contributions. Registration fee 200 € of. Accommodation and meals are offered by the organization. Travel expenses are to be covered by the participants.

Program details will be provided at the appropriate time. For any question, please ask to [botanica@unipa.it](mailto:botanica@unipa.it).

The Director  
Francesco M. Raimondo

## M E E T I N G S

by GIANNANTONIO DOMINA

**THE XIII OPTIMA MEETING IN ANTALYA, TURKEY - 22-26 MARCH 2010**(see also the full, illustrated account published in *Taxon* 59: 1621-1623, Oct 2010:  
<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iapt/tax/2010/00000059/00000005/art00039>)

The XIII Optima meeting was a remarkably successful event, both from a scientific and organisational point of view, thanks to the number and diversity of participants, to the quality of the lectures and poster presentations they contributed, and to the generous efforts of the Turkish hosts who did their utmost to make the congress an enjoyable, unforgettable event for all in attendance. It has been a remarkably successful event, both from a scientific and organisational point of view. Plant Sciences in Turkey have progressed to an amazing extent during the last 30 years. The country's proliferating universities are home to hundreds of botanists, both young and experienced, all enthusiastic and hard-working. The XIII OPTIMA Meeting in Antalya was ideally suited as an international platform for this wealth of human botanical resources, providing an opportunity for local and foreign scientists of all ages to meet and interact. In total, 236 participants from 20 countries, including 95 from Turkey, were in attendance, who contributed 55 lectures and 146 posters presentations, among which those from the host country, documenting the high standard of current phytotaxonomic and floristic research in Turkey, deserve special mention.

The Meeting was held at the Maritim Pine Beach Hotel, a holiday resort in the Belek region of Antalya in Southern Turkey. It was held under the auspices of the Organisation for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA), as one of its triennial meetings, operating in close cooperation with the Flora Research Society of Turkey and benefiting by the logistic support of Akdeniz University.

The Organizing committee was chaired by T. Ekim and comprised W. Greuter, A. Güner, K. H. C. Başer, M. Doğan, N. Özhatay, F. M. Raimondo and myself. The day preceding the Meeting proper was devoted to the meetings of OPTIMA's many scientific commissions. During the Opening Ceremony, a Gold Medal, OPTIMA's highest award, honoring an outstanding botanist's lifetime contribution to Mediterranean plant taxonomy, was

conferred to Friedrich Ehrendorfer. Fully taken by surprise, Ehrendorfer joyfully collected the medal in pullover and jeans. The ceremony was followed by N. Atasoy's Opening Lecture on Ottoman horticulture and western worlds.

The scientific programme consisted of 12 half-day symposia spread over 5 working days, two terms being devoted to Turkish botanists and botany. The first, Botany in Turkey I, was chaired by A. Güner and M. Doğan. The following morning saw two parallel symposia on Rare and threatened plants and habitats (chaired by J. M. Iriondo and N. Adigüzel) and History of Mediterranean botanical exploration (chair: E. Vitek and F. Coşkun), followed by a round-table conference on Mediterranean herbaria (W. Greuter and F. Sales). The afternoon symposia were on Geophytes (chair: G. Kamari and N. Özhatay) and Archaeological and xenophytic fossil flora (U. Plitmann, M. Kislev and H. Duman). The evening was gladdened by the social dinner and enlivened by folklorist dancers. At mid-term (March 24) a field trip was organized, to a plateau in the Taurus mountain range famous for its geophytes: *Galanthus elwesii* and *Eranthis hyemalis* featured among many others. In the evening a grill party, offered by the Congress Hotel, took place on the beach, where apart from food and drink the conjuring tricks of an ice cream vendor and the enthralling performance of a belly dancer were major highlights.

Thursday morning was devoted to the plenary session Integrating molecular and "Traditional" taxonomy (chair: T. Stuessy and A. Duran). The afternoon saw, in parallel, symposia on Effects of Global Change on Mediterranean plant life (F. Valladares and M. Ekici) and Mediterranean Leguminosae (Y. Roskov, O. Vasić, and T. Babaç). The last day was devoted to the symposia Botany in Turkey II (K. H. C. Başer), Plant differentiation on heavy-metal soils (F. Selvi and M. Vural), The role of Irano-Turanian elements in the evolution of the Mediterranean flora (F. Médail and A. Dünzenli) and Socio-economic and ecological effects of plant introductions in the Mediterranean (V. H. Heywood and F.



Ertuğ). The General meeting of OPTIMA, in the evening, was also the Meeting's closing ceremony. OPTIMA President Francesco M. Raimondo presented the invitation, on behalf of himself and his Italian colleagues, to hold the XIII OPTIMA meeting in Palermo in September 2013, received with warm applause. Summary reports from the various pre-Congress Commission meetings were followed by the award of OPTIMA Silver Medals to the authors of outstanding publications on Mediterranean plant taxonomy published in each of the three foregoing years. Stephen Jury presented Jean-Pierre Reduron's *Ombellifères de France (2007-2008)*; Francesco Raimondo spoke on Ignazio Camarda & Franca Valsecchi's *Alberi e arbusti spontanei della Sardegna (ed. 2, 2008)*; and Vernon Heywood introduced S. Castroviejo (general editor), C. Benedi, E. Rico, J. Güemes & Alberto Herrero (volume editors) for *Flora iberica, Volume XIII (2009)*.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Plenary Meeting at the closing Session:

#### Resolution 1

We botanists participating in the XIII OPTIMA meeting in Antalya, representing twenty different countries,

- applaud the efforts of Turkish botanists to prepare an illustrated Flora of Turkey and are delighted by the prospect of seeing it completed for the centennial of the Republic of Turkey;
- note with pleasure the decision to establish a National Botanic Garden of Turkey associated with a National Herbarium;
- support the idea of Turkish botanists that they should be included in decision-making processes when drafting legislation concerning biodiversity and conservation of nature.

#### Resolution 2

Considering that the Mediterranean flora includes several thousand endemic and threatened species, and that no proper assessment has been made of the conservation status of the Mediterranean vascular flora as a whole; given that

- there are areas where the flora has not been subject to Red List assessment;
- national plant Red Lists in the Mediterranean have not followed a common structure;
- information on conservation status has not been placed in a global context in several countries;

we botanists participating in the XIII OPTIMA meeting in Antalya, representing twenty different countries, recommend that:

- IUCN in close cooperation with OPTIMA should initiate a Red List of the vascular flora of the whole Mediterranean area;
- and that as a first stage a list of the conservation status of national endemics and of those species that occur in areas of greatest vulnerability should be prepared.

#### Resolution 3

The members of the XIII OPTIMA meeting held in Antalya (Turkey), representing 20 countries were concerned to learn that the Italian Government had withdrawn the funds allocated for the development and equipment of the Herbarium Mediterraneum at the University of Palermo.

In view of the importance of the Herbarium Mediterraneum project for the whole international scientific community working in the Mediterranean region, urge the relevant authorities at national and regional level and the University of Palermo to seek funds for this project including those available under relevant EU measures for supporting scientific museums.

#### Resolution 4

In this International Year of biodiversity 2010, the members of the XIII OPTIMA meeting held in Antalya (Turkey), representing 20 countries draw the attention of the national and regional authorities of all the Mediterranean countries, to the need to reinforce their efforts for the assessment, conservation and sustainable use of the extraordinarily rich biodiversity of the Mediterranean region which houses nearly 10% of plant diversity and represents a major global resource.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, T. Ekim presented a newly designed OPTIMA flag to President F. M. Raimondo, to become the Organisation's symbol during future Congresses.

After the congress, two excursions were organized, to Çiğlikara forest, a natural conservation area of *Cedrus libani*, on Saturday and to the Köprülü Canyon National Park, with *Cupressus sempervirens* forests, on Sunday. Participants felt privileged enjoying these extensive, well preserved forest areas in a natural scenery of remarkable beauty, blended with cultural and historical monuments.

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

**Don't miss the XIV OPTIMA Meeting in Palermo, September 2013!**

The preliminary Scientific Program for the XIV OPTIMA Meeting includes Symposia on the following subjects:

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

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

21-27 February 2011
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Welcome to **BioSystematics Berlin 2011**

The Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem (Freie Universität Berlin) and the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin are pleased to host the

**7<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB VII) of IOSEB (International Organization for Systematic and Evolutionary Biology),**

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Systematics (GfBS), and**

**20<sup>th</sup> International Symposium “Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology” of the German Botanical Society (DBG).**

The scope of the congress is to bring together evolutionary biologists and systematists working on plant, animal, and microscopical organisms to discuss and debate topics of common interest. The focus will be on innovative and forward-looking ideas, concepts, and methods in systematic and evolutionary biology. It will also provide a unique opportunity to highlight topics of current biodiversity research. We hope to attract many researchers from different fields to this

congress and look forward to welcoming you in Berlin in February 2011.

**Major Conference Topics**

- Trends in Taxonomy
- Evolution of Organisms in Time and Space
- The Evolutionary Thought: History, Philosophy and Society
- Evolution of Form and Function
- Inventorying and Managing Biodiversity

**Deadlines**

Call for Symposia and Workshops	31 May 2010
Begin of registration and abstract submission	31 August 2010
Abstract submission deadline	31 October 2010
Early registration closes	31 October 2010

**Online Registration and Abstract Submission:**

<https://secure.weidelt.de/wincongress/bgbm/biosyst2011/>

**Second Circular:**

<http://www.biosyst-berlin-2011.de/Biosyst-Circular%202.pdf>

7-12 June 2011
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### **11<sup>o</sup> World Congress on Parasitic Plants**

Martina Franca, Italy

The Congress continues a long tradition of regularly assembling the world's experts on parasitic plants for professional and scientific meetings, which started in 1973 with the first international meeting in Malta.

The Congress will bring together scientists representing a wide spectrum of disciplines, research approaches, and geographical representation of parasitic plant research. Assembling specialists with different perspectives, all focused around the common theme of plant parasitism, provides a stimulating environment for learning, exchanging ideas, and connecting with old and new colleagues.

Parasitic plants - both the weedy species that severely constrain agriculture and the many other non-weedy species - present unanswered questions with regard to their origin and evolution from non parasitic plants, population structures and dynamics, evolutionary pathways towards crop parasitism, ecology, physiology, molecular biology, and the structure, function and development of their haustoria.

For further information see: <http://ipps2011.ba.cnr.it/>.

Specific enquiries can be made at: E-mail: [ipps2011@area.ba.cnr.it](mailto:ipps2011@area.ba.cnr.it).

23-30 July 2011
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### **18<sup>th</sup> International Botanical Congress**

Melbourne, Australia

The next, eighteenth, International Botanical Congress (XVIII IBC), will be held in the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Southbank, Melbourne, Australia from 23-30 July 2011. The Nomenclature Section of the Congress will meet in The School of Botany, University of Melbourne during the preceding week, from 18-22 July.

The XVIII IBC will be held under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), through the International Association of Botanical and Mycological Societies (IABMS) of the IUBS.

As with previous International Botanical Congresses, the scientific program covers all fields of botanical science, including research on plants, algae and fungi.

The program structure will consist of up to 225 general symposia (allowing 1350 presentations).

#### **Key Dates**

Call of symposia closes 9 April 2010

Call for abstracts opens August 2010

Registration open September 2010

Abstract submission deadline 31 October 2010

Early bird registration deadline 1 February 2011

Deadline for registration by presenters 1 March 2011

Accommodation booking deadline June 2011

Nomenclature section 18 – 22 July 2011

Nomenclature sect. registration 17 July 2011

Congress dates 23 – 30 July 2011

For further information see: <http://www.ibc2011.com>.

Specific enquiries can be made at: E-mail: [info@ibc2011.com](mailto:info@ibc2011.com).



# NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS\*

by WERNER GREUTER

## General Topics

1. **Walter ERHARDT, Erich GÖTZ, Nils BÖDEKER & Siegmund SEYBOLD** ó **Der große Zander. Enzyklopädie der Pflanzennamen.** ó Ulmer, Stuttgart, 2008 (ISBN 978-3-8001-5406-7). 2103 pages, 3 maps, 3000 line drawings; 2 hard cover volumes.

*Zander's Handwörterbuch der Pflanzennamen* (handy dictionary of plant names), now in its 18<sup>th</sup> edition, threatened to outgrow the limit of 990 pages, set by the publisher for the book to remain öhandyö. As the list of included names, naturally, increased with every new edition, some of the traditional, useful and generally appreciated chapters had to be shortened or altogether abandoned. As a result, a new similar, grown-up work has now been prepared: the Big Zander, an encyclopaedia of plant names, with two continuously paged volumes which, taken together, are more than twice the size of the öhandy dictionaryö.

The core portion of both the big and the handy version is a list of 25,500 species, alphabetically arranged by their scientific name. All plants that are found in Central Europe, either in the wild or cultivated out of doors or in apartments (but not in greenhouses only), are listed. For ornamentals, the criterion for inclusion was that the plant can be obtained through the trade. Author citation is followed by the year in which the

combination (but not the basionym, if any) was published. Important nothospecies, botanical varieties, and cultivars are enumerated. Frequently used synonyms are cross-referenced to the accepted name. Whenever available, common names, country of origin, life form, hardiness, etc. are indicated. This impressive list, of 664 pages, makes up most of the Encyclopaedia's second volume. It is followed by indexes of German, English and French common names and by a large section (220 pages) with biographical notes for all authors of the listed plant names. The latter feature is amazingly thorough and informative, not only for the German-language readership that the book principally addresses.

The encyclopaedia's first volume includes several new, additional features. One will discover with interest a German translation of the *Vienna Code* and the latest edition of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants* ó not of the complete Codes, really, but of the provisions that were judged to be relevant. On the preceding pages, the reader is told how at German schools the pronunciation of Latin is (or rather: used to be) taught. There is a list of family names [with author citations, curiously, all bracketed] arranged by higher units as per the Cronquist system. That is the system according to which the main part of the volume is arranged, in which each genus is keyed out, characterised and illustrated.

The illustrated descriptive part is a novel, original trait of the öBig Zanderö, doubtless the fruit of a major effort by the

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

four authors. Understandably, not all in it is original: The figures are not, they are a mixed lot derived from more than 90 different sources, small size being their only common feature. Full keys are provided, which I look forward to test. For pteridophytes and gymnosperms they go directly to the genus, disregarding families. There are no family descriptions either, and the alphabetically arranged family headings only serve to make the users' life difficult: If genera were to follow a single alphabetic order, one could find them much more easily. [Quiz for the average reader: under which of the four families *Aspidiaceae*, *Dryopteridaceae*, *Thelypteridaceae* and *Woodsiaceae* would you look for *Gymnocarpium*?] Matters are different with angiosperms, where there is a general family key at the end, the generic keys being placed under the family headings. Again, providing family descriptions might have been helpful, as it would have avoided much redundancy among generic characters. An example, to show what I mean: All 14 genera of *Zingiberaceae* are described, one by one, as having alternate leaves, no stipules, hermaphrodite zygomorphic flowers with 3 sepals and 3 petals, and an inferior ovary of 3 fused carpels.

Before I forget: The correct answer to my quiz is *Woodsiaceae* (however, recent molecular studies place *Gymnocarpium* in an independent group that is sister to *Thelypteridaceae*).  
W.G.

### Gymnosperms

2. **Robert P. ADAMS** ó **Junipers of the world: the genus *Juniperus*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.** ó Trafford, Vancouver, 2008 (ISBN 978-1-4251-6879-7). v + 402 pages, numerous black-and-white illustrations (photographs, maps, graphs), tables; paper.

Only four years after the first edition of Adams' big world monographs of junipers (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (8-9). 2009), here comes ed. 2 (in which ed. 3 is already foreshadowed). I do not find it substantially changed with respect to its predecessor, nor does the author claim that it is. I find the classification adopted identical in both versions, at least for the groups with which I am acquainted and that I discussed in my previous review. Some new cladograms based on DNA sequence analysis have been added, and regrettably, the four colour plates of seed cones and leaves have been left out. Also, the format has been reduced and the page number increased accordingly. The book is available, as paperback or hardcover, at [www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com).  
W.G.

### Dicotyledons

3. **Božo FRAJMAN & Nejc JOGAN** ó **Mle (rod *Euphorbia*) Slovenije.** [*Scopolia* (ISSN 0351-0077), 62.] ó Prirodoslovni Muzej Slovenije, Ljubljana, 2007. 68 pages, table, drawings, distribution maps; paper.

Here is a nice booklet on the genus *Euphorbia* in Slovenia, written in Slovenian language but for an abstract and summary in English. It is based on an in-depth revision of herbaria and on the authors' own field research. The stress is on Slovenian distribution, which is represented by detailed grid maps. Other features (morphology, phenology) are also taken into account, and a key for identification of the species is appended.

The inventory of Slovenian spurges has changed substantially as a result of the authors' findings. Of the 37 taxa previously recorded, 9 are eliminated: 3 are considered synonyms of other species (confirming the Med-Checklist treatment): *Euphorbia acu-*

*minata* cannot be separated from *E. falcata*, *E. peploides* is a dwarf form of *E. peplus*, and *E. tommasiniana* is synonymous with *E. virgata*. The 6 others were recorded in error. Somewhat illogically, 4 of these excluded species have been integrated into the key (*E. palustris*, *E. peplis*, *E. pinea*, *E. segetalis*), one is mentioned in a note under a different species, with which it is not synonymous (*E. wulfenii*, under *E. amygdaloides*), and one (*E. paralias*) is simply left out. As a part compensation of the losses, two species new for Slovenia are recorded here: *E. taurinensis* (collected once a century ago and since lost sight of) and *E. myrsinites*, a recently introduced, perhaps casual alien. W.G.

**4. Günter GOTTSCHLICH ó Die Gattung *Hieracium* (Compositae) in der Region Abruzzen (Italien).** [*Stapfia* (ISSN 0252-192x), **89.**] ó Oberösterreichische Landesmuseen, Linz, 2009. 328 pages, 128 plates of colour photographs, 36 black-and white or colour figures, 79 maps in colour; paper.

Abruzzi (a corruption of Latin Praetium) is one of 20 Italian regions and consists of the four provinces of Aquila, Chieti, Pescara, and Teramo. Consisting of the central portion of the Apennine chain and its eastern slopes down to the Adriatic coast, it includes many major mountains, the best known being the Gran Sasso d'Italia with the highest peak (2912 m) of the Apennines. With 30 % of its surface area included in three National Parks (Abruzzi, Gran Sasso, Majella) and a Regional one (Sirente-Velino), it is arguably the best protected region of Italy, and much beyond.

As the whole Italian peninsula south of the Alps, the Abruzzi were not well explored as far as their hawkweed flora is concerned. This has now thoroughly changed thanks to Günter Gottschlich's work, synthesised in the

present publication. Known for his thoroughness, the German hieraciologist has on the one hand visited Abruzzi 12 times between 2000 and 2007, gathering about 2000 numbers of hawkweeds all over the area. On the other hand he revised the holdings of 17 herbaria, totally or in part (1400 specimens in all), and scanned the complete relevant literature. Little, it would appear, remains to be done in the future.

Gottschlich delimits *Hieracium* conservatively, including *Pilosella* as a subgenus. In his inventory he accepts 79 species, or 137 taxa (species and subspecies), of which 18 or 19, respectively, pertain to *Pilosella*. No less than 55 taxa he describes as new to science: 4 sections, 21 species, and 30 subspecies (of these, one section, 2 nothospecies and 1 subspecies are *Pilosellae*). Furthermore, he proposes 7 new combinations (2 of them for *Pilosellae*), of which three are not however new, having been made independently a mere fortnight before, by coincidence, in volume 2 of *Med-Checklist*). In addition, 32 names are newly typified, and an impressive list of excluded or doubtfully present taxa, 52 in number, is provided. The text includes precise definitions of morphological terms, elaborate identification keys, and detailed treatments for each taxon, with synonymy, description, full specimen citations, and often critical notes.

Illustration is worthy of praise. Throughout the text there are specimen-based dot maps, conveying a faithful and immediate impression of the distribution of each species in the region. Grouped together at the end, one finds 128 full-page colour reproductions of representative herbarium vouchers, one for every *Pilosella* taxon and one for all but 9 taxa of *Hieracium* s.str. Almost without exception, there is an inset with a close-up, usually of a flower head, showing details of bracts and indumentum. All but 7 plates represent Gottschlich's own, beautifully prepared new specimens. W.G.

## Monocotyledons

5. **Paolo GRÜNANGER** (sci. dir.) **ó Orchidee d'Italia**. Guida alle orchidee spontanee. ó Il Castello, Cornaredo (MI), 2009 (ISBN 978-88-8039-891-2). 303 pages, numerous colour and 4 black-and-white photographs, drawings, maps, 1 table; hard cover with dust jacket.

A difficult book to review! It has merit in many respects, yet in others it is rather puzzling. This is probably due to its genesis. It has been published under the auspices of GIROS, the Italian research group on wild orchids, and was brought to life by the collective effort of its members ó 33 different authors in all. The governance, an editorial committee of four under the leadership of a scientific director who is not himself a professional botanist, must have had a difficult time in giving some cohesiveness to the contributions as they came together.

But let me proceed in order. The book starts with a number of general chapters, written by specialists. Among them, there are some that I find particularly instructive, both for a general readership and the book's main target group, Italian orchid lovers. Let me mention Carlo Del Prete's elegant introduction to orchid morphology; the biology chapter by Medagli & Ruggiero, concentrating on the reproductive biology of Mediterranean orchid species; a text by Antonio Scrugli on mycorrhiza, an important symbiotic phenomenon too often neglected or misunderstood; an explanation of phylogenetic systematics and its implications, by Pellegrino & Cozzolino, justifying the generic rearrangements accepted in the book (but not the failure to sink *Dactylorhiza* in *Coeloglossum*); and a text by D'Emérico which, under the title "cytogenetics", presents the techniques used in karyosystematics and some of their recent results.

Next, the reader will expectantly turn to the book's core, the description and illustration of all orchid taxa growing in Italy. He may perhaps be curious to compare the classification adopted here with the one published by Paolo Grünanger fairly recently, in 2001, of which in time I wrote (in *OPTIMA Newsletter*. 37: 63-64. 2004) that it "provides an excellent baseline for future orchidological studies, in Italy". Already at the generic level one finds some changes: The number of genera has decreased by one (to 29) due to the merging of *Hammarbya* with *Malaxis*. And whereas *Anacaptis*, *Neotinea* and *Orchis* are all there, they are no longer the same: The conclusions of Bateman & al. based on DNA sequencing have been accepted, so that almost half of the former *Orchis* species are now to be found under the two other genera. The generic key tries to take these changes into account, with the result that, in the relevant portion, it does not really work.

Within the individual genera, speaking of the notoriously critical ones, one finds much change but no clear trend. Let me proceed by examples. For *Serapias* there is a single author, Richard Lorenz. It is the only genus for which a complete key, down to subspecies level, is provided. Species number has increased from 8 to 11, all being provided with full and consistently comparable descriptions. The treatment presents a splitter's view, but it is all of a piece. *Nigritella*, too, has one author, Giorgio Perazza. There is no key, but otherwise the account has the same merits as the previous one except for being synthetic: Species number decreases from a former 7 to 3, plus three additional subspecies. *Serapias* and *Nigritella*, as presented here, are my clear favourites. At the other end of the range are *Ophrys* and *Epipactis*. There are multiple authors involved, each adding his own special morsel without much regard for overall coherence, with the only apparent goal that nothing be left out that anyone ever had deemed fit to distin-



guish. For *Ophrys* there is at least an embryo of a key, to species group level, but it serves little purpose as no groups are explicitly recognised further on. Naturally, a corollary is excessive splitting ó but not even in this there is consistency: In *Ophrys*, at one point, the reverse scenario has been enacted, with three former species reduced to subspecific rank under *O. bertolonii*. In short, these two generic accounts are all but chaotic. They may be inspiring perhaps, by mirroring the current state of flux in the classification of these plants; but they are also potentially dangerous by encouraging the creation of ever more taxa for the slightest local variant, of which there must be many yet unnamed. We are kept waiting for someone to clean up the current mess with an iron broom.

Naturally, as most currently produced publications on orchids, the volume is well illustrated. If it were intended as a picture book, my review would have been quite benevolent. It wants, however, to be more; and in this aspiration, partly at least, it fails.

W.G.

## Floras

6. **Santiago CASTROVIEJO** (gen. ed.), **C. BENEDÍ, E. RICO, J. GÜEMES & Alberto HERRERO** (vol. ed.) **ó Flora ibérica**. Plantas vasculares de la Península Ibérica e Islas Baleares. Vol. **XIII, Plantaginaceae-Scrophulariaceae**. ó Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid, 2009 (ISBN 978-84-00-08747-0, volume; 978-84-00-06221-7, set). XLVII + 677 pages, map, 133 plates of drawings; cloth with dust jacket.

Exactly two-thirds the 21 planned volumes of *Flora ibérica* have now been published, and the countdown toward completion is steadily ticking. True, two major hurdles remain: *Compositae* and the grasses; but

they, too, will be overcome. Discounting the single naturalised representative of *Buddlejaceae*, the present volume deals with just two families, those mentioned in the subtitle: *Plantaginaceae* and *Scrophulariaceae*; and the first question that comes to mind nowadays (and that no one would have asked twenty years ago), is: how defined? To reassure the traditionally minded among users, the answer is: no change. Neither has *Veronica* been transferred to the plantains, nor were *Lathraea* and the hemiparasitic genera moved to *Orobanchaceae* (already dealt with in vol. 14), nor have the *Antirrhinaceae* been split off. Some may be disappointed by seeing families defined in a way that is presently considered, and may well be, unnatural. To them, let me say that a Flora is a practical tool to identify and learn about plants, not a showcase for the newest classification hypotheses. There is a proper place for everything, and definitely a Flora that is to serve for half a century at least is not a suitable forum for introducing major structural changes of classification that may or may not outlive the coming decade. Besides it would hardly be practical if the key to identify families, first published in 1986 (vol. 1) and regularly reprinted since, were to change repeatedly.

Several of the genera treated in this volume show centres of diversity and high rates of endemism in the Iberian Peninsula. Based on species numbers, the largest are, in order: *Linaria* (54), *Veronica* (44), *Plantago* (27), *Verbascum* (26), *Antirrhinum* (24), *Scrophularia* (22), and *Chaenorhinum* (16). Some of the smaller genera are also worth being mentioned, such as *Digitalis* with 11 taxa (species and subspecies) of which 8 are endemic. On the other hand, none of the hemiparasitic genera of the *Rhinantheae* exhibit a marked polymorphism in the area, being much more diverse in other parts of Europe.

The editors of volume 13 were awarded an OPTIMA Silver Medal for their book, at

the recent XIII OPTIMA Meeting in Antalya. The award, well deserved, also reflects on the previous published volumes of *Flora Iberica*. Sadly the founder, general editor and coordinator of the work, Santiago Castroviejo, did not live to receive the award, having succumbed to a long painful illness at the end of September last year. He leaves a great responsibility with his successors, which he was confident they would live up to carry; and so am I. W.G.

7. **Gabriel BLANCA, Baltasar CABEZUDO, Miguel CUETO, Carlos FERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ & Concepción MORALES TORRES** (ed.), **Flora vascular de Andalucía Oriental**. ó Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía, Sevilla, 2009 (ISBN 978-84-92807-12-3). 427 + 492 +460 + 426 pages, analytical drawings, map, 2181 colour photographs; 4 hard cover volumes in case + CD-ROM.

This is the third modern multi-volume Flora of a major region of Spain, after the *Flora de los països catalans* (4 volumes, 1984-2001) and its fraternal twin the *Flora vascular de Andalucía occidental* (3 volumes, 1987). Of the three, it can be characterised as the decidedly popular one, which is reflected, not by descriptions with common language terms (professional botanical terminology is used throughout) but by the absence of much technical detail common in more erudite works, such as full nomenclatural citations, perhaps even with mention of types, and elaborate synonymies; it is reflected also by the presence of a profuse, gorgeous illustration with high-quality colour photographs. Alas, its pictorial style and consequent use of robust, high-quality glossy paper has resulted in excessive weight. Handling each volume, not to speak of carrying the four together, is an athletic exercise.

The area covered comprises the four S Spanish provinces of Almería, Granada, Jaén

and Málaga, totalling 41,000 km<sup>2</sup> of largely mountainous country. It includes the major portion of the Betic mountain system, peaking in the famous Sierra Nevada, all of which is renowned for its original flora and high rate of endemism. According to estimates provided in the Flora's Presentation, the proportion of endemic taxa, for Andalusia as a whole, would be one eighth, and almost twice as much if Ibero-Mauritanian endemism is considered. E Andalusia hosts a higher diversity (and doubtless endemism) than the western half, with 3655 recognised vascular plant taxa (native and naturalised species and subspecies) as compared to 2622 in the somewhat larger (45,000 km<sup>2</sup>) W Andalusia (for the Catalan countries ó 70,000 km<sup>2</sup>, including the Balearic Islands, Andorra and parts of SE France ó the number of species alone is 3566).

With the three major Floras mentioned, and in less than thirty years, almost the whole of southern and eastern Spain has now been covered. Of the whole Mediterranean coastlands of Spain, only Murcia and the southern half of Alicante Province are left out (there is, however, a *Nueva Flora de Murcia* of 2003). As already mentioned, however, the three works are as different from each other as the lands they concern. Look at the sequence of the Angiosperm treatments, which in the Catalan Flora follows the classical model of Engler (or *Flora Europaea*, which is the same), whereas for W Andalusia Cronquist's system was adopted and for E Andalusia a modern phylogenetic arrangement (basically the one known as APG II, except that monocots precede the basal Angiosperm families). This decidedly modernistic trait is somewhat at variance with the claim of the work to popularity. For ease of consultation, one better makes oneself a spare photocopy of the family table (inside of the back cover) to look up in advance which volume to open to find a particular plant. Another important difference between the three Floras is that the

two earlier provide a drawing and distribution map for each species, whereas in the present one every second species is represented by one or more colour photographs, and there are neither drawings nor maps.

To compensate the cumbersome handling of the heavy hard copy books, a compact disk (CD-ROM) with a one-to-one reproduction of each volume is provided. The text is searchable (separately by volume) but devoid of special facilities for interactive consultation, such as indexes with links. Also, one must know that when searching a given page (starting from the cumulative index in vol. 4) one is supposed to add 4 to the page number, as photographs of the cover and initial blank sheet have been incorporated in the numbered set.

There is one particularly ingratiating element in this work: It is the Introduction (Prólogo) by Santiago Castroviejo. This must be one of the very last texts he has written, as he sadly passed away on 30 September 2009; and well beyond what one expects to find in an introduction, is in some way a legacy of his. There are two main themes he dwells upon. One is his personal tribute to Edmond Boissier, pioneer of the botanical exploration of Spain: an endearing testimony of Castroviejo's appreciation of the great Swiss botanist. The other is his roundabout, terse if dispassionate plea against current academic policies as they discriminate against scientific work durable beyond the day. With that indictment he will find much assent among the users of this work ó but alas, they are not the people meant to read it in the first place.

W.G.

8. **Daniel JEANMONOD (ed.) ó Compléments au Prodrôme de la flore corse. *Orobanchaceae***, par Christine HABASHI & Daniel JEANMONOD. ó Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève, Chambésy, 2008 (ISBN 987-2-8277-0816-1). 126 pages, map, 13 black-

and-white figures (photographs, drawings and maps), 16 plates of colour photographs; laminated cover.

9. **Daniel JEANMONOD (ed.) ó Compléments au Prodrôme de la flore corse. *Cucurbitaceae***, par Daniel JEANMONOD. ó Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève, Chambésy, 2008 (ISBN 987-2-8277-0817-8). 36 pages, map, 7 black-and-white figures (photographs, drawings and maps); laminated cover.

Two new instalments have appeared in the series aimed at filling the gap in Briquet's unfinished *Prodrôme de la flore corse*. They are of unequal size and weight, but both are detailed and rich in original information not easily found elsewhere. The *Cucurbitaceae*, a predominantly tropical family, are represented on the island by one endemic taxon, *Bryonia maculata*, here treated as a subspecies of *B. cretica*; one weedy species, *Ecbalium elaterium*; and several cultivated, rarely if at all subsynchronous representatives. The *Orobanchaceae* family is problematic in several respects: delimitation (here accepted in the traditional sense, for the simple reason that the *Scrophulariaceae* treatment, already published, left no other option), subdivision (still controversial, with *Phelipanche* here accepted as generically distinct in preference to its inclusion in either, traditionally, *Orobanche* or, unconventionally, *Aphyllon*), and species definition. The present treatment has the advantage of being based on thorough field experience, which inspires confidence in the authors' conclusions and confers a realistic touch to their descriptions and keys. The abundant photographic documentation, in colour, is particularly helpful, as is the thorough analysis of notoriously critical groups. Among the original results the recent description of a well characterised new endemic species, parasitic on an equally endemic taxon, is of note, and also the clarification of

the *O. rapum-genistae* complex, where of three usually recognised subspecies one is restored to species rank and the two others cannot be distinguished at any level.

Where, then, does the project stand? As far as I can see, a single instalment is missing before it is completed: the treatment of the *Cichorieae*, or third part of the *Compositae*. Of course, a general cumulative index covering the whole *Prodrome* and its *Compléments* would be most desirable as a crowning final instalment (volume 2(1) of the *Prodrome* has apparently never been indexed at all), if someone can be found to sacrifice himself and do the job. Otherwise, the index to families on the cover insides shows four gaps for native plants that were discovered in Corsica after publication of the corresponding volume: *Lycopodiaceae*, *Marsileaceae*, *Najadaceae*, and *Balanophoraceae* (*Oxalidaceae*, also lacking a reference, has in fact been published), not counting some recently naturalised exotics. Separate publication of these cannot however be expected; rather, in good logic, they would pertain to an updated edition of the whole *Prodrome*.

W.G.

**10. Karl Heinz RECHINGER** (ed.) **ó Flora iranica**. Flora des iranischen Hochlandes und der umrahmenden Gebirge. Persien, Afghanistan, Teile von West-Pakistan, Nord-Iraq, Azerbaidjan, Turkmenistan. Lieferung **178** (edited by Wilhelmina RECHINGER), **Papilionaceae VI., Astragalus IV.**, by Dieter PODLECH, Shahin ZARRE, Ali Asghar MAASSOUMI, Murat EKICI & Andrej SYTIN. ó Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, 2010 (ISBN 978-3-902421-44-9, 978-3-902421-45-6). 430 pages; [2 + 3] pages + 375 plates of photographs or drawings; 2 volumes, paper.

A new and giant step forward has been made toward completion of that classic among recent Floras, *Flora iranica*: The

treatment of the region's largest genus, *Astragalus*, has been brought to term. Well, not quite, really. Whereas the coverage by sections is now indeed complete there will still be one more volume, with a general introduction to the genus, a sectional key, óimportant addendaö (we are told), and hopefully a cumulative index. Whether it is at all possible to write an integrated key to all species ó as is allegedly planned ó we shall see. Some of the sections (I refer to *A. sect. Incani*, in particular) are so complex and difficult to key out that a single key could not be written and two were necessary, each incomplete: that for flowering plants lacks the species only known in fruit, that for fruiting plants omits those of which fruits are unknown. (The likely result will be that flowering plants of the former and fruiting ones of the latter, when found, will be described as new species.)

The hero of this book is Dieter Podlech. Alone or with a co-author, he has written all of the treatments (and even those with a co-author are so obviously his that at times he forgets himself and writes in the first person). The present treatment covers 35 *Astragalus* sections plus one monotypic additional genus (*Barnebyella*), 410 species in all; and all except five sections (167 species) were fathered by Podlech alone. One cannot but bow in admiration before such achievement.

*Astragalus* now numbers 955 species in the Iranian countries, not counting the announced óimportant addendaö. Will the magic number 1000 be attained? Never mind: The genus is large enough as is. The number of novelties validated in the Flora itself, this time, is small ó but if one looks carefully one will find one allegedly new and one newly named species hidden among the lot. (In fact, the ónew speciesö is not new at all but was already published in 2005; good bookkeeping is difficult in a genus of this size!).

My final thought, most naturally, must be for Wilhelmina Rechinger, the editor, who is relentless in her effort to bring to comple-

tion the *magnum opus* of her unforgotten husband Karl Heinz. There can be little doubt, at present, that she will succeed: only three more volumes to go! She may well have begun to make new plans for the time after.

W.G.

11. Mostafa ASSADI, Ali Asghar MAAS-SOUMI & Valiolah MOZAFFARIAN (ed.) *ó Flora of Iran*. No. 58: *Malvaceae*, by M. PAKRAVAN (ISBN 978-964-473-271-3); No. 59: *Compositae: Anthemideae & Echinopeae*, by Valiolah MOZAFFARIAN (ISBN 978-964-473-273-7); No. 60: *Rutaceae*, by M. JOHRACHI (ISBN 978-964-473-271-3). *ó* Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, [Tehran], 2008. 146 + [2], 443 + [2], 104 pages, 34, 91, 23 drawings, 84, 214, 34 maps; 2 fascicles, paper.
12. Mostafa ASSADI, Ali Asghar MAAS-SOUMI, P. BABAKHANLOU & Valiolah MOZAFFARIAN (ed.) *ó Flora of Iran*. No. 61: *Equisetaceae*, by A. KOLBADI (ISBN 978-964-473-289-8); No. 62: *Geraniaceae*, by M. JANIGHORBAN (ISBN 978-964-473-290-4); No. 64: *Berberidaceae*, by R. AZADI (ISBN 978-964-473-295-9); No. 65: *Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae*, by Mehri DINARVAND (ISBN 978-964-473-303-1). *ó* Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, [Tehran], 2009. 20, 138, 40, 76 pages, 5, 25, 5, 22 drawings, 4, 45, 9, 29 maps; 4 fascicles, paper.
13. Mostafa ASSADI, Ali Asghar MAAS-SOUMI & P. BABAKHANLOU (ed.) *ó Flora of Iran*. No. 63: *Morinaceae*, by F. AGHABEIGI (ISBN 978-964-473-294-9). *ó* Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, [Tehran], 2009. 10 pages, 2 drawings, 1 map; 2 fascicles, paper.

*Flora of Iran* has, if anything, increased the already impressive rate at which it is

being produced. My last review (OPTIMA Newsletter 38: (24-25). 2009) covered a five-year period, the present one a time span of less than two years. Yet the 8 newly published fascicles total almost 1000 printed pages (977 to be exact, as compared to 1207) with 383 (against 548) accepted wild species and 420 (against 559) mapped taxa. Only the number of genera has no kept pace, due to the fact that several large and complex ones, with 25 or more species, are included; to name: *Echinops* (70), *Anthemis* (38), *Alcea* (35), *Artemisia* (34), *Tanacetum* (31), *Haplophyllum* (30), and *Geranium* (25).

As before, the numerous original drawings that illustrate the *Flora* are a most valuable asset. They are of good quality and mostly show analyses (ódetails aiding identificationö, as our nomenclatural *Code* defines that term). Not every species is illustrated, but more than half are (206 of 383), which makes of this work a basic Iranian botanical iconography. As to the treatments proper, little comment is possible. The *Rutaceae* brought up the difficult question of how to treat major fruit crops (the citruses: genera *Citrus* and *Fortunella*), which was solved by accepting them as numbered species, with identification keys, but placed in unnumbered genera and not mapped. Curiously, *Ruta* and its two species, certainly not wild nor widely cultivated, were numbered along with the indigenous taxa and apparently mapped ó only the maps are void. In the *Anthemideae* treatment, one might note that, *Chrysanthemum* having been conserved with *C. indicum* as type, it is no longer appropriate to place *Glebionis coronaria* in that genus.

Except for the alternative title page and front cover (or rather back cover, these being Iranian publications), plus scientific plant names and synonymies, the work is entirely written in Arabic script. The distribution maps and illustrations are nevertheless immediately useful for a linguistic ignorant like myself.

W.G.

### Popular Books

14. **Sanja KOVAČIĆ, Toni NIKOLIĆ, Mirko RUTIMIR, Milenko MILOVIĆ, Vanja STAMENKOVIĆ, Darko MIHELJ, Nenad JASPRICA, Sandro BOGDANOVIĆ & Jasenka TOPIĆ** *Flora jadranske obale i otoka*. 250 najčešćih vrsta. Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 2008 (ISBN 978-953-0-61289-1). 558 pages, numerous colour photographs, 2 maps, 1 graph; laminated cover.

As stated in its title, this book presents the 250 most common species of Croatia's Adriatic coast and islands. This you must take literally: Do not look into it to find any rare plant, just the common, ordinary ones. You will find grasses and sedges, nettles and all kinds of weeds, but few orchids and hardly any endemic species. There is a good representation of trees, shrubs and climbers, including widespread exotic ornamentals (*Pittosporum tobira*, *Bougainvillea spectabilis*) or fruit trees (*Punica granatum*, *Eriobotrya japonica*). Apart from ferns, gymnosperms, woody and grass-like plants, the arrangement is by flower colour, and within each category, alphabetical by Latin names. The latter choice may seem a bit odd from a user's point of view, but then, for several good reasons, if you really want to make good use of the book you better leaf it through from the first to the last page and memorise it by heart.

The fact is that the book is certainly informative, well written and superbly illustrated, and I find the selection of species excellent but it is tricky to use. Flower colour as a criterion, per se, has its problems. In the present case, where pink colour is not provided for, you will find *Asphodelus fistulosus* under white, *Picnemon acarna* under red, and *Trifolium stellatum* under blue. Under the latter colour there is also the consistently white-flowering *Echium italicum*,

probably because of its blue-flowered congeners. Therefore, if you have already an idea what the plant you are looking at might be, better go directly to the index which, commendably, lists not only the Latin but also the German and English common names. Another snare is the presence of many photographs that do not represent the species named in the header, but another one mentioned cursorily in the text (note that the captions give only the Croatian designation): perhaps another representative of the same genus, or at least family; or even an unrelated plant such as *Cytinus hypocystis* portrayed under *Cistus monspeliensis*. Obviously these additions (extras that are not included in the 250-species count) are a welcome enrichment, but again: they are by no means easy to find, especially when the flower colour differs.

I have discussed these problems at perhaps excessive length, not out of a critical attitude but because I believe that the book will be found to be useful by many, and widely used, not merely by those who understand the Croatian language in which it is written. And they will certainly like it after a while, especially with some guidance on how to use it. Good luck to all of them! W.G.

15. **Natura chia**. Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 2007 (ISBN 978-960-87298-9-6). 308 pages, c. 1000 colour photographs; hard cover.

A travelogue on the flora and fauna of Chios, as the subtitle specifies, this book is not authored by a professional biologist but by an outsider. Pandelis Saliaris graduated as a civil engineer at Naples University in Italy, then studied archaeology in Athens and is now head of Technical Services on his native island of Chios. He started to document photographically the flora of Chios in 1978, aged 28, and presents us here with a

superb sample of his naturalistic and photographic skills. The fact that his identifications, with few obvious exceptions, are correct or at least plausible testifies to his serious if self-taught biological background.

Three pages of introductory general text are presented in no less than 5 languages: Greek, English, Italian, French and German. All remaining space is filled with splendid photographs that show the plants, animals and some landscapes of Chios (including the island of Psara and the Inusses islets, belonging to the same province). The captions consist of the Latin scientific name plus, when available, a Greek popular name. The book can thus be used by anyone, without limitation of language, and I commend it to every nature loving person who visits Chios. Plants predominate over animals, and within plants, the largest share (324 pictures, several per species) goes to the orchid family; but there is plenty to admire for all tastes and interests, including fungi, butterflies, spiders, birds, reptiles and mammals.

W.G.

**16. Neriman ÖZHATAY, Ahmet LÇ M & Tolga OK ó Ah,r Da ,n,n sessiz güzel-leri ö200 yabancı çiçekö.** ó Kahramanmara Valili i 1 Çevre ve Orman Müdürlü ü, stanbul, 2009. 96 pages, 2 graphs, 1 map, 204 colour photographs; flexible cover in case.

**17. Neriman ÖZHATAY, Özgür EM NA A-O LU & Sezgin ESEN ó Karl, Yaylalar,n sakl, bahçesi öArdahan,n,n do al bitkileriö** ó Ardahan Valili i 1 Çevre ve Orman Müdürlü ü, stanbul, 2010. 128 pages, 2 graphs, 6 maps, 290 colour photographs; flexible cover in case.

One is most favourably surprised when opening these tiny and unpretentious booklets, which are real jewels of their kind. The kind being: popular photographic guides to the plant treasures of remote portions of Ana-

tolia. The two booklets are similar in their arrangement, content and general appearance, including format, and it is to be hoped that, being successful, they can develop into a whole series of similar ones. Such proliferation would be easily justified: Each volume is devoted to a particular, narrowly defined area, and Turkey boasts hundreds such areas! The first of the present twin set concerns the Ah r Da massif in Karamanmara Province; the second, five selected natural areas in Ardahan Province, close to the Georgian border.

The text is in Turkish, but is fairly short. What mainly counts are the photographs, which are worthy of high praise ó not only due to their excellent quality and beauty, but also for their high information content. Many have insets showing close-up views of single flowers. Other data are provided by means of self-explanatory pictograms (e.g. medicinal or toxic properties, wetland, mountain or woodland habitat, geophytic habit, endemism or rarity, protected status). Plants are arranged by flower colour, with the trees and shrubs at the end, preceding a small series of pictures illustrating current threats to the wildlife.

Neriman Özhatay and her co-authors are to be congratulated on their initiative. My special appreciation goes to the photographers, often but not always members of the author team, and to the fact that, for once, their name is clearly indicated in each case. W.G.

**18. Ahmad HOURI & Nisrine Machaka HOURI ó Wild flowers of Lebanon.** Photographic guide. ó Privately published, [Beirut], 2001. VIII + 248 pages, 243 colour photographs; laminated cover.

**19. Ahmad HOURI & Nisrine Machaka HOURI ó Photographic guide to wild flowers of Lebanon. Volume II.** ó Privately published, Beirut, 2008 (ISBN 978-953-0-61289-1). VIII + 424 pages, 403 colour photographs; laminated cover.

Publications

The authors are a congenial couple as they look on photographs, enthusiasts both of them, great lovers of nature and of the plants of their country, and gifted photographers. They have a knack for spotting interesting plants, too. No wonder, therefore, that the two picture books they have published, seven years apart, are quite a treasure trove. But there is a problem.

The problem is that the authors do not really know their plants, and perhaps because of being professional biologists themselves, have been too proud or too shy to seek assistance from those who do. The result being, that of all botanical picture books I have seen and commented on so far these are arguably the ones with the highest error rate in plant identification. I do not want to sound pompous about it, and certainly not cruel: just helpful, both to the authors and their readers. The best I can do is offer a list of rectifications, in tabular format. Volume and page number appear on the left, followed by the names as printed ó asterisked (\*) when the plant so named is not a member of the Lebanese flora ó then by my suggested determinations. They are in some cases tentative: I have not seen specimens, and photographs can be misleading; but they are more likely correct, at any rate, than those in the book.

1:5	<i>Carlina lanata</i>	<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>
1:12	<i>Cirsium dissectum*</i>	<i>Carduus argentatus</i>
1:20	<i>Dianthus carthusianorum*</i>	<i>Dianthus</i> sp.
1:21	<i>Dianthus ciliatus*</i>	<i>Dianthus</i> sp.
1:123	<i>Gagea arvensis</i>	<i>Gagea circinnata</i>
1:134	<i>Lampranthus glaucus*</i>	<i>Doronicum orientale</i>
1:183	<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	<i>Ophrys omegai-fera</i>
1:186	<i>Rostraria cristata</i>	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
1:188	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	<i>U. intermedius</i>
1:199	<i>Asperula odorata*</i>	<i>Galium samuels-</i>

		<i>sonii</i>
1:203	<i>Bellis annua</i>	<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>
1:206	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	<i>Thlaspi natolicum</i>
2:26	<i>Convolvulus coele-syriacus</i>	<i>C. althaeoides</i>
2:55	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	<i>M. longifolia</i>
2:59	<i>Onobrychis aequi-dentata</i>	<i>O. crista-galli</i>
2:121	<i>Campanula ramosissima*</i>	<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>
2:215	<i>Lotus parviflorus</i>	<i>Securigera securidaca</i>
2:230	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus*</i>	<i>Cota tinctoria</i> var. <i>discoidea</i>
2:235	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	<i>S. vernalis</i>
2:263	<i>Osyris alba</i>	<i>Daphne oleoides</i>
2:264	<i>Papaver apulum*</i>	<i>P. rhoeas</i> s.l.
2:288	<i>Phyllitis sagittata</i>	<i>P. scolopendrium</i> subsp. <i>antri-jovis</i>
2:302	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	<i>A. andrachne</i>
2:344	<i>Lonicera nummulariifolia</i>	<i>L. japonica</i>
2:347	<i>Melica persica*</i>	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>

There will certainly be further errors that I did not spot, especially among species with which I am not familiar. But then, the rarer the plant and the more special, the lesser is the error risk. A helpful feature of the books is that they mention consistently the locality and month in which the photograph was taken. *Phyllitis* (or better: *Asplenium*) *scolopendrium* subsp. *antri-jovis*, from the Cedars at Bsharri (Bcherré) at 1900 m of altitude, is apparently a new record for Lebanon, the taxon being known so far from the mountains of S Greece through Crete to S Anatolia. The same plant also appears, similarly misnamed, in Tohmé & Tohmé's *Illustrated Flora of Lebanon* of 2007. Their photograph was also taken on Mt. Lebanon, ad Jisr el-Hajar near Faqra, at 1700 m; and the earlier reports of *Phyllitis scolopendrium* from the high Lebanese mountains, in all likelihood, all belong here. W.G.



## Floristic Inventories and Checklists

- 20. Mohamed IBN TATTOU & Mohamed FENNANE** *ó Flore vasculaire du Maroc*. Inventaire et chorologie. Volume 2, *Asteraceae et Monocotyledones*. [Trav. Inst. Sci., Sér. Bot. (ISSN 1114-1174), 39.] *ó* Institut Scientifique, Université Mohamed V Agdal, Rabat, 2009 (ISBN 9954-20-662-0). 398 pages, map; laminated cover.

When presenting the first volume of this new inventory of the Moroccan flora (in OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (34). 2009), I had expressed the wish that the second, concluding volume might soon become available. Earlier than I would have dared to hope, that wish has now been fulfilled. Morocco has, for the first time since 1941, a complete catalogue of its vascular plants, which will be an invaluable asset for all local and visiting botanists. My congratulations to both authors!

Faithful to the initial plan, volume 2 comprises the single largest family *Compositae*, left over from the dicots otherwise included in volume 1; plus the whole of the monocot families, alphabetically arranged. The *Compositae* treatment of Med-Checklist (to which the authors had contributed as advisers for Morocco) was published just in time to be taken into consideration, and has indeed been faithfully followed. As to the monocotyledons, the author decided (wisely I should say) not to adopt every new fashion of splitting or merging families, but to follow the now well established system of Dahlgren. This means that the broad Englerian notion of *Liliaceae*, still familiar with many but untenable in modern systematics, has been abandoned; but that in other respects no *ö*revolutionaryö changes were implemented. All in all, a fair and balanced mixture of present-day knowledge and reluctance to make hasty changes, a mixture that bears witness of the authors' wisdom, experience

and good judgement. One may note that, at the generic level, they appear to be rather more progressive, e.g. with orchids where they accept the recent reclassification of *Orchis* based on molecular systematics. The number of novelties here published is moderate: one new subspecies in *Hypochaeris* and three new combinations in grasses (genera *Macrochloa* and *Roegneria*). W.G.

- 21. Benito VALDÉS, Consuelo SANTA-BÁRBARA, C. VICENT & A. MUÑOZ** *ó Catálogo florístico del Andévalo y Sierra de Huelva (plantas vasculares)*. Edición separada de *Lagascalía* 28: 117-409 [ISSN 0210-7708]. *ó* Departamento de Biología Vegetal y Ecología, Universidad de Sevilla, 2008. Pages [2] + 117-409, map; laminated cover.

This new inventory of the vascular flora of the northern half of Huelva Province in S Spain lists 1412 native or naturalised taxa (species and subspecies). Presented in pocket-book format with a nicely coloured glossy cover, featuring *Arbutus unedo* on the front, and with its own title page, it is technically a reprint of a journal article. It is however self-contained, being provided with an index of its own.

The coverage, if one believes the map rather than the less clear introductory definition, is delimited on three sides by the frontiers of the province. It is subdivided into three natural areas: the Andévalo lowlands in the south, being the eastern half of the S Iberian pyritic belt (see also the discussion under item 30, below); the Sierra de Aracena which occupies the northern half; and the westernmost portion of the Sierra Norte as its eastern extension. The two latter, taken together, correspond to the Sierra de Huelva referred to in the title. The treatment gives full source citations for the names and synonyms and, for each taxon, bibliographic references to all previously published records

for the area; it lacks, however, locality data and specimen citations, even when the records are new. Presumably, voucher material has been or will be deposited in the Sevilla Herbarium (SEV). W.G.

**22. Remo MAURIZIO ó Flora des Bergell mit Andeutung der Grenzgebiete** [*Boissiera* (ISSN 0373-2975), **62**]. ó Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève, Chambésy, 2009 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0078-3). 370 pages, 5 figures, 37 photographs (mostly in colour), table; laminated cover.

There are some areas where the Swiss territory crosses the Alpine watershed and extends to transalpine, Italian speaking lands. The largest and best known is Ticino or Tessin, an autonomous canton. Two other, significant such extensions pertain to the Canton of Grisons: the valley of Poschiavo or Puschlav, beyond the Bernina Pass, and Bergell or Bregaglia Valley, the southerly extension of Engadine when one crosses Maloja. The flora of Val Bregaglia is dealt with in the present book, the first floristic inventory for that area in particular (which is of course covered, in less detail, by Braun-Blanquet & Rübels Flora of the Grisons, 1932-1936). The author has been a resident schoolteacher between 1958 and his retirement in 1996 and was active between 1969 and 1973 as the local recorder for Welten & Sutter's project of mapping the Swiss flora.

The core area covered by this Flora is limited to Swiss territory, just extending across the Maloja Pass to the upper lake of Sils. Its surface area is 230 km<sup>2</sup>, ranging from an altitude of 686 m up to 3375 m, from the chestnut groves at its lower end to the alpine turf, scree and rocks of the summits. For very rare species, particularly the southerly, Insubrian ones that do not reach Bergell proper, data from neighbouring areas, mostly Chiavenna and surroundings, are

included. Otherwise, for all but the most common species, localities with altitude are enumerated: literature data first, followed by the author's own records. The latter correspond to field notes; voucher specimens, when they exist, are to be found in his personal herbarium. In the beautifully illustrated introductory general part, 40 localities of special interest and worthy of protected status are characterised. As an appendix, common names in local dialect are listed.

The Geneva Conservatoire Botanique's willingness to publish these valuable data, thus saving them from oblivion, is to be commended. W.G.

### Excursions

- 23. Ina DINTER ó Menorca.** Botanische Studienreise 25. Mai ó 5. Juni 2008. ó Privately assembled/duplicated, Ostfildern, 2008. 44 sheets + CD-ROM, maps, figures, colour photographs; paper, plastic front cover sheet.
- 24. Ina DINTER ó Slowenien.** Botanische Studienreise 22. Juni ó 3. Juli 2008. Nachbearbeitung. ó Privately produced, Ostfildern, 2008. [Offprint from CD-ROM] 47 pages, maps, figures, colour photographs.
- 25. Ina DINTER ó Andaluía.** Botanische Studienreise 25. März ó 8. April 2009. ó Privately assembled/duplicated, Ostfildern, 2009. 60 + [1] + XV sheets + CD-ROM, maps, figures, colour photographs; paper, plastic front cover sheet.
- 26. Ina DINTER ó Botanische Studienreise Insel Kos mit Tagesausflügen nach Kalimnos und Nisiros, 2. ó 13. Mai 2009.** Nachbearbeitung. ó Privately assembled/duplicated, Ostfildern, 2009. [2] pages + sheets 2-50 + CD-ROM, maps, figures, colour photographs; paper, plastic front cover sheet.

Should one try and make a map of Ina Dinterø's organised botanical travels to Mediterranean countries, the result would surely be impressive. Ever and again her natural curiosity drives her to visit new areas, first on her own and subsequently as leader of a small group of (invariably German) enthusiasts. She hardly ever retraces her steps, too many are, obviously, the remaining blanks in her experience. Even identical titles need not signify repetition: Of the two trips to Andalusia, the first in 2006 (OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (40-41). 2009) was to the western part while that of 2009 went to the east (Granada and Almería Provinces), so there was no overlap. Back from her Minorca tour she wrote me (I translate): "In 2008, with the trip to Menorca, we have brought to completion the excursions to the Balearic Islands. Off, then, to new horizons."

The two-step procedure in preparing the group travel and presenting its results has not varied from when I last described it (i.e., 2009), so I need not repeat myself. Let me point out that I did not see the preparatory version of the fourth item, and of the second I got only the CD-ROM from which to print off the reworked post-travel version. Increasingly, the CD is what really matters, because it also includes the photographic documentation. The latter is impressive indeed. Take the Andalusian trip as an example: 312 beautiful, technically perfect colour photographs, most of them highly resolved (3 to 4 MB), for a total size of 1 GB memory space. Some are of landscapes or monuments, but the vast majority are plant portraits, a whole series of them for each species, always with reference to a voucher specimen in Dinterø's personal herbarium (for many, duplicates were deposited in the Herbarium Mediterraneum, PAL-Gr). These photographs, taken together, represent a documentation of high scientific value and usefulness.

Lately I got a mild shock when learning that Ina Dinterø's latest travel led her far off

her usual tracks, to S America. Will she become unfaithful to her inveterate love for the Mediterranean? I hope not, and trust that the countries around the Mediterranean Sea still hold enough hidden treasures to keep her busy and fascinated for the whole of her lifetime. W.G.

### Chorology

**27. Xavier FONT I CASTELL & Josep VIGO I BONADA (ed.) ó Atlas corològic de la flora vascular dels Països Catalans. Volum 15 [ORCA: Atlas corològic, 15]. ó Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Secció de Ciències Biològiques, Barcelona, 2008 (ISBN 978-84-92583-25-6, volume; 978-84-7283-625-9, set). [590] pages, maps 3603-3878; paper.**

The present volume of this monumental chorological atlas (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (42). 2009) is predictably the penultimate for the dicots, after which only the monocots (3 or 4 volumes?) remain. It comprises 276 distribution maps, all of *Compositae* (*Pulicaria* to *Centaurea*, inclusive), in the order of the *Flora manual dels Països Catalans*. The tribes covered are *Inuleae* (second half: 11 species), *Heliantheae* (21), *Helenieae* (2), *Anthemideae* (73), *Senecioneae* (40), *Calenduleae* (1), *Arctoteae* (1), and most of *Cardueae* (126), with the following major genera: *Centaurea* (incl. *Cheirolophus*, *Cyanus*, and *Rhaponticoides*, 49 maps), *Senecio* (incl. *Jacobaea*, 29), *Artemisia* and *Cirsium* (18 each), *Carduus* (17), and *Anthemis* (incl. *Cota*, 13). W.G.

### Studies of Flora and Vegetation

**28. João Domingues de ALMEIDA ó Flora e vegetação das Serras Beira-Durienses. ó Universidade de Coimbra, Faculdade de Ciências e tecnologia, Coimbra, 2009.**

## Publications

889 pages; [1] + 4 + 16 + 11 + 15 + 13 + 16 + 11 + 10 + 8 + [1] + 7 + 18 + 25 + 3 + 16 + 2 + 3 + 8 + [1] + 59 + [1] + 11 sheets, maps, tables, 186 plates with 885 colour photographs; 2 paper bound volumes.

The two sizeable volumes presented here correspond to João Almeida's doctoral thesis. As its sheer bulk suggests: a truly impressive work. The author has explored the study area for 15 years, starting 1994, and even though it is quite large, he must obviously know it as well as his own pockets by now. Situated in the southern half of N Portugal, roughly speaking to the ESE of Oporto, it encompasses one fifth of the country's total mountain area above the 700 m contour line and pertains to the four provinces Beira Alta, Beira Litoral, Trás-os-Montes, and Douro Litoral. For the purpose of this study it has been subdivided into 7 discrete mountain massifs, or sierras. As the numerous (54!) new province records here documented demonstrate, it had not been explored very thoroughly before.

The first volume, being the thesis proper, is divided into 7 chapters, of which the third, on the vascular flora, is by far the largest. Almeida has collected an enormous amount of material, and also worked through all major Portuguese herbaria as well as the complete relevant literature. All these data are scrupulously cited here, with addition, as the case may be, of the main synonyms, Portuguese common names, indication of life form, habit, general distribution, and habitat, as well as critical observations. A summary of this material is provided in chapter VI (Conclusions), in the form of a table listing the 1235 wild taxa (species and subspecies) with their sierra-by-sierra distribution.

The second largest chapter (IV) concerns the vegetation in terms of sigmatistic plant communities, each characterised by apposite lists of characteristic and companion species. In chapter V (Biogeography) the limit be-

tween the Euro-Siberian and Mediterranean domain is discussed, and a tentative line is drawn to divide the western, Euro-Siberian from the eastern, Mediterranean portion of the study area. The last chapter, 65 pages of bibliographic references, is not the least impressive of the author's achievements.

For the average reader, the corollary material brought together in volume II will doubtless prove the most appealing, and most frequently consulted. It comprises two photographic supplements and two tabular annexes. The photo-documentation of the flora in the first supplement, in particular, should be of interest to many: On 104 tables, over 650 taxa (> 50 % of the total flora) are shown by means of 705 colour photographs. The but slightly smaller second supplement illustrates aspects of the vegetation on 82 plates with 180 photographs, grouped sierra-wise. There is one drawback with these supplements, trivial perhaps yet a real impediment: the incoherent, repetitive pagination which, together with the absence of any numbering, makes it virtually impossible to refer, to or look for, a given image. Indeed, the author has needs abstained from cross-referencing the illustrations from the main text, nor has he attempted to produce an index.

The two annexes are a surprising boon ó unexpected because outside the work's declared scope. The first is an updated checklist of the vascular flora of mainland Portugal, with reference to a basic source (mostly *Med-Checklist* or *Flora iberica* or Amaral Franco's *Nova Flora*) and indication of special status (alien, endemic). The second refers to the particular case of alien species and updates the last relevant list of Almeida & Freitas, of 2006. The species of Annex II are thus included in Annex I, but differently arranged and without some data fields (area of origin, growth form, year of first introduction). According to this census, the Portuguese mainland hosts a known vascular flora of 2996 indigenous and 632 alien taxa. W.G.

29. **Consuelo SANTA-BÁRBARA CARRAS-COSA & Benito VALDÉS CASTRILLÓN** ó **La flora y vegetación del Andévalo** (faja pirítica España-Portugal). **Guia da flora e vegetação do Andévalo** (faixa pirítica Espanha-Portugal). ó **Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía, Sevilla, 2008 (ISBN 978-84-96776-85-2).** 307 Pages, map, numerous colour photographs; hard cover.

What is Andévalo? As traditionally defined, both generally and in botanical literature (the classic *Flora de Andalucía occidental* and also item 21 above), it is a rural landscape in the Huesca Province of S Spain. For the purpose of the present book, however, it has been redefined: As the subtitle spells out, it is here taken to coincide with the S Iberian pyritic belt, of which the eastern half lies indeed in Spain but the western one in S Portugal. It is a lowland area (lands above the 400 m line have been excluded) with Mediterranean climate and vegetation, characterised by heavy mining activities in many places where ore (mainly copper and manganese) surfaces. Apart from agriculture, reforestation has played and still plays a major role, and not always a happy one. The forest services responsible have created major environmental problems by planting fast growing trees with high yield (pines and eucalypts), foreign to the area, with resulting soil impoverishment, multiplication of firebrands and proliferation of pests. Only in more recent years has a more sensible policy resulted in the spread of indigenous, slow-growing evergreen oaks.

This book, which is fully bilingual (Spanish and Portuguese), is popular in a most positive sense. As Cinta Castillo Jiménez, Andalusian Environment Councillor, aptly states in her introduction: People protect what they love, and they love what they know. Nothing could be better suited to spread knowledge, generate love and enhance conservation than a publication of this kind.

Including general chapters, informative but not overly long, on climate, geology, vegetation and land use, it presents as its core a good selection of the plants growing in the area: first the common and characteristic species, then the rare and threatened ones, each with a descriptive text, general information and mostly a colour photograph. These illustrations, of excellent quality, are obviously a major asset of the book, but would have benefited by the additional boon of some background information (captions are meagre or nil, and authorship is nowhere mentioned). The index to scientific names has a double function, as it is also a register of (Spanish and Portuguese) common names.

W.G.

30. **Josep VIGO I BONADA** ó **L'alta muntanya catalana. Flora i vegetació.** Segona edició, revisada. ó **Centre Excursionista de Catalunya & Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona, 2008 (ISBN 978-84-92583-24-9).** 443 pages, figures, colour photographs, maps; hard cover.

The original edition of Vigo's classic on the flora and vegetation of the high mountains of Catalonia, published in 1976, has met with great success and has been out of print for some time. That success was well deserved. The book's basic concept makes it most attractive for a wide range of users, amateurs, students, teachers and professional botanists alike. It is not, as the subtitle might suggest, the familiar bipartite treatise with a first half describing and classifying the vegetation, the second listing its species. It is indeed, refreshingly, devoid of phytosociological jargon, enumerations, and tables. Following introductory chapters on the landscape and plant cover of the high Catalan Pyrenees, the book is essentially devoted to describing physiognomic vegetation units and their characteristic constituent species: sub-alpine forest and its clearings; scrubland and

heath; tall-herb communities; meadows and pastures; brooks, springs, ponds and wetlands; alpine turf and snow-patch borders; rocks and scree; and ruderal sites. All these chapters are profusely illustrated, mainly with plant portraits: colour photographs by a variety of authors and line drawings by the (now deceased) Eugeni Sierra.

The new edition has changed but little in appearance and not at all in general style. The number of printed pages (+ 2) and figures (ó 1) has remained virtually identical, the drawings, with minor exceptions, have been maintained. There are a few maps that have been redrawn, and the numerous colour photographs, in their large majority, have been replaced by new ones that mostly show the same species. The list of references has of course been updated, and also the text itself when new results, including a few name changes, have made it necessary. The chapter that has changed most severely, was in fact almost totally rewritten, is the concluding one on the future of the Pyrenean flora and vegetation. Is it more optimistic now than then? In a way yes, indeed, because, even though the basic problems may remain, public awareness of and concern for our natural environment has tremendously increased during the last quarter of century. The present book, for sure, has aided significantly in this respect!

W.G.

**31. Josep A. CONESA I MOR & Joan PEDROL I SOLANES** *ó* **Plantes vasculares del quadrat UTM 31T CG36 Isona (Estanys de Basturs)**. [*ORCA: Catàlegs floristics locals*, 17.] *ó* Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Secció de Ciències Biològiques, Barcelona, 2008 (ISBN 978-84-92583-03-4). 87 pages, 2 tables, 7 maps and graphs; paper.

Three years after No. 16 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (45-46). 2009), one more booklet of the series documenting individual squares of the Catalonian chorological atlas

has appeared. It deals with a territory of medium altitude (between 440 and 1138 m), with an average-sized flora (762 vascular species), and lacking salient features except for two deep, round freshwater ponds, or rather wells, situated to the SE of the village Basturs. These two ponds are now placed in a protected area. With their clear oligotrophic, alkaline waters, as well as along their margins and on an adjacent flat wetland area that is temporarily flooded, they are home to a number of characteristic freshwater and marsh communities that are rare in Catalonia. W.G.

### Trees and Shrubs

**32. Joaquim SANDE SILVA** (ed.) *ó* **Guia de campo. As árvores e os arbustos de Portugal continental**. [*Árvores e florestas de Portugal*, 9]. *ó* Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento & Liga par a Protecção da Natureza, Lisboa, 2007 (ISBN 978-989-619-106-1). 462 pages, distribution maps, colour photographs; flexible cover.

This book was written by 27 Portuguese authors, mainly but not exclusively for a Portuguese readership. As the editor states, it is unprecedented in several respects, including the number of local botanists responsible for it (a merit which is not, unfortunately rewarded by giving individual credit to authors for their contribution; the 22 photographers fare better). It is also, it appears, the first book ever on the woody plants of Portugal. It presents accounts, almost all illustrated, for more than 400 different woody species; and for all the indigenous ones, it includes maps of Portuguese distribution, newly prepared on the basis of the holdings of the country's principal herbaria (excluding COI, temporarily inaccessible).

Along with all indigenous trees, and all shrubs that may grow to more of 50 cm tall,

the treatment also covers tree species that are widely planted for ornamental or forestry purposes (but not the fruit trees unless they tend to run wild). Descriptions of the included families are provided, together with a key to families and to genera, and species keys for the 13 genera with 4 or more species. There are some curious discrepancies between the species keyed out and the inventory of those present in the main text, where *Genista cinerascens*, *Acacia karroo*, and no less than 6 wild rose species are missing, as are *Salix caprea*, *S. fragilis* and *S. ×secal-liana* ó whereas conversely, *S. ×sepulchralis* is absent from the key. Family sequence follows that in APG II, hardly familiar to Portuguese readers used to the *Flora europaea* sequence, and perhaps irritating for them. In fact, I see no compelling need to have adopted a systematic sequence at all, when genera within families and species within genera were arranged alphabetically.

These are but minor qualms on a book that, all in all, is admirable. Clearly set out, tersely written, highly informative, well illustrated: these are its salient features. It will win many friends. W.G.

**33. Ignazio CAMARDA & Franca VALSECCHI ó Alberi e arbusti spontanei della Sardegna.** ó Carlo Delfino, Sassari, 2008 (ISBN 978-88-7138-489-4). 524 pages, distribution maps in colour, drawings, colour photographs; hard cover with dust jacket.

This is the second edition of a book in smaller format that was published in 1983, with the same title and authorship (see OPTIMA Newslett. 17-19: 41. 1985). It has now been rewritten in large parts, and much expanded. What remains are the basic concept and the drawings, which the authors themselves, remarkably skilled artists both of them, have contributed. The former rough contour maps of overall distribution have

been replaced by much more detailed maps of the wild occurrence in Sardinia. The authors repeatedly refer to the difficulty of drawing the line between wild (or óspontaneousö, which they use as a synonym) and autochthonous occurrence, especially for trees that are cultivated since antiquity. The walnut tree is a good example, of which native looking stands are found in the centre of the islands, and Pliocene fossil remains exist, yet it is impossible to know whether the present population derives directly from the Pliocene stock or has been reintroduced in Roman times after intervening extinction.

There is a wealth of discussions and data of this kind scattered throughout the book, concerning a variety of aspects. The list of local vernacular designations has been greatly expanded, with their place of origin added. Examples of large, old tree individuals have been added and documented photographically. Variation in critical groups is discussed, sometimes extensively (e.g. for deciduous oaks, of which only two species, *Quercus pubescens* and *Q. congesta*, are admitted as present). Many of the standard subheadings referring to phenology, distribution, ecology, uses in forestry, ethnobotany, etc., have seen their text expanded, and the photographic documentation, entirely renewed, was diversified. Mention is now made of exotic species that are widely planted in wild habitats, such as eucalypts and several conifers, although they have not been indexed (indexing of scientific names, erratic for all but the accepted ones, being a weak spot).

A word on coverage. All wild tree species are included, but not the dwarf shrubs, suffrutices and woody climbers, on which the authors published a separate book in 1990. In a few genera with large woody representatives, dwarf shrubs were nevertheless admitted, examples being *Prunus prostrata* and several *Genista* species. *Genista* is one of the botanical specialties of Franca Valsecchi, who described half a dozen species new to

science between 1984 and 1993. As a result, the number of treated brooms (13) has almost doubled as compared to the first edition. The observant reader will not that, on the other hand, some woody plants of fairly large dimensions have been tacitly omitted, in particular those of the genera *Rosa* and *Rubus*.

The authors were awarded an OPTIMA Silver Medal at the XIII OPTIMA Meeting in Antalya: a well deserved recognition of their beautiful and interesting new book. W.G.

- 34. Rosario SCHICCHI & Francesco Maria RAIMONDO ó I grandi alberi di Sicilia.** [*Collana Sicilia Foreste* (ISSN 1972-1641), s.n.]. ó Azienda Regionale Foreste Demaniali della Sicilia, Palermo, 2007. 312 pages, numerous colour photographs, cloth with dust jacket.

At the same time as the present, large volume a somewhat slimmer one was published by the same authors, on the monumental trees of the Madonie Mountains. Much of what I have written when reviewing it (in OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (53). 2009) also applies to this book, and rather than repeating it here I may simply refer back to it. The subject being the same except for the area covered, it is natural that the very same tree monuments should appear in both books, as is indeed the case in for couple of dozen of them. However, with a single exception, the photographs if equally splendid are different (and were indeed mostly taken by a different photographer).

Stocktaking of large, old trees worthy of conservation or monitoring has been going on in Italy since a first inventory was published in the early 1990s. At that time 1255 individuals had been registered, of which 230 for the whole southern portion of Italy. Today, thanks to a survey in Sicily undertaken in 2004, for that island alone 430 such venerable trees have been put on record. Their tabular inventory is here included, and a

selection of 100 of them is presented in detail, following the same pattern as in the Madonie book. The variety of coverage is remarkable, with 23 different genera: almond, ash, beech, birch, broom (of Mt Etna), carob, chestnut, cypress, fir, hackberry, hawthorn, holly, maple (two species), myrtle, oak (several taxa, including cork and helm oak), olive, pear, pine, pistachio (lentisk), poplar (aspen), strawberry tree, willow, and yew.

As in other Mediterranean regions, trees and forests in Sicily have been dramatically decimated during millennia. It is perhaps surprising that so many old veterans should have survived to the present day ó but is it really? The fact is that man, in a general way, respects and venerates old trees and will spare and protect them whenever possible. The conservation measures that are now proposed are new only in a formal way, in actual fact they have been tacitly observed for times immemorial. Some of the oldest trees have achieved legendary fame, the best known for Italy being a chestnut tree of Mt. Etna, said to be aged 3000 years. It has a stem circumference of 50 m and is called the Hundred-Horses Chestnut, the saga going that one-hundred horses and riders of Joan of Aragon's retinue, in a downpour, found shelter under its crown. W.G.

### **Applied Botany**

- 35. Paolo Maria GUARRERA, Fernando LUCHESE & Simone MEDORI ó *L'uso tradizionale delle piante nell'Alto Molise.*** Contributo alla conoscenza della flora d'Italia. ó Società Botanica Italiana, Firenze, 2009 (ISBN 978-88-85915-02-2). 127 pages, 2 maps, tables, colour photographs; paper.

Inventorying local traditions in rural area is an urgent task, as they are disappearing by the day. Traditional plant uses are



among those that deserve, and often receive, particular attention. The mountainous area to the north of Isernia Province in the western half of the region Molise were still virgin land for that kind of survey, which the authors conducted during two years, starting 2003, by means of personal interviews of groups or individuals. They harvested rich information, detailed and pleasantly illustrated in the present booklet. The fact that of their 18 main interview partners all but 4 were over 70 years old, and a single one under 50, demonstrates how rapidly time is running short for ethnobotanical studies. The seriousness and scientific rigour of the inquest is borne out by the fact that the plants discussed during the interviews, once identified, were preserved as vouchers, deposited in a herbarium in Rome (URT).

The results are summarised in tabular form. For each plant they include, apart from its uses proper (purpose, way of application, parts used), its name in Italian or dialect. A significant proportion of the recorded uses belong to the past and are no longer practiced today. The following main use categories are recognised: medicinal and cosmetic, including health food; veterinary; alimentary; storage and preservation; domestic and handicraft implements; magic and ritual (curiously, the single use surviving to the day is said to be by witches). Many species are used for multiple purposes, the most polyvalent being grapevine, followed in order by nettle, mallow, walnut, fir, garlic, and olive tree. W.G.

### Conservation Topics

**36. Gianluigi BACCHETTA, Álvaro BUENO SÁNCHEZ, Giuseppe FENU, Borja JIMÉNEZ-ALFARO, Effisio MATTANA, Beti PIOTTO & Myriam VIREVAIRE (ed.)** *ó* **Conservación *ex situ* de plantas silvestres.** *ó* Jardín Botánico Atlántico, Gijón, 2008. 375 pages, photographs (mainly in

colour), graphs, maps, tables; one CD-ROM; soft boards with cover flaps.

The first manual on *ex-situ* conservation written in Spanish is a remarkable book in many respects. Built upon an Italian forerunner of somewhat narrower scope, it has been written under the responsibility of an author collective of 33, representing four Mediterranean countries (Spain, Italy, France and Portugal), yet it is all but monolithic in style and presentation of contents. Obviously it is not, as is customary, an assemblage of individually authored texts but *ó* as the introduction confirms *ó* a kind of wiki-book that has grown gradually into its present shape through a process resembling nest-building by ants or termites. Only that, where ants and termites are supposed to have instinct to guide them, the book had editors at the helm. They did a superb job: congratulations.

As here understood, *ex-situ* conservation revolves entirely around gene banking. Living collections in botanic gardens are not taken seriously, it appears, and the role of gardens in cultivating threatened plants is seen entirely as an exercise of restoring to life the holdings of germplasm collections. When one accepts this limitation, one finds the book to be comprehensive in coverage and well balanced. Above all it is superbly referenced, with a 24-page cumulative list of cited literature at the end. The initial chapters deal with formal aspects such as legal structures, institutions and networks, priority definition and the like. The next four chapters refer to the work stages that precede the gene banking proper: important, too often neglected subjects such as population sampling, reproductive biology assessment, techniques of seed collecting and handling, and pre-storage treatment. Storage comes next, be it of seeds, propagules, spores, pollen or tissue, with an outlook on in-vitro culture and cryo-preservation. The largest chapter is on germination topics, and as a kind of outlook

collection management, including revival of the stored goods, is mentioned.

The field of gene-banking is very much alive and prospering. With all these ants or termites at work, might one not expect a new, updated nest soon to be built? Perhaps an updated edition in English? I would not be surprised. W.G.

**37. Juan Carlos MORENO SAIZ (coord.) ó Lista roja 2008 de la flora vascular española.** ó Sociedad Española de Biología de la Conservación de las Plantas, Madrid, 2008 (ISBN 978-84-691-7375-6). 86 pages, 34 colour photographs, 3 maps, 1 table; paper.

The precursor of the current Red List 2008 of the Spanish vascular flora was published 8 years before, in 2000. It mentioned 1149 taxa (species and subspecies), not counting 265 for which insufficient data were available. The IUCN threat categories defined in 1994, then valid, were redefined in 2001. The prior list, by consequence, had to be completely reworked, with risks reassessed: A tremendous task, to which a large number of Spanish botanists have contributed (an authorship of 71 and contributions from 107 additional persons are acknowledged).

The booklet is essentially bilingual (Spanish and English) and covers the whole Spanish territory, mainland and islands, including Ceuta and Melilla. Thanks to an astute presentation and colourful illustrations, it is less dry than one might expect from a condensed inventory of its kind. In going through a well designed question-and-answer game, you will learn, among other things, that the number of taxa threatened in Spain is now 1221 (up 72 as compared to the 2000 list), equivalent to almost 15 % of Spain's native vascular flora; to which 172 near threatened taxa (a new category) may be added. The number of data deficient taxa

(133) is down by one half, thanks among others to field investigations conducted on 551 taxa. Recorded extinctions (25) are up 20 %, even though 6 taxa previously considered extinct have revived (one due to successful reintroduction from stored germplasm, 5 through rediscovery of wild-growing individuals); of these, 15 survive outside of Spain and 4 in seed banks, but 6 are gone forever. The number of taxa newly added to the inventory is 197, while 40 of those formerly listed have been removed for various reasons, usually improved knowledge; whereas changes in risk category assessment for taxa appearing on both lists is almost balanced, with 229 upgrades against 220 downgrades. Last, unsurprisingly, the largest number of taxa at high risk is found in regions with highest local endemism: Andalusia (227) and the Canary Islands (247). W.G.

**38.** , (ed.)  
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, 2010 (-2009ø) (ISBN 978-960-9407-12-0). XXVI + 405, [11] + 413 pages, numerous colour and 2 black-and-white photographs, 302 maps, 4 tables; 2 hard cover volumes with dust jacket.

This sizeable and weighty twin volume has a second, English title page: *The red data book of rare and threatened plants of Greece*, edited by Dimitrios Phitos, Theophanis Constantinidis & Georgia Kamari; but as those unfamiliar with the Greek language will be disappointed to note, all of the contents bar the bilingual Foreword are in modern Greek. An English edition may be forthcoming in due course if funds can be found ó and it is very much to be hoped that this will indeed happen. If so, the work, one of the most brilliant and informative among the ever increasing number of excellent red

data books, will assuredly attract the wide international readership it deserves.

Actually, 15 years ago a similar book with the same (English) title was published, with the same principal editor (Phitos), dealing with an only marginally smaller number of plant species. The present twin volume, presenting 300 case studies, has almost twice as many pages as the earlier book ó such is the increase in useful information that has meanwhile accumulated. The two works do only partly overlap in content. Of the 300 entries in the present one, only 96 are updates from its forerunner (for 8 of which the name has changed), the others are totally new. By consequence, when using the books side by side, one finds information on 469 plant taxa (463 different species), about 8 % of the country's total flora.

As before, the plants are presented in alphabetic sequence of their names: initial A to D in the first volume, E to Z in the second. Each volume has its own reference list and table of contents, so that it can be used independently. As there are too many taxa worthy of presentation, a choice had to be made, which was presumably based at least in part on the availability of reliable information. Indeed, a single species (*Lathraea squamaria*) is qualified as 'data deficient' in terms of IUCN threat categories, the vulnerable taxa (nearly 60 %) being best represented. The remainder are either not threatened (near threatened) and a few (least concern), 15 % in all, (endangered) (20 %) or (critically endangered) (5 %). For the record, a single bryophyte (*Buxbaumia viridis*) and one fern (*Asplenium creticum*) have been included among the flowering plants. *Centaurea* (23 taxa) is by far the best represented genus, followed, surprisingly, by *Colchicum* (12), *Fritillaria* and *Campanula* (11 each).

Rich illustration with excellent colour photographs and informative, thoroughly updated dot maps showing the known Greek distribution are major assets of the work and

may be appreciated independently of language skills. Many of the plants treated are scarcely known, seldom collected, often recently described. Little if any reliable information on them can be found outside the pages of this work. For libraries specialised in the study of plant diversity and/or conservation topics, the books are an absolute must.

It is however obvious that this work has been written and printed primarily for the Greek market, and justifiably so. Of the 89 listed text authors, no less than 74 are Greek nationals and residents. Such a high participation by local, knowledgeable botanical enthusiasts would have been completely unthinkable some years ago, and it is both ingratiating and promising to see it happen. The Greek flora in its immense richness and value is exposed to many threats, less so perhaps than that of other countries where human impact on the environment is all-pervading, still strongly enough to cause urgent concern. The only promising way to safeguard this wealth for future generations is by understanding it with loving concern, and this must come from within. Greek people, for whom this book has been written, will hopefully stand together to fence off the crown jewels among their flora from thoughtless menace and devastating greed.

W.G.

**39. Tuna EK M ó Türkiye'nin nadir endemikleri. The rare endemics of Turkey.** ó Türkiye i Banka Kültür Yayınları, İstanbul, 2009 (ISBN 978-9944-88-648-2). XXVIII + 537 pages, 445 colour photographs and maps; hard cover.

In his introduction, Tuna Ekim invites the reader to read this book not like similar books published so far [because it] was planned as a summary of a wealth of stories. It is indeed, in several respects, unique. By its contents it fulfils the criteria of a red data book, being entirely devoted to the rare

endemic (and therefore by definition threatened) plants of a single country. The title wording has been taken very seriously, and plants that either were not Turkish endemics or not really rare were not admitted (some were even sifted out when, during the editorial process, they were discovered in some neighbouring country). Yet its spirit is not that of a red data book in so far as conservation needs are not directly addressed. No threat categories are assigned, no menaces detailed, no measures of protection advocated. Whereas the love of and concern for the marvellously rich Turkish flora transpires ever and again, it is not in the limelight. If conservation of Turkey's botanical wealth has been, as I believe, the main motive for publishing this book, then its author-editor has cleverly adopted a devious strategy: first to provide a solid basis for it. This volume is designed to strengthen the self-confidence of the growing army of Turkish botanists and to enhance the perception of this strength both within and outside the country.

There are literally hundreds of contributors to this book, all of them Turkish and mostly quite young (unfortunately a separate author index is missing). Some are amateur botanists, several teachers, most represent the new rising generation (and there are many more on the threshold, younger still, as the recent OPTIMA Meeting in Antalya has demonstrated). Following an appeal, the prospective contributors sent in their photographs and, if selected, a little text, often quite personally tinged. All this was organised, collated and edited by Ekim who, as an author, kept himself in the background. The photographs are perhaps not all up to professional standards, yet they were screened for quality and the poor ones eliminated. As published, each has as an inset a little map that gives the approximate position of their homeland (exact locality data were withheld for obvious reasons), and often a second inset showing general habit or a detail, as the case

may be. Four-hundred-forty-five plant taxa (444 different species) are thus treated, among which *Centaurea* s.l. forms the largest group (47 species, of which 10 are currently placed in *Psephellus*, 2 each in *Rhaponticoides* and *Cyanus*), followed by *Astragalus* (28) and *Verbascum* (22).

The book addresses a mixed audience and is therefore fully bilingual (Turkish and English). For the benefit of Turkish botanists, some basic information is given on the principles of botanical nomenclature and, for each plant, on the whereabouts of original material; also, all persons mentioned (authors, discoverers of species, persons honoured in epithets) are listed at the end, with life data. For the international readership, this is a unique anthology (in the word's literal meaning) of unique, virtually unknown and never before portrayed plants. W.G.

### Gardens and Gardening

**40. Giovanni PELINO ó Giardino della flora appenninica di Capracotta.** Guida e index seminum. ó Università degli Studi del Molise, Regione Molise, Provincia di Isernia, Comune di Capracotta, Comunità Montana Alto Molise [2009]. [1] + 41 pages, map, tables, colour photographs; paper.

Far off the beaten tracks, tucked away in the beech woods of the southern Apennine mountains, there is a little jewel of botanic garden. It is situated on the territory of Capracotta, Isernia Province (there are nice stories, too long to be told, on the origin of the village name, which means cooked goat), at 1525 m of altitude, and on its c. 10 hectares hosts 513 indigenous plant species, here tabulated in full. The guide booklet is not dated but came fresh from the printer when the Italian Botanical Society visited the Garden, in September 2009. It is nicely presented, with the Garden's *index seminum*

incorporated, and also draws attention to two recent institutions of interest, situated in Pesche (Isernia) and belonging to the University of the Molise Region: a germplasm collection, founded in 2005, and an herbarium, numbering 10,000 specimens, registered in 2005 as IS by *Index herbariorum*. W.G.

**41. Cristiano PONTECORVO (ed.) ó Guida dell'Orto Botanico di Cagliari.** ó Co-edited by Elmas, Cagliari, 2009 (ISBN 978-88-85966-59-8). 223 pages, 107 figures (partly colour photographs), 5 tables; paper.

Cagliari Botanic Garden is an area of 5 hectares situated in a valley bottom beside a Roman amphitheatre. Miraculously spared from urbanisation ó having been, in succession, Jesuite property, mulberry plantation, vineyard, hideout of an anti-royal conspiracy, and a place of ill fame when the owner, a conspirer, was caught and hanged ó it was acquired by Cagliari University in the 1850s and inaugurated in 1866 in its new function. Its collections are particularly rich in woody plants, said to number 400 specimens; and indeed, on pictures, the area looks almost completely wooded.

According to the preface, this is the first guide to the Garden since Gennari's of 1874 (The bibliography mentions a publication by Mossa & Del Prete, of 1992; but it is a chapter in a book, not a garden guide.) It follows an ambitious plan. In its core, it describes the Garden's main highlights in 37 chapters or legs. In addition, it includes quite ambitious general information on botany, in six appendices and listings, that make it look a kind of textbook for the self-taught layman. The subjects treated include elements of botanical anatomy, an introduction to life forms, an overview of botanical classification, a summary of legal instruments for the protection of plants, with a list of all protected or monitored taxa of the Sardinian flora, a glossary

of botanical terms, an extensive thematic bibliography and a list of useful Internet sources.

Text prevails, and illustrations are not as abundant and informative as one perhaps might wish. Yet the book, written by 10 authors (acknowledged in a general way but, unaccountably, not credited with the individual texts they have contributed), besides of being an invaluable source of historical data, will be used with profit by those who have the energy and perseverance to study it carefully. W.G.

### Bibliography and Biography

**42. Hans Walter LACK ó Franz Bauer.**

The painted record of nature. ó Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, 2008 (ISBN 978-3-902421-30-2). 130 pages, frontispiece + 59 figures in colour; hard cover.

Much has been written on the Bauer brothers, Franz and Ferdinand, yet to date there was no book on the former's biography. Walter Lack was the man best qualified to write it, and so he did. As is the case of all his books, this volume is not only carefully researched, based on a wealth of both published and archival material; it is also lively written, full of original, anecdotic details, and of course it is extremely well and generously illustrated. One more among Lack's milestone books along the path back to our discipline's sources.

Franz (1758-1840) and Ferdinand (1760-1826), two of seven brothers and sisters, shared many life history traits. Born in Moravian Feldsberg, an estate of the Princes of Liechtenstein, both were formed in their artistic skills by prior Norbert Boccus, and as a part of that formation, they together painted more than half of the 2750 plant portraits of the famous óCodex Liechtensteinö (see OPTIMA Newslett. 35: (29-30). 2000). Both were then taken into custody by

Jacquín in Vienna, where they perfected their skills by frequenting the Academy of Fine Arts while contributing to illustrate of some Jacquín's famous books. Both were lured away from the continent by the English (Ferdinand by John Sibthorp, Franz by Joseph Banks) and were to be residents of the London area for the better part of their lives. And of course, first and foremost: Both were, in the domain of biological illustration, among the most genial artists ever.

There are differences, of course. Ferdinand was a great traveller and based a major part of his work on sketches made in the field, first in Greece with Sibthorp (1784-1787) then, sent by Banks on Captain Flinders' expedition, in Australia with Robert Brown and alone on Norfolk Island (1801-1805); he was never content with Britain, which he left in 1814 to spend the rest of his days in congenial Vienna. Franz was definitely the sedentary type. His only major travel was with the younger Jacquín, from Vienna through Germany and the Low Countries to England where he was to set roots. By consequence, contrary to his brother, he never took to landscape painting. He did, however, specialise in the illustration of anatomical, often microscopic details, and his illustration of dissected plant organs and also of the anatomy and embryology of animals (including *Homo sapiens*) are of the finest. Of the two, it was Franz who achieved fame not only as an artist but a scientist, elected to fellowship of the Linnean Society of London in 1804 and of the Royal Society in 1821 and publishing a number of scientific papers and works under his own name.

The book narrates Franz Bauer's life and portrays his personality in 14 self-contained chapters, comparable to paintings in a gallery or panels of an exhibition. It is a lively, well readable presentation, avoiding the pitfalls of a scholarly linear account and exempt of schoolmasterly dryness. Illustration does much to further enliven it, and not

only that: It is an important documentation based on scarcely known material. Only a tiny fragment of Bauer's drawings and paintings were published by him. Most of his work exists in original only, for the greatest part in the Bauer Unit at the Natural History Museum in London, then also in Vaduz, Göttingen, Vienna, Berlin, and elsewhere. The 58 plates reproducing Bauer's artwork draw on all these sources and by themselves are reason enough to treasure the present book, which also exists, I am told, in a German edition (ISBN 978-3-902421-28-9).

W.G.

### History and Arts

**43. Suzanne AMIGUES ó Théophraste. Recherches sur les plantes.** A l'origine de la botanique. ó Belin, Paris, 2010 (ISBN 978-2-7011-4996-7). XIII + 414 pages, 908 colour photographs, 1 facsimile; flexible cover with cloth spine.

Suzanne Amigues, professor of Ancient Greek at Montpellier University, is probably the best expert ever of Theophrastus' writings. She has performed a complete French translation of all nine books of his principal work, *Histories of plants*, published in a bilingual, critically annotated edition of five volumes between 1988 and 2006. For classical scholars, and for botanists with a historical interest and classical background, this is the definitive source. But it is dry reading but for the most imaginative.

Her new work now opens the window for a whole new category of readers. The transcribed Greek original is dispensed with. The French translation, however, is republished integrally, with the notes rewritten and reduced to the explanation of the plants mentioned, their identities and interpretations. Above all, it is embellished with more than 900 colour photographs, most by the author herself. And, wondrously: The world of old

Theophrastus is resurrected. You can see through his eyes, smell with him the fragrances of the Aegean lands, observe his objects and try to understand them under his expert guidance. A long buried cornerstone of our discipline, again, has tangibly come to life.

The *Histories* have not been written in elaborate style, they were never meant to be a sophisticated literary product. You may perceive them as a textbook, some would even say an assemblage of lecture notes, and bear witness of Theophrastus' botanical teaching when he was head of the Lyceum that his mentor Aristotle had founded in Athens and may be regarded as the world's intellectual navel of the time. Yet these lectures, even then, were so influential that the *Histories* were among the very few of the master's recorded works to have survived, in an appreciable number of copies. Of the universal genius and all-embracing philosopher that Theophrastus must have been, what is left to us and has impinged on modern thought is his fathering of botanical science. And indeed, plants must have been the A and O of his life, from childhood on his native island of Lesbos through his apprenticeship with Aristotle (the father of zoology and biological classification) to his mature glory as a teacher and intellectual leader. He was the one to transform science from a philosophy centred on deductive speculation into a discipline based on the observation and explanation of facts; he is the inventor of the term and notion of ecology; and he was Linnaeus's forerunner in sending out people to explore the world for him near and far, the famous example being a group of scientific recorders headed by Callisthenes, appointed to accompany Alexander the Great (Aristotle's pupil, remember) on his big Asian campaign.

The *Histories* are, at their core, an encyclopaedic treatise of incipient botanical knowledge of the ancient world, a mixture of autoptic observation and carefully recorded

information received from emissaries. The fact is that Theophrastus mentions or describes over 500 different, interpretable plants in his writings, and that Suzanne Amigues stands for their considered, correct or at least plausible interpretation in modern botanical terms. Had she only provided an index to Latin plant names along with that of French common names, her book would be perfect. Perhaps I will, some day, compile such an index on my own.

W.G.

#### 44. Hans Walter LACK ó Ein Garten Eden.

Meisterwerke der botanischen Illustration. **Garden of Eden.** Masterpieces of botanical illustration. **Un Jardin d'Eden.** Chefs-d'œuvre de l'illustration botanique. **Revised edition.** ó Taschen, Hong Kong etc., 2008 (ISBN 978-3-8365-0302-0). 576 pages, frontispiece + 483 facsimile plates in colour or half-tint; hard cover with dust jacket.

The original edition of the present book (see OPTIMA Newslett. 36: (39-40). 2002) was published in 2001 on the occasion of the Austrian National Library's homonymous millennium exhibition. Both the event and the book met with astounding success, and the latter, although reprinted, soon went out of stock. Even so it is unusual that an exhibition catalogue be reissued long after the event. The present one is an exception, which proves that, rather than a mere guide to the show, it is a work with its own, independent standing.

Exactly 100 items, shown in the exhibition, are presented in the book. From each, one to several illustrations were reproduced, mostly on a full page, more rarely two per page. The explanatory text is entirely trilingual (German, English and French). None of these points has changed in the new edition, which up to the end of the main portion is identical, in contents and pagination, to the prior one. For further details, may I thus

refer to my full review of the latter, cited above.

This book is more, however, than a slightly updated reprint. For one, the format has been enlarged, much to the benefit of the reproductions, and the binding is stronger to account for the increased weight. Second, some additions were made toward the end: a new Postface, several updates to the Bibliography, and a complete overview of the exhibited works, with shelf marks and references. A third improvement of note is the addition of plant identifications to the table captions: modern Latin names (fully indexed) and, whenever available, German, English and French common names (not indexed). If in 2002 I had noted the absence of such identifications, I now see my admonishment, if it was one, taken into account. The task, especially with some of the older plant representations that are rough, stylised or inaccurate, was not an easy one, but has been well achieved. (For an exception, let me note that the so-called *Cephalanthera rubra*, on p. 67, is in fact *Platanthera chlorantha*.) W.G.

### **Herbaria and Libraries**

**45. Hervé Maurice BURDET ó Collections de Candolle. Catalogue des collecteurs botaniques**, une documentation. [Alternative title on cover: **Collecteurs de Candolle (DVD)**]. ó Privately published, Carouge, 2008. XLVI + 466, XI + 238, xix + 621 pages, 238 portraits, 621 handwriting facsimiles; 3 volumes (available on DVD only).

An extraordinary publication! After a labour of 30 years, during much of which he was responsible for the library and archives of the Geneva Conservatoire botanique, Hervé Burdet has released to the public his compendium of collectors represented in the Candolle herbaria. The text, consigned on a DVD, is formatted in such a way as to be

ready for print. It consists of 3 bulky volumes: the first of text, the second of portraits, and the third of samples of handwriting in facsimile.

The central source of this inventory is the handwritten registry of incoming material that was kept by the Candolle family over a period of 120 years, take or leave a few. This source has doubtless some gaps, inaccuracies or inconsistencies, but is nevertheless a document of extraordinary value. The elder Candolle, when back in Geneva from Montpellier in 1818, sat down and completed the first portion of it from memory, quantifying in terms of specimen numbers the individual items (some accessions, as Candolle stated in an added note, might have been left out altogether). From there on, entries were more consistent if a times somewhat irregular. The final total of the inventory, at the death of the last Candolle botanist (Richard Emile Augustin, Å1920), was but a trifle short of 400,000 specimens.

To fully understand the nature and coverage of Burdet's inventory one has to acquaint oneself with the history of the herbaria now at Geneva, which is set out tersely yet comprehensively in the highly informative introductory chapter. In short, as should be generally known, there were two separate herbaria owned by the Candolles: the first containing the materials they had received before completion of the relevant volume of the *Prodromus* and *Monographiae*, the second with the specimens that were either received afterward or pertain to families of which no treatment was ever published (most monocots and all gymnosperms and cryptogams). The first herbarium is kept permanently separate as the *Prodromus Herbarium*, to be cited as G-DC, and is for the most part available on microfiche (note, however, that the material corresponding to the *Monographiae* was for the most part not photographed). The second herbarium was not kept as a separate unit but integrated with



the general herbarium (G). As a result, accessions that reached the Candolle family after 1824, when publication of the *Prodromus* started, are now to be found, partly in G-DC and partly in G. As a natural consequence, the present inventory covers both.

The Candollesø herbarium register can be seen as the backbone of the present inventory, but much flesh has built around it. (It is perhaps more accurate to say that some of the flesh originated way before the backbone was built in.) By flesh, I mean the note files built by Burdet over the decades, derived from herbarium specimens, stray publications, and the immense correspondence of the Candolles kept in the Geneva archives. From the latter, the handwriting samples published in volume 3 are taken (although I note that at least some of the letters were addressed to Barbey, owner of the Boissier Herbarium, and its keeper Autran). It is a pity that no handwritten labels have been reproduced along with the letters, as the writing on these, of which the authorship is often crucially important, often differs substantially from that which appears in correspondence.

A few more words on the text volume. As I have mentioned, it starts with an introductory chapter on the history of the Geneva herbaria. What I have not made sufficiently clear, is the importance of this chapter in a general way, beyond the immediate Candollean context. Whoever is interested in the history of botanical collections and collecting will find Burdet's historical introduction to be fascinating reading. Let me just mention a selection from the subjects covered, drawn from Burdet's own subtitles: the pre-Linnean collections at Geneva and their supposed links with the Burmans; the Sessé and Moçiño saga and the role in it of the òladies of Genevaö; the chaotic sale of the Lambert collections; the background of early botanical or scientific societies such as the òUnio itinerariaö, the Société Philomatique, and the Société d'Arcueil, the three Saint-Hilaires,

and the voyage in search of La Peyrouse. Beyond the introduction, volume 1 assembles biographical data on all relevant collectors, with as much information as available on the number, provenance, and accession date(s) of the specimens. Needless to say, the question of accession dates is often crucial when one wants to find out whether plants sent to Candolle by the authors of new species are or are not part of the original material.

This work ought to have been published as hard copy in the first place. The text on the DVD mentions the printing, in December 2008, of a limited number (10!) copies at a specified printer in Carouge, and even their prospective addressees. That edition, unfortunately, failed to be produced, and if any hard copy should exist in some place, it would be an ad-hoc offprint from the DVD. It is shameful that no publisher should have taken an interest, not even the Conservatoire botanique which ought to be immediately interested in diffusing a work that was written on its premises and concerns its own holdings. For the time being and until further notice, only the DVD edition of the work is available, which was privately published by the author in 100 copies (assuming these not to be phantoms, too). W.G.

### Festschrifts

46. & (ed.) ó

80- . **Collection of papers devoted to Academician Kiril Micevski** on the occasion of the 80 years of his birth. ó  
 , 2007 (ISBN 978-9989-101-80-9).  
 347 pages, drawings, graphs, maps, graphs, photographs (several in colour); soft boards with cover flaps.

This is a posthumous homage to the great Macedonian botanist Kiril Micevski, who had died in 2002, aged 75 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (65). 2009). It begins with a laudatio by Vlado Matevski (in Macedonian and English), with lists of Micevski's publications and of the 47 species and 55 vegetation units described and named by him. A short biography by Ernest Mayer, similarly bilingual (Slovenian and Macedonian) follows. The main body of the volume consists of 16 scientific papers written either in English with Macedonian summary (9) or, conversely, in Macedonian with an English summary (7). They concern a wide range of disciplines: floristics and chorology, vegetation sciences, karyotaxonomy, mycology, aeropalynology, bioindication, limnology, and pedology. Two new associations and two subassociations are described, as well as one species (*Festuca jakupicensis*) and two formae new to science (in *Cerastium banaticum*, where two new combinations at that rank are also made). Particular genera dealt with include *Crocus*, *Onobrychis*, and *Scorzonera*.

The volume is a worthy tribute to Micevski's memory: interesting in contents, nicely printed, and with good international participation from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovenia, and even Germany. W.G.

### Reprints

**47. Arne STRID & Barbro STRID ó Sibthorp & Smith, *Flora graeca* volumes 1-2, 1806-1816.** Annotated re-issue. ó Gantner, Ruggell FL, 2009 (ISBN 978-3-906166-70-4). XV + 412 pages, 202 colour plates, maps; hard cover with dust jacket.

The history and background of Sibthorp's *Flora graeca*, published in ten folio

volumes by Smith then Lindley between 1806 and 1840, are well known. Arguably the most costly botanical publication ever, illustrated from Ferdinand Bauer's superb paintings by using the most sophisticated print technique of the time, initially printed in a mere 40 copies, this splendid work has also great scientific importance as one of the early sources for the botany of Greece and neighbouring countries. All this is narrated in great detail in Lack's masterly book, *The Flora Graeca Story*, that I have presented earlier in this column (see OPTIMA Newslett. 34: (22-23). 1999) and on which the introduction to the present re-issue is largely based.

Five volumes are planned in this new editions, pair-wise to include the plates of the ten original ones. The plates only, unfortunately: The text is not being reprinted. It is to be made available, so we are promised, in the form of a CD-ROM once the re-issue is complete, and I look forward for this to happen (even though by then, doubtless, the books will have been made available online). As a placeholder for the original text Arne Strid has supplied his own, which for those species occurring in Greece is complemented with a dot map of the Greek distribution, generated from the öFlora hellenica databaseö. These are new, informative items, especially as Strid undertakes to critically identify the plants of Sibthorp's Flora in terms of modern classification and nomenclature. Also, he often mentions obvious errors in the alleged provenance of Sibthorp's plants.

The plate reproductions, based on old Kodachrome slides transformed into digital images then painstakingly cleaned with the aid of Photoshop software, are perhaps not quite as convincing as a new scan using today's technology might have been, but are nevertheless surprisingly good. Unfortunately they lack indication of the scale of reduction which, we are told, is not uniform. The major weak point I must mention is the identifica-

tion of the plants. In some cases, it is obvious from the author's own comments that he does not use the appropriate name but a synonym: *Salvia horminum* (plate 20) is correctly named *S. viridis*, *Aegilops caudata* (plate 95) is *A. markgrafii*, *Scabiosa sibthorpiana* (plate 110) is *Tremastelma palaestinum*, *Crucianella monspeliaca* (plate 140) is *C. latifolia*. More serious are actual errors of identification, of which I have made out at least three: *Anchusella variegata* (plate 178) is not that species but a colour variant of the related *A. cretica*, and was not found in Crete or on any Aegean island but perhaps in the Patras area of the Peloponnese, or else on Corfu; *Convolvulus lineatus* (plate 199) is misnamed and in fact represents *C. oleifolius*, a common species in Greece, mapped overleaf (on p. 402); and *C. cneorum* of plate 200, interpreted as *C. oleifolius*, is correctly identified in the original but was reported from Samos in error or it can have been found on either Sicily or some Adriatic island of Croatia. W.G.

### Congresses and Meetings

**48. Fabio GARBARI & Gianni BEDINI (ed.)** *Proceedings of the XII OPTIMA Meeting*, Pisa, 10-16 September 2007. [*Bocconea* (ISSN 1120-4060), **23.**] or Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum, Palermo, 2009. 487 pages, tables, maps, illustrations; paper.

The proceedings volume of the 2007 OPTIMA Meeting in Pisa, edited by the Meeting's local organisers, took two years to be published or less than has often been the case on earlier occasions. As has become customary, the Herbarium Mediterraneum in Palermo has generously offered its monograph series, Bocconea, to host the proceedings. Compared to previous volumes of its kind, this one, with its 46 papers (13 corresponding to lectures and 33 to poster presen-

tations), is relatively slim. Presumably due, at least in part, to strict peer review, two thirds of the scientific contributions presented at Pisa are absent. Even so, the volume gives a fair if streamlined impression of the manifold interests and activities of OPTIMA's membership. W.G.

**49. [Tuna EK M] (ed.)** *XIII OPTIMA Meeting*, March 22-26 2010, Antalya/Türkiye. *Proceedings* or [istanbul], 2010. 183 pages; paper.

Contrary to what the title implies, this is the book of abstracts of the XIII OPTIMA Meeting. Following a tabular presentation of the Meeting programme are 199 abstracts of lectures (55) and posters (144) that were presented. The proceedings will be published as a volume of Bocconea. W.G.

**50. Piera DI MARZIO, Paola FORTINI & Stefania SCIPPA** *104° Congresso Nazionale della Società Botanica Italiana onlus. Le scienze botaniche nella cultura e sviluppo economico del territorio. Riassunti delle comunicazioni e dei poster.* or Università degli Studi del Molise & Società Botanica Italiana, Campobasso, 2009 (ISBN 978-88-96394-00-7). 309 pages; paper.

The annual congress of the Italian Botanical Society was structured into 6 symposia, with 39 invited lectures, and a large number of poster presentations allotted to one of 18 thematic groups. The main symposium themes were, in very free translation: plants in human culture, the Global Conservation Strategy, flora writing in Italy, progress in lichenology, new botanical techniques, and vegetation history. Among the poster groups, those prevailing numerically were, in order: applied botany, biosystematics, conservation, floristics, and ecology. The abstracts received by the deadline and here published are

286, corresponding to 38 lectures and 248 posters. W.G.

**51. Simonetta PECCENINI & Giannantonio DOMINA** (ed.) *6 Società Botanica Italiana, Gruppo per la Floristica. Gruppi critici della flora d'Italia. Comunicazioni.* *6 Dipartimento di Scienze Botaniche dell'Università di Palermo, 2009* (ISBN 978-88-903108-2-9). 54 pages; paper.

Twenty-three short papers (of mostly 2 printed pages) presented at a meeting on critical groups of the Italian flora are included. The Meeting took place at the Plant Biology Department of Rome University on 30 and 31 October 2009. The papers deal with generic relationships of *Alyssum*, *Chenopodium*, and *Polygonum*, and with members of the genera *Allium*, *Cerastium*, *Crupina*, *Dianthus*, *Doronicum*, *Erysimum*, *Festuca*, *Paeonia*, *Primula*, *Pyrus*, *Romulea*, *Rubus*, and *Vulpia*. New names and combinations are proposed in *Acer*, *Acinos*, *Euphorbia*, *Helichrysum*, *Logfia*, *Muscari*, *Myosotis*, *Pimpinella*, *Senecio*, and *Silene*. W.G.

**52.** . . . , . . . & -  
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 . . . , 2008. 444 pages, tables, black-and-white illustrations; paper.

This is the Proceedings volume of an international conference held in October 2008, in Erevan, on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Botanical Institute and Botanic Garden of the National Academy of Sciences

of the Armenian Republic and of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of academician V. O. Kazarian. It comprises 111 short papers, some in English but most in Russian, exceptionally in Armenian, all with English title and abstract. Subject coverage is wide but, in spite of Kazarian being a plant physiologist, not mainly physiological. The introductory papers are overviews of the historical development of botanical sciences in Armenia. They are followed by contributions to plant morphology, taxonomy and conservation, studies of flora and vegetation, ecophysiology and biotechnology, plant resources and introduction, forestry, etc. The geographical focus is on Armenia, Russia, Ukraine and the Baltic Countries. Plant families referred to specifically include *Chenopodiaceae*, *Compositae*, *Gramineae*, *Malpighiaceae*, *Orchidaceae*, and *Umbelliferae*; and as to genera, aspects of *Achillea*, *Astragalus*, *Colchicum*, *Crataegus*, *Dichondra*, *Diospyros*, *Falkia*, *Hemerocallis*, *Lathyrus*, *Olea*, *Papaver*, *Pulsatilla*, *Punica*, *Rhododendron*, *Staphylea*, and *Vaccinium* are dealt with. W.G.

### New Journals

**53. Boletín Micológico de FAMCAL.** Una contribución de FAMCAL a la difusión de los conocimientos micológicos en Castilla y León. Nos. **1-4** (ISSN 1886-5984). Federación de Asociaciones Micológicas de Castilla y León (FAMCAL), Salamanca, 2006-2009. 192 + 192 + 159 + 155 pages, figures, colour photographs, maps, graphs, tables; paper.

Local mycological associations, even discounting informal groupings, presently proliferate in Spain, especially in the northern part of the country where macrofungi, including edible ones, abound and are increasingly popular. Federations of such associations exist, if not yet on a national or pen-

insular level, at least in Catalonia, the Basque country, Asturias, and Castile & León. The latter, with which we are dealing here, is known under the acronym FAMCAL. In 2006 when it started publishing its own journal it had 16 member associations but now, four years later, they are already 26, representing all nine provinces of the northern half of the Spanish interior: a phenomenal growth rate indeed.

It is a safe bet that much of this extraordinary growth is due to the journal itself, an achievement FAMCAL can be proud of. Elegant in its makeup, with abundant, remarkably good photographic illustration in colour printed on high quality paper, it is pleasant to look at in the first place. More importantly, the interest and quality of its contents match the good looks. Allowing for the fact that, in the obvious effort to fulfil readership expectations, the journal also includes some housekeeping items (meeting notices, short notes, some book reviews, even a couple of poems), it is for the most part made of original scientific papers on basic and applied mycological subjects. Local revisions of critical genera, presentation of rare and little known species (some first records for Spain), ecological and conservational topics predominate; there is even an article on to fungi from Israel. So far, only macro-fungi are apparently dealt with ó but decidedly not with a culinary bias! Every paper is preceded by an abstract and keywords in (at least) Spanish and English. W.G.

**54. Bulletin of the Natural History Museum in Belgrade.** Volume 1 (ISSN 1820-9521). Natural History Museum Belgrade, Beograd, 2008. 254 pages, black-and-white illustrations, tables; paper.

The journal *Glasnik Prirodnja kog Muzeja u Beogradu, Serija B, Biolo-ke Nauke*, was last published in 1998 (with

volume 49/50), then discontinued. Publication has now resumed under an English title (instead of the French alternative title of the original run), with a new numbering. The two former series (there was also *Seriya A, Geolo-ke Nauke*, which included palaeontological subjects) have been merged but still form separate sections. All papers are peer-reviewed, written in English, headed by an English abstract and followed by a summary in Serbian. Botany, with two papers (plus a palaeobotanical one) out of 15, is rather underrepresented ó a deficit hopefully to be compensated in future volumes. W.G.

**55. Pulse.** News from the Linnean Society of London ó a living forum for biology. No. 1 (ISSN 1759-8036). Linnean Society of London, London, 2009. 8 pages, colour illustrations; no cover.

With *Pulse*, the Linnean Society of London offers itself and to its fellows no less than the fifth current regular publication, in addition to its three standard scientific *Journals* and *The Linnean*. The word News in the subtitle suggests a newsletter for the membership, which in a way it obviously is; but rather than a mere news bulletin it is also meant to host articles on scientific topics.

The name *PuLSe* is not explicitly explained, but by inference the letters LS stand for the Linnean Society, and pulse might rather suggest the pulse of time than a legume crop (after all, the logo chosen represents *Linnaea*, not *Lens*). Indeed, the articles published so far excel by treating themes of actuality, and though it may be pretentious to judge, *Pulse* does apparently set itself off against *The Linnean* (subtitled 'Newsletter and Proceedings') by being forward-looking rather than retrospective. Publication is quarterly, and up to the present (N° 6, April 2010) the issue size is a regular 8 pages. W.G.

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

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