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OPTIMA *Newsletter*

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

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

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Editors: G. Domina and W. Greuter

Layout: M.J. Albert

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F. M. Raimondo & W. Greuter (eds.) *Flora Mediterranea* and *Bocconeae* 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 *Bocconeae* is devoted to monographic subjects:

- Vol. 1: Results of the First "Iter Mediterraneum" in south-eastern Spain, June-July 1988.
- Vol. 2: A check-list of Sicilian fungi.
- Vol. 3: Results of the Second "Iter Mediterraneum" in Israel, March-April 1989.
- Vol. 4: Current research on the biology of threatened plant species of the Mediterranean Basin and Macaronesia: a database.
- Vol. 5: Proceedings of the VII OPTIMA Meeting in Borovetz, 18-30 July 1992, (I and II).
- Vol. 6: Contributions towards a checklist of Mediterranean Lichens (out of print).
- Vol. 7: Proceedings of the Workshops on "Conservation of the Wild Relatives of European Cultivated Plants".

- Vol. 8: Catalogue des plantes vasculaires rares, menacées ou endémiques 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 official 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: Proceedings 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: Proceedings 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: Proceedings of the XII OPTIMA Meeting Pisa, 10-16 September 2007.
- Vol. 24: Proceedings of the XIII OPTIMA Meeting Antalya, 22-26 March 2010.
- Vol. 25: Results of Seventh "Iter Mediterraneum" in Peloponnese, Greece, May to June 1995.
- Vol. 26: Results of fifth "Iter Mediterraneum" in Morocco, 8-27 June 1997.

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

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O P T I M A N E W S

by Gianniantonio Domina

OPTIMA Newsletter n° 42 continues the standard followed in the previous issues. The Newsletter is divided into two parts, the first with the News and the second with the Notices of Publications. The first section regarding news has become gradually thinner due to the fast and cheap channel represented by e-mail. The news here reported are only those that it makes sense to also produce as hard copy.

Short news from OPTIMA Commissions are included, limited to those that reported activity in 2013, 2014 and beginning of 2015.

SECRETARIAT

2014. The Secretariat kept OPTIMA's and the accounts of the Publications, Itinera Mediterranea and Prize Commissions. 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. The secretariat, since September 2013, implements the spread of information on OPTIMA activities by means of the OPTIMA Web Pages. The Website News section, and regular e-mailing, were the most used ways to communicate with OPTIMA members.

DEATHS

Prof. Elias Landolt (Zurich, Switzerland), died 1 April 2013.

Prof. Sven Snogerup (Lund, Sweden), died 27 August 2013.

Dr Wolfgang Ludwig (Marburg, Germany), died 11 October 2013.

Prof. Gérard Aymonin (Paris, France), died 7 May 2014.

Dr Helmut Baumann (Böblingen, Germany), died 15 May 2014.

Prof. Asuman Baytop (Istanbul, Turkey), died 18 February 2015.

UPDATES ON COMMISSIONS

During the last OPTIMA Meeting, held in Palermo, the 9-15 September 2013, there was a reorgani-

zation of the Commissions in order to better adapt the coordination activities to the new research trends. With this in, for the period 2013-2019, two new Commissions were created: *Commission for Common Names* and *Commission for DNA Banking*. The *Commission for Threatened plant* was renamed *Commission for the conservation of Economically important and Endemic Plants* to better stress the main focus of its researches. The *Commission for Floristic Investigation* was renamed *Itinera Mediterranea Commission*. The *Commission on Mediterranean Herbaria* was renamed *Commission on Mediterranean Type Material* due to the large effort that, in these years, are done in finding the original material of the names Mediterranean of plants. The *Herbarium Mediterraneum Commission* was renamed *OPTIMA Herbarium and Library Commission* to stress the expansion of its activities to the newly established library adjoining the *Herbarium Mediterraneum* in Palermo. The *Publications Commission* and the *Web Commission* were suppressed because their activities were taken over by the Secretariat.

HERBARIUM AND LIBRARY COMMISSION COMMISSION

In 2013 and 2014 the Herbarium Mediterraneum published the 23th and 24th volumes of Flora Mediterranea, that were distributed to the regular members of OPTIMA free of charge. Since 2012 Flora Mediterranea publishes articles with DOI (Digital Objects Identifier) with the final pagination as soon as they are ready and it is indexed on *Scopus* (<http://www.scopus.com>), *BIOSIS Previews* (<http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/>), *Google scholar*

(<http://scholar.google.com/>) and *SCIMAGO*
(<http://www.scimagojr.com/>).

The volume of *Bocconea* 26 by B. Valdés with the results of fifth "Iter Mediterraneum" in Morocco, 8-27 June 1997 was published in September 2013.

ITINERA MEDITERRANEA COMMISSION

The Commission, together with ATUTAX (The Tunisian Association of Taxonomy), has organized the 12° *Iter Mediterraneum* in the North of Tunisia from 24th April to 5th May 2014. A total of 10 foreign and 12 local botanists, sorted in three groups, participated to this mission. In this way 4 foreign and 8 Tunisian junior botanists had the possibility to join the 10 senior botanist in the field work. On the whole 1374 accession numbers were collected, see the report below for further information.

FUNGI COMMISSION

The OPTIMA Commission on fungi is going to submit two abstracts for the next 17th Congress of European Mycologists that will be held in Madeira (Portugal) from September 21st, 2015 to September 25th, 2015. One abstracts concern researches carried out by the Commission on Fungi on local names attributed to wild edible mushrooms in different countries. The second abstract summarize the activities planned by the OPTIMA Commission on Fungi during 2013-2019.

LICHEN COMMISSION

In 2015, from 15-24 June a together with the Young Biologists Association NGO (www.yba.am) the first "OPTIMA Iter Lichenologicum" was organized in Armenia. The aim is to study the lichen diversity of the Khosrov Forest State Reserve and of other areas in Armenia. The results will be spread by OPTIMA.

X I I O P T I M A I T E R 2 0 1 4

FIRST GENERAL REPORT

by Pedro Escobar García

The Natural History Museum of Vienna, Austria. Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna, Austria. Email: pedro.escobar.garcia@univie.ac.at

The XII Iter Mediterraneum of OPTIMA 2014 (April 24th – May 5th, 2014) brought us to Tunisia, where a joint team from the Universities of Palermo (Italy) and Carthage (Tunisia) designed an exciting itinerary. Giannantonio Domina and Ridha El Mokni the youngest organizers, proved not only to be enthusiastic field botanists but also generous and entertaining hosts, and during the following two weeks indefatigably led us westwards throughout three landscape units of increasing altitude and precipitation within the Mediterranean northern fringe of the country.

The first unit, the Cap Bon Region (March 24th – 28th), is characterized by a landscape of limestone or dolomite isolated mountains emerging from a clayey plain densely populated where most of Tunisia's agricultural land lays. From our headquarters in the touristic city-resort of Hammamet, we explored the main mountains of the region — Jebel Bou Kournine, J. Sidi Abderrahmane, J. Zaghouan or J. Ressay — dominated by open woodlands of *Tetraclinis articulata*, *Quercus coccifera* and *Pinus halepensis*, enriched with *Phillyrea latifolia* and *Erica multiflora* at higher elevations. The proximity to the shoreline allowed for several visits to coastal habitats, such as the salt marshes of Soliman, where we could observe *Salicornia* and *Arthrocnemum* species, as well as a the southern Mediterranean solanaceae

Lycium schweinfurthii. There, we enjoyed a good opportunity for observing a copious population of *Cynomorium coccineum*, a widely distributed holoparasite that is nevertheless overall quite rare. Many of our collections were of widespread taxa of early phenology due to the general delay in flowering time of most herbaceous plants as a result of the exceptionally wet year.

It was here in the Cap Bon region where we started to appreciate harissa, a spicy mixture of red hot chili, garlic, salt, water and oil, which would accompany us during the rest of the trip. Harissa is a staple in the Tunisian diet and together with the ubiquitous mechouia salad it is served as side dish or takes part as ingredient in many recipes. The exquisite red chili and green pepper flavor of these two specialties would make them difficult to resist, eventually having deleterious consequences on the digestive tract of several of us. During our brief coffee breaks, the Ka'k warqa confectionery, the delicious ring-shaped almond pastries perfumed with eglantine rose water that Zaghouan is proud of, brought us that extra punch of energy to continue with the sampling.

During the second part of our trip (March 29th – April 1st), with headquarters in Bizerte, we sampled the Mogods region, driving through mostly acidic gentle reliefs dominated by lush evergreen forests of *Quercus suber* and a thick maquis of *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Erica arborea*. The first day we visited the lake Ichkeul Nature Reserve, a stunning landscape comparable to the French Camargue region in appearance. The Ichkeul Lake is surrounded by hills covered by a thick *Olea europaea* – *Pistacia lentiscus* maquis at some points so developed that could be said to be a forest. The rich flora of the region would include the interesting *Cosentinia vellea* and *Euphorbia bivonae*. This region is also home to a native forest of maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*), where a copious shrubland of *Halimium halimifolium* and *Erica scoparia* developed. During our tour through the Mogods, we visited some of the most beautiful landscapes of the country, such as the wonderfully preserved Cap Negro and Cap Serrat, with their scenic untouched seashores and stunning evergreen forests. Due to the delayed phenology, the acidic substrates and the degree of development of the vegetation, the flora was impoverished with respect to the Cap Bon region. Nevertheless, we succeeded in finding some highly interesting species, such as *Anthyllis barba-jovis* and *Lavatera olbia*, close to the eastern limit of their distributions.

At the middle of our trip, we made a half-day stop in the town of Bizerte, a lively harbor and fourth city of Tunisia. We strolled through its streets and market hall, visiting the Fort d'Espagne, an impressive Turkish fortress overlooking the Quartier des Andalous, the part of the city where Andalusian refugees settled. We also had the opportunity of visiting a small typical restaurant in the picturesque Old Port, where we were delighted by the lablabi sandwiches, the poulet roti and harissa soup, finishing with delicious coffee perfumed with orange blossom water.

During the third part of our trip (April 2nd – 5th) our headquarters were in the scenic locality of Aïn-Draham, directly overlooking a wide valley densely populated by oak forests. We approached the highest summits of Tunisia in the Kroumirie region, a series of acidic mountain chains densely populated by evergreen *Quercus suber* woodlands in their lower part and by magnificent forests of *Quercus canariensis* toward the wettest, highest elevations. There, we would visit one of the singular and heavy endangered peat bogs of Tunisia, and several gorges where the protected and wet environment made possible the development of *Acanthus mollis* subsp. *platyphyllus* and even *Ilex aquifolium*. The understory was not very rich in species but we came back with a good representation of the dominant elements of the forest and the maquis replacing it when degraded, such as *Cytisus villosus*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Arbutus unedo* and *Erica arborea*.

The last day of our trip we were invited to a barbecue courtesy of ATUTAX (the Tunisian Association of Taxonomy), in which we could enjoy the legendary high quality of the Tunisian lamb. Abundant harissa and mechouia salad were served along the main course together with the typical tabouna flat breads. OPTIMA 2014 ended on the 5th April, with more than 1374 numbers collected, belonging to almost 400 species. It may not be an impressively large figure but what was very much impressive during this field campaign was the human quality of the participants, making it really a pleasure to link our institutions not only with scientific ties, but also with a long-lasting friendship.

FIRST LICHEN REPORT

by Anna Guttová

Institute of Botany SAS, Bratislava, anna.guttova@savba.sk

During the XII OPTIMA Iter to Tunisia, held during the period 24 March – 4 April 2014, Anna Guttová collected lichen material from three regions of Northern Tunisia (Table 1). The collection comprises up to 300 specimens, of which duplicates are being prepared for the *Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum* and for Tunisian colleagues. After identification of the material, the results will contribute to the picture of diversity and occurrence of lichens in this country. By now, we can learn more about lichen flora from e.g. Mark Seaward's paper – Checklist of Tunisian lichens (Seaward 1996, *Bocconea* 6: 115-148). During the field excursion we focused on collections several groups. One of them is the genus *Solenopsora*, where phylogeography of two sister species *S. candicans* and *S. cesatii* is studied by the lichenological team in Bratislava, with an aim to clarify the origin of these taxa on periphery of their range in the Carpathians. Besides that, the material will be included in the study on phylogeny of the genus *Solenopsora*. Material of the genus *Caloplaca* s. l. collected from wide spectrum of substrates (e.g. tree bark, rocks, bones in salt marshes, decomposing palm trunks) is studied in cooperation with Jan Vondrák (České Budějovice). It comprises blastidiate, as well as sorediate taxa with yellow, orange and greyish thallus and also common taxa with placodioid thallus. With identification of cyanophilic lichens helps Matthias Schultz (Hamburg). To mention examples of taxa with larger, macroscopic thalli, the collection includes members of e. g. *Agonimia*, *Catillaria*, *Cladonia*, *Collema*, *Degelia*, *Diploschistes*, *Fulgensia*, *Gyalecta*, *Heppia*, *Chrysothrix*, *Lecania* (e.g. *L. spadicea*), *Leprocaulon*, *Leptogium* (e.g. *L. corniculatum*, *L. schraderi*, *L. turgidum*), *Lobaria* (e.g. *L. amplissima*, *L. pulmonaria*), *Nephroma*, *Normandina* (*N. pulchella*), *Opegrapha*, *Peltigera*, *Physcia*, *Polychidium* (*P. muscicola*), *Psora*, *Ramalina*, *Roccela*, *Toninia*, *Umbilicaria*, *Xanthoparmelia*, or *Xanthoria*. Identification is in progress with objective to prepare a summarizing paper.

Table 1. List of collecting sites.

No	area	locality	latitude	longitude	altitude	date
1	Cap Bon	Bou Kornine Mt.	36° 42.352	10° 20.672	119 m	24.3.2014
2	Cap Bon	Bou Kornine Mt.	36° 42.223	10° 20.591	176 m	24.3.2014
3	Cap Bon	Bou Kornine Mt.	36° 42.189	10° 20.510	227 m	24.3.2014
4	Cap Bon	Bou Kornine Mt.	36° 43.525	10° 19.545	70 m	24.3.2014
5	Cap Bon	Soliman	36° 42.315	10° 27.378	11 m	24.3.2014
6	Cap Bon	Massif de Djebel Sidi Abderrahmane	36° 46.661	10° 45.608	202 m	25.3.2014
7	Cap Bon	Massif de Djebel Sidi Abderrahmane	36° 47.002	10° 45.688	193 m	25.3.2014
8	Cap Bon	Chot Ezzorhou	36° 40.811	10° 56.237	10 m	25.3.2014
9	Cap Bon	coastline between Elen-toba and Korba	36° 37.129	10° 53.377	4 m	25.3.2014
10	Cap Bon	Djebel Haouaria Mt.	37° 04.282	11° 02.456	367 m	26.3.2014
11	Cap Bon	Les Grottes	37° 03.451	10° 59.694	18 m	26.3.2014
12	Cap Bon	coastline between Kalibia and Sidi Jamel Eddine	36° 48.100	11° 01.722	12 m	26.3.2014
13	Cap Bon	ZaghouanMt.	36° 21.883	10° 05.281	593 m	27.3.2014

14	Cap Bon	ZaghouanMt.	36° 22.047	10° 05.390	618 m	27.3.2014
15	Cap Bon	ZaghouanMt.	36° 21.852	10° 05.215	590 m	27.3.2014
16	Cap Bon	Oued Enzit	36° 27.135	10° 18.233	190 m	27.3.2014
17	Cap Bon	Djebel Ressay	36° 35.847	10° 19.359	243 m	28.3.2014
18	Les Mogods	Djebel Ichkeul	37° 08.277	9° 41.511	55 m	29.3.2014
19	Les Mogods	Djebel Ichkeul	37° 08.230	9° 41.454	82 m	29.3.2014
20	Les Mogods	Djebel Ichkeul	37° 07.929	9° 41.336	7 m	29.3.2014
21	Les Mogods	Corniche - La Grotte	37° 19.956	9° 50.593	27 m	29.3.2014
22	Les Mogods	Along the road between Teskrine (Teskraia) and Sejeune, near Fejet Errich	37° 13.550	9° 29.602	205 m	30.3.2014
23	Les Mogods	Along the road between Teskrine (Teskraia) and Sejeune, near Fejet Errich	37° 13.547	9° 29.690	235 m	30.3.2014
24	Les Mogods	Cap Serrat	37° 13.213	9° 13.374	15 m	30.3.2014
25	Les Mogods	Cap Serrat	37° 13.362	9° 13.438	37 m	30.3.2014
26	Les Mogods	Bizerte	37° 14.941	9° 54.946	18 m	31.3.2014
27	Les Mogods	Bizerte	37° 15.245	9° 55.561	10 m	31.3.2014
28	Les Mogods	Along the road P7 between Sejenane and Oued Zitoun	37° 00.960	9° 19.617	402 m	1.4.2014
29	Kroumirie	Tabarka	36° 56.757	8° 42.445	194 m	2.4.2014
30	Kroumirie	Tabarka	36° 57.977	8° 52.592	38 m	2.4.2014
31	Kroumirie	Ein Draham	36° 47.390	8° 41.001	775 m	2.4.2014
32	Kroumirie	Massif de Feidja	36° 29.313	8° 18.333	771 m	3.4.2014
33	Kroumirie	Natural Park el Feidja, Ain Soltane	36° 30.330	8° 20.194	820 m	3.4.2014
34	Kroumirie	Natural Park el Feidja, Ain Soltane	36° 31.432	8° 19.681	876 m	3.4.2014
35	Kroumirie	Ein Draham	36° 44.363	8° 40.988	688 m	3.4.2014
36	Kroumirie	Ein Draham	36° 45.255	8° 41.266	661 m	4.4.2014
37	Kroumirie	Ein Draham	36° 43.755	8° 42.314	562 m	4.4.2014

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

by Giannantonio Domina

XV OPTIMA Meeting in Montpellier (S France) September-October 2016

Due to the present political instability of the states bordering Lebanon, that has negative repercussions also on the possibility of organizing a well attended meeting in Beirut in 2016, the Secretariat, in consultation with the local

organizers led by Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat, decided to postpone the OPTIMA meeting expected to be organized in 2016 in Lebanon. Instead, the Conservatoire Botanique National of Porquerolles (<http://www.cbnmed.fr/>) and the Association Tela Botanica (<http://www.tela-botanica.org/>), declared their availability to host the XV OPTIMA Meeting in Montpellier, roughly between the end of September and early November 2016. This offer has been gratefully accepted by OPTIMA's International Board We will keep you constantly informed of developments in the organization.

6-10 July 2015

EuroGard VII - The Seventh European Botanic Gardens Congress

Paris, France

The Seventh European Botanic Gardens Congress: "European botanic gardens in the Decade on Biodiversity – Challenges and responsibilities in the countdown to 2020" will be held in Paris, France from 6-10 July, 2015. Hosted by the National Natural History Museum, the Congress will be organised around the themes of the new version of the European Botanic Gardens Action Plan. This congress is organised in partnership with the European Botanic Gardens Consortium (EBGC), Botanic Gardens Conservation international (BGCI), and Jardins botaniques de France et des pays francophones (JBF).

EuroGard VII will bring together representatives from botanic gardens across Europe. The scientific programme will be focused around the new version of the European Botanic Gardens Action Plan, which will be officially launched during the Conference. The conference will address the issues and challenges facing botanic gardens in the Decade on Biodiversity and will consider opportunities and prospects for the community of botanic gardens.

For further information see:
<http://eurogard2015.sciencesconf.org>

14-18 September 2015

14th International Symposium on Aquatic Plants

Edinburgh, U.K.

The aim of the conference is to promote debate on all issues relating to the science and management of aquatic vegetation. Interest in aquatic plants has been growing and diversifying and to reflect this there will be a wide Scientific Programme which will appeal to scientists and managers. . The meeting has been arranged under the auspices of SIL and the EWRS. An International Scientific Committee oversees the conference and its outputs while a local Organising Committee looks after the conference management.

The conference programme will be comprised of 10 thematic sessions, each organised and chaired by two leading researchers in that field

For further information see:
<https://sites.google.com/site/aquaticplants2015>

14-18 September 2015

110th Congress of the Italian Botanical Society (3rd International Plant Science Conference)

Pavia, Italy

"Not only food: sustainable development, agrobiodiversity conservation & human well being"

The Congress topics are related to the themes of EXPO 2015 "Feeding the planet: energy for life" that will be hosted in Milan, and are organized in the following sessions:

- 1 Ecosystems services in agricultural landscapes: the role of plants and fungi
- 2 Plants adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate change
- 3 Agro-biodiversity and its conservation

4 Plants and fungi for human well being.

The official language of the conference, as in 2014, will be English, except for post-conference events of September 17, in Italian.

This conference will attract not only established plant scientists, but also PhD students, postdocs and young scientists interested in listening to the presentations or in presenting their own work in related topics.

For further information see:

<http://www.societabotanicaitaliana.it/110/eng/detail.asp?idn=1363>

and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region”, invites you to the International Conference with the theme “Ecological Restoration in the Mediterranean region: Challenges and Opportunities”, hosted by the project partner Saint Joseph University (USJ) in Beirut, Lebanon on 15 and 16 October 2015. The conference focuses on ecological restoration of Mediterranean type habitats and intends to highlight the importance of using native plants for restoration.

For further information see:

<http://fs.usj.edu.lb/ecoplantmed/>.

14-18 September 2015

6th Balkan Botanical Congress

Rijeka, Croatia

The Congress is organized by Natural History Museum in Rijeka, Croatian Botanical Society, Botanical Society of Slovenia and University of Rijeka. The aim of the meeting is to bring together all botanists involved in research of plant life of

Balkan Peninsula with emphasis on the conservation of biodiversity of this extremely rich flora

and vegetation. The program will include four lecture days (oral and poster presentations), social events, mid-congress excursions and post-congress field trips. The official language of the meeting will be English.

For further information see:

http://www.hbod.hr/hr/6._Balkan_Botanical_Congress

15-16 October 2015

International Conference Ecological Restoration in the Mediterranean region: Challenges and Opportunities

Beirut, Lebanon

The ECOPLANTMED project, “ECOLOGICAL use of native PLANTS for environmental restoration

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS

by WERNER GREUTER*

OPTIMA

Benito VALDÉS – Results of the fifth “Iter Mediterraneum” in Morocco, 8-27 June, 1992. [*Bocconea* (ISSN 1120-4060, print; 2280-3882, online), **26.**] – Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum, Palermo, 2013 (ISBN 978-88-7915-026-2). 179 pages, 6 photographs, 8 figures, 2 maps, 2 tables; paper. [Received fall 2013].

The long awaited account of OPTIMA’s 1992 Iter Mediterraneum, with a full list of the 2366 vascular plant gatherings made, plus partial lists for lichens (by Stephen Jury) and bryophytes (by P. Campisi & al.) as well as chromosome counts for 111 of the collected taxa (by Zoila Díaz & Raquel Parra). New combinations are proposed in *Astragalus*, *Malva*, *Nepeta*, and *Ornithogalum*.

Gianniantonio DOMINA, Werner GREUTER & Francesco Maria RAIMONDO (ed.) – XIV OPTIMA Meeting, September, 9-15, Palermo. **Abstracts.** – OPTIMA, Palermo, 2013 (ISBN 978-88-903108-8-1). 165 pages [+ page 21 (cancellans), 166-172], 1 table; paper [+ 4 loose sheets]. [Received fall 2013].

Includes the final version of the scientific programme of the Meeting as well as the abstracts of 82 lectures and 67 poster

presentations, extended versions of which are due to be published in forthcoming volumes of the journal *Flora mediterranea*. Available online at: <http://www.optima-bot.org/meetings/XIVAbstracts.pdf>

Cryptogams

Flora liquenológica ibérica, 1-10 [received fall 2013]:

Ana Rosa BURGAZ & Isabel MARTÍNEZ – Peltigerales: Lobariaceae, Nephromataceae, Peltigeraceae. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), [1].] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Murcia, 2003. 61 pages, 10 plates of drawings, map; paper.

Regina CARBALLAL & María Eugenia LÓPEZ DE SILANES – Ostropales: Graphidaceae, Solorinellaceae. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), [2].] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Murcia, 2004. 48 pages, 9 plates of drawings, map; paper.

Esteve LLOP – Lecanorales: Bacidiaceae I, Bacidia y Bacidina. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), [3].] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Barcelona, 2007. 49 pages, 5 figures (drawings + 18 colour photographs), map; paper.

* All unsigned texts are by Werner Greuter. 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.

Publications

Ana Rosa BURGAZ & Teuvo AHTI – *Cladoniaceae*. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), **4.**] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Madrid, 2009. 111 pages, 21 plates of drawings, 83 maps; paper.

Mireia GIRALT – *Physciaceae I, Endohyalina, Rinodina y Rinodinella*. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), **5.**] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Barcelona, 2010. 105 pages, 22 figures (drawings + 21 grayscale or colour photographs), table, map; paper.

Regina CARBALLAL & varying authors – *Pannariaceae*. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), **6.**] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Pontevedra, 2010. 44 pages, 9 plates of drawings, map; paper.

Diana MUÑIZ & Néstor L. HLADUN – *Calicioides*. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), **7.**] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Barcelona, 2011. 95 pages, 96 photographs (mostly in colour), map; paper.

Ana Rosa BURGAZ – *Peltigerales: Mas-salongiaceae y Placynthiaceae*. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), **8.**] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Madrid, 2011. 42 pages, 20 colour photographs, 17 maps; paper.

Víctor J. RICO & José María BARRASA – *Basidiomycota liquenizados y liquenícolas*. *Agaricales: Hygrophoraceae, Arrhenia y Lichenomphalia; Cantharellales: Clavulinaceae, Multiclavula; Hydnaceae, Burgoa*. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), **9.**] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Madrid, 2011. 48 pages, 15 photographs (mostly in colour), map; paper.

Palmira CARVALHO – *Collema*. [*Flora liquenológica ibérica* (ISSN 1696-0513), **10.**] – Sociedad Española de Liquenología, Pontevedra, 2012. 52 pages, 8 plates of figures (drawings and photographs), map; paper.

Started in the early years of this millennium, the national compendium of lichens in the Iberian Peninsula has been making good and steady progress so far. It is being produced by slim volumes, perhaps rather fascicles, if and when a treatment is ready. The first volume was published in 2003. To quote from its presentation (in OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (5-6). 2008): “The new Flora is being based on Llimona & Hladun’s 2001 inventory of Iberian lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi (see OPTIMA Newslett. 36: (3). 2002). Its treatments are of an exemplary, submonographic style, with full keys, high-standard nomenclatural treatment (except that no types are cited for synonyms), detailed taxon descriptions and copious illustration, by original drawings, of a majority if not all of the species. Distribution (both overall and by Iberian provinces) is summarised but not mapped. Ample space is given to observations of all kind. The language adopted is Spanish.” – To which one might add that many subsequent volumes ([3], 5, 7-10) use micrographs and colour photographs for illustration purposes, and two (4 and 8) include distribution maps for species.

Mathias VUST, Philippe CLERC, Christine HABASHI & Jean-Claude MERMILLIOD – *Liste rouge des lichens du canton de Genève*. [*Publication hors-série n° 16.*] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève, [Chambésy], 2015 (ISBN 978-2-8277-

0132-2). 160 pages, numerous colour photographs, graphs, maps, tables; laminated cover. [received March 2015.]

The title is a blatant understatement, for at least three reasons. First, the book includes a complete inventory of the Canton of Geneva's lichens: 612 species, not counting 66 that were omitted for either having been reported by error (of location or identification), or being impossible to interpret, or not being lichens. Second, it is an all but complete compendium of regional lichenology, with a concise introduction to the discipline, an historical account, and a description of the principal lichen habitats – of which the one that figures most prominently, and has received particular attention, are tombstones in cemeteries. Third, it is generously and beautifully illustrated (sadly, I have been unable to find any reference to or acknowledgement of the authors or source of the illustrations; the fact that one of the authors has been portrayed handling a camera being the only, cryptic hint). The progress of knowledge embodied in the text is amazing: a Swiss inventory of 2004 had listed 283 lichen species for Geneva, to which 329 are added here. Not all have been found again during the 10 years of field inventorying by the author team: 143, almost one quarter, are reported as missing and classified either as data deficient or regionally extinct. Another quarter is placed in one of the threat categories: critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. All in all, the book can be qualified as pioneering a new generation of modern, comprehensive, informative and educational regional Red Data Books.

Luis Alberto PARRA SANCHEZ – *Agaricus* L., *Allopsalliota* Nauta & Bas, part II. [*Fungi Europaei*, 1A.] – Candusso, Alassio, 2013 (978-88-905310-2-6). 1168 pages, 616 photographs or micrographs in colour, 119 figures in black-and-white, 67 coloured plates (mostly facsimiles) tables; hard cover. [89 €; received December 2013.]

The second part of Parra's monumental monograph of European *Agariceae* encompasses the treatment of the remaining 6 sections and 55 species of *Agaricus* (12 newly described here) plus the unispecific genus *Allopsalliota*. Same as the first part (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (5-6). 2009), the text is fully bilingual (Spanish and English) except for the trilingual keys where Italian is added, extremely detailed in its descriptive and corollary matter, superbly and generously illustrated. The average treatment for a species extends over 11 pages of text and 9 of colour illustrations. At the end, preceding the indexes, there is an exhaustive, annotated list of names that were not validly published or had been misapplied, so that on the whole the monograph also serves as a critical nomenclator for the genus.

Gymnosperms

Robert P. ADAMS – Junipers of the world: The genus *Juniperus*. 4th edition. – Trafford, Bloomington, 2014 (ISBN 978-1-4907-2325-9). v + 415 pages, numerous black-and-white illustrations (photographs, maps, graphs), tables; laminated cover [hard back edition announced]. [29.95 US\$; received May 2014.]

Remarkable: a monograph published in four editions within a 10-years' span;

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each edition including substantial changes, improvements in taxonomic concepts, mostly based on the author's ongoing research on the World's junipers. As compared to ed. 3 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 40: (3). 2011), there has been one major change affecting Mediterranean *Juniperus* species. What used to be an ill-defined variety based exclusively on fruit morphology, *J. phoenicea* var. *turbinata*, found in disseminated localities within the circummediterranean area of *J. phoenicea* var. *phoenicea*, turns out to be a species of its own, *J. turbinata*, an almost complete vicariant to *J. phoenicea* and much more widespread than the latter. Uncharacteristically for a species so named, and on the assumption that the identity of the Linnean type has been correctly assessed, *J. phoenicea* proper now appears to be confined to E Spain and S. France, just extending to NW Italy in the Maritime Alps.

Phanerogams

Pierre COULOT & Philippe RABAUTE – Monographie des Leguminosae de France. Tome 3 – Tribu des Trifolieae. [Bulletin de la Société Botanique du Centre-Ouest, Numéro spécial [ISSN 0759934x), 40.] – Société Botanique du Centre-Ouest, Jarnac, 2013. 760 pages, 1062 colour photographs, maps, tables; hard cover. [98 €; received December 2013.]

Tome 3 is the first published of a new, monumental monographic treatment of the legume species of France, the publication plan of which is not stated, nor the planned number of volumes (according to external information, there will be 4 volumes in total). The included genera are 4: *Ononis*, *Trifolium*, *Medicago*, and

Trigonella, and the species, including aliens, almost 150. The treatment is exhaustive, including detailed descriptions, full synonymies, identification keys (except for *Trifolium*, separate keys are provided for material with fruits only), completely new distribution maps for the French territory, by départements, and generous photographic illustrations, with close-up pictures of vegetative, floral and fruit details useful for identification. For the generic and infrageneric classification adopted, full use is made of recent results of molecular studies which, combined with morphological criteria, results in novel, original concepts. In particular, the sections of *Medicago* are redefined and a new, unispecific one is described (but not validly named) for *M. arabica*; and *Melilotus* is sunk in *Trigonella* where it forms two subgenera, resulting in 16 new combinations and 2 (illegitimate) replacement names at subgeneric, sectional and species rank. Whether or not one subscribes to these novel concepts, they make of this work a milestone in legume taxonomy that cannot be ignored.

Wilhelm BARTHLOTT, Bernadette GROSSE-VELDMANN & Nadja KOROTKOVA – Orchid seed diversity. A scanning electron microscopy survey [*Englera*, 32 (ISSN 0170-4818)]. – Botanische Garten & Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Berlin, 2014 (978-3-921800-92-8). 245 pages, 620 scanning micrographs, photographs (some in colour), drawings, graphs; laminated cover. [Received December 2014.]

There exist scattered published data on and illustration of orchid seed morphology, but this is the first coherent overview for the entire family, with descrip-

tions for 352 (40 % of the ca. 880 currently recognised) genera and scanning electron micrographs for ca. 330 of them (mostly two for each, at different, unfortunately unspecified scales). A coherent descriptive terminology is proposed, and 17 seed types are defined. The previously suspected taxonomic relevance of seed features is confirmed, especially at the tribal and subtribal level, less so at the ranks of subfamily and genus. This is borne out by plotting 15 particular characters as well as the seed types on a phylogenetic tree of the family or, in some cases, of the subfamily *Epidendroideae* alone.

Giorgio PERAZZA & Richard LORENZ – Le orchidee dell’Italia nord-orientale. Atlante corologico e guida al riconoscimento. – Osiride, Rovereto, 2013 (978-88-7498-192-2). 448 pages, numerous colour photographs, drawings and distribution maps; paper. [Received December 2013.]

The book brings, on one hand, the result (in the form of grid maps) of a new, thorough inventory in the field, by hundreds of enthusiast members of provincial and regional groups of orchid lovers; and on the other hand it is a guide for the easy identification of orchids by means of keys and excellent colour photographs of details, habit and habitats. Original drawings by Barbara Rauss and Lucio Sottovia, mostly of single flowers, are included. The area covered is essentially delimited by the rivers Ticino and Po to the west and south, the national border and the Adriatic Sea to the north and east. In all, 29 genera and 76 orchid species are or were present (one being extinct). Notes of their variability (two new status transfers, one newly described

variety) and habitat preferences are also provided, but no formal species descriptions.

Floras

Santiago CASTROVIEJO † (gen. ed.), Enrique RICO, Manuel Benito CRESPO, Alejandro QUINTANAR, Alberto HERRERO & Carlos AEDO (vol. ed.) – Flora iberica. Plantas vasculares de la Península Ibérica e Islas Baleares. **Vol. XX, Liliaceae-Agavaceae.** – Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid, ‘2013’ [2014] (ISBN 978-84-009745-5, volume; 978-84-00-06221-7, set). L + 651 pages, map, 104 plates of drawings; cloth with dust jacket. [43 €; received February 2014.]

Includes the treatment of the “liliiflorous” monocots, i.e. the three Englerian families *Liliaceae* s.l. (except *Smilax*, already published as *Smilacaceae* in Vol. 21), *Amaryllidaceae* (not including *Allium*), *Iridaceae*, and the exotic *Agavaceae*. In view of the still considerable instability of the more modern, phylogenetic classification of these plants, there is a lot to be said in favour of the adopted traditional, pragmatic if admittedly unnatural family delimitation. The sequence of genera, when possible, conforms to the tenets of APG III. The species described in this volume number 224, assigned to 62 genera, of which the largest are *Allium* (35 species), *Narcissus* (25), *Gagea* and *Asphodelus* (12 each). Generic delimitations vary from extremely narrow (6 genera for *Iris*) to traditionally wide (*Scilla*, *Urginea*). Individual treatments of families and genera are available online as searchable pdf files, at <http://www.floraiberica.es/floraiberica/texto/pdfs/000%20clavegeneral.pdf>.

The next volume expected to be pub-

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lished is Vol. 9, *Rhamnaceae* to *Polygalaceae*, leaving Vol. 16 and 19, *Compositae* and *Gramineae*, for the end.

Santiago CASTROVIEJO † (gen. ed.), **Juan Antonio DEVESA**, **Alejandro QUINTANAR**, **Miguel Ángel GARCÍA** (vol. ed.) – **Flora iberica**. Plantas vasculares de la Península Ibérica e Islas Baleares. Vol. **XVI(I)**, *Compositae* (partim). – Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid, 2014 (ISBN 978-84-009883-4, volume; 978-84-00-06221-7, set). XLVIII + 734 pages, map, 146 plates of drawings; cloth with dust jacket. [43 €; received January 2015.]

The first of three planned *Compositae* volumes treats the subfamily *Carduoideae*, which has the Mediterranean area as one of its centres of diversity. Following recent classification schemes, a single tribe is recognised, misnamed “*Cynarocephalae*”, and the traditionally recognised tribes are reduced to subtribal level. Generic limits by and large follow the treatment in Med-Checklist, except for *Carduncellus* being kept separate from *Carthamus* and *Cyanus* merged under *Centaurea*. Of the 29 genera (209 species) included, *Centaurea* with its 93 Iberian species is by far the largest. Endemism is high, aliens are all but absent, and only two (safflower and artichoke) are cultivated plants. The two remaining *Compositae* subfamilies of the Iberian flora, *Cichorioideae* and *Asteroideae*, are left for tome 2 an 3, respectively.

Jean-Marc TISON, **Philippe JAUZEIN** & **Henri MICHAUD** – **Flore de la France méditerranéenne continentale**. – Conservatoire botanique national méditerranéen de Porquerolles & Naturalia, Turriers, 2014 (ISBN 978-2-909717-90-6). 2078 pages, numerous drawings, 380

colour photographs on 126 plates, 2 maps in colour + caption on extra pages and cover inside; hard cover [96 €; received August 2014].

This new Flora encompasses the vascular plants of Mediterranean France, from the eastern Pyrenées to the southern Alps, to the exclusion of Corsica. The question of how best to delimit its territory had been thoroughly debated, with the result that, essentially, political boundaries were to be adopted. The declared coverage concerns two of the Régions of France: Languedoc-Roussillon in its totality (Dépts. Aude, Gard, Hérault, Lozère, Pyrénées-Orientales) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, with 4 of its 6 Départements (Alpes-Maritimes, Bouches-du-Rhône, Var, Vaucluse). However, some bordering portions of 5 neighbour Départements (Alpes-de-Haute Provence, Ardèche, Aveyron, Drôme, Hautes-Alpes) are in effect also included, as 6 of the 20 natural regions here defined transgress the declared boundaries to the north.

This is a critical Flora, as it includes numerous and sometimes quite extensive notes. It is also an illustrated Flora, as a large majority of recognised (numbered) taxa are represented by analytical drawings. To some extent it even qualifies as a pictorial Flora; and indeed the colour photographs at the end, being limited to a selection of just 21 genera, are excellent identification aids. The plant groups thus represented are the orchids (100 photographs), *Compositae* (79: 69 *Hieracium*, 10 *Tragopogon*), “*Liliiflorae*” (75: 36 *Allium*, 24 *Tulipa*, 15 *Iridaceae*), *Orobanche* (42), *Crassulaceae* (39), *Opuntia* (15), *Aristolochia* (12), *Pinguicula* (10), and *Melampyrum* (6). It is a real pity that

there is no reference to these (unnumbered) photographs in the main text, nor even in the index: one has to know or to guess, or one will miss them.

Floras arranged according to the last cry of phylogenetic systematics are still the exception (fortunately so, many will feel), and the present one is among these exceptions. Not for long, I dare say, as with the current rate of change in vascular plant classification the currently recommended one will soon be almost as out of date as the old Englerian system, and more quickly forgotten. Within families, genera and species are also arranged by known or perceived affinity, with the single exception of *Umbelliferae* where the sequence is alphabetical. The umbels, which happen to be the last family in the APG linear arrangement, are also unique in two other respects: they are the single family that was not authored or at least co-authored by either Tison or Jauzein, and the only one in which due credit is given to the author or source of the drawings. Otherwise, and this is the single real criticism I am bound to make, the illustrations are anonymous, unless the subtitle on p. 9 be taken to infer that the text authors have also drawn the figures (an unlikely assumption in view of the diversity of styles).

The treatment of notoriously difficult groups, one of the standards by which to judge “critical” Floras, varies widely. For example, *Rosa* and *Rubus* are dealt with rather summarily, with very broadly delimited species, or for some of the brambles down to subsectional level only; whereas *Hieracium* and *Taraxacum* have received full and remarkably skilled attention. Their accounts will

stand as models far beyond the limited geographical range for which they were written.

All in all, this Flora stands as a milestone in French botany. Its authors deserve our gratitude and admiration for a huge amount of work well done. When writing these lines I had not yet seen the new *Flora gallica*, of which Tison is also the first author. It will doubtless expand the concepts of the present work to the whole territory of France, if with lesser detail of descriptive and distributional data. Which means that the year 2014 marks the onset of an entirely new era for plant diversity studies in France.

Daniel JEANMONOD & Jacques GAMISANS – Flora corsica, 2^{ème} édition. [*Bulletin de la Société Botanique du Centre-Ouest, Numéro spécial* (ISSN 0759-934x), **39.**] – Société Botanique du Centre-Ouest, Jarnac, 2013. 1074 pages, 134 plates of drawings, 3 maps, 2 vegetation profiles, tables; plastic cover. [55 €; received fall 2013.]

This second edition follows the first (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (18-19). 2008) after only 6 years. Citing from the initial review: “The wild flora of Corsica comprises almost 2400 species, including casual (10.5 %) and naturalised (6,4 %) aliens. Endemism is considerable, the 146 strictly endemic taxa corresponding to 6,3 % of the indigenous flora. The new tenets of molecular-based phylogeny have been followed with respect to family sequence: three ‘basal’ families (*Nymphaeaceae*, *Lauraceae*, *Aristolochiaceae*) precede the monocots, followed in turn by the dicots starting with *Ceratophyllum*. Family delimitations have been kept as is traditional,

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with deviating modern alternatives (the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group's APG II family concepts) mentioned in brackets, subtitles or notes." In the latter aspects the second edition does not deviate seriously from its predecessor, except that reference is now made to the still newer APG III family concepts. Generic limits, however, and by consequence species nomenclature, were modified in a number of cases. The figure for species has slightly increased (to 2411), reflecting the addition of 25 additional units, not quite balanced by the loss of several *Hieracium* taxa consequent to the thorough revision of that genus by Jean-Marc Tison. That loss also explains the lowering of the rate of insular endemism to 5.9 %.

Pier Virgilio ARRIGONI – Flora dell'isola di Sardegna, 4. – Delfino, Sassari, 2013 (ISBN 978-88-7138-677-5). Pages [5]-584, 232 plates of drawings or in facsimile; hard cover. [Received fall 2013].

Previous volumes of this new, basic Flora for the island of Sardinia – which won its author the OPTIMA Silver Medal for the year 2006 – have been presented in detail earlier (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (19-20). 2008; 40: (7-8). 2011). Volume 4 comprises the treatments of the families *Umbelliferae* (the last dialypetalous one still missing, and the largest in bulk) to *Rubiaceae* inclusive, among which *Labiatae* and *Scrophulariaceae* (traditionally circumscribed) are prominent. This leaves *Compositae* and the monocots for the remaining 2 (or 3?) volumes. As previously, the treatments of genera and species are full, critical, and sometimes innovative. The illustration is generous and of excellent quality,

most being original drawings by Anne Maury (signed AM) and B. Buonarroto (BB), others reproduced from published sources and mostly initialled by Ignazio Camarda and Franca Valsecchi, yet others being facsimiles of the masterly plates in Moris's *Flora sardoa*.

Vladimir STEVANOVIĆ (ed.) – Flora Srbije, 2. – Srpska Akademija Nauka i Umetnosti, Beograd, 2012. XIV + 619 pages, 66 plates of drawings, 142 maps; hard cover. [Received fall 2013].

Volume 2 of what is basically the 2nd edition of Josifović's well known *Flora SR Srbije* follows vol. 1 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 30: (12). 1996) after an interval of no less than 20 years. It comprises treatments of the orders *Ran[uncul]ales* (p.p.: *Berberidaceae*), *Papaverales*, *Hamamelidales*, *Urticales*, *Fagales*, *Betulales*, *Juglandales*, and *Caryophyllales*, with *Caryophyllaceae* as the by far largest family. The Serbian distribution of species, except the widespread ones, is now mapped individually. Hopefully, publication progress will henceforth speed up under a changed editorship.

Mohamed FENNANE, Mohammed IBN TATTOU & Jalal EL-OUALIDI (ed.) – Flore pratique du Maroc. Manuel de détermination des plantes vasculaires. Volume 3, *Dicotyledones* (p.p.), *Monocotyledones* [*Travaux de l'Institut Scientifique, Série Botanique* (ISSN 1114-1174), 40.] – Institut Scientifique, Université Mohammed V, Agdal, Rabat, 2014 (ISBN 978-9954-20-671-3). XI + 793 + [1] pages, map, 93 plates of drawings + 99 figures; cloth with dust-cover.

To date, Morocco was the last among the countries bordering the Mediterra-

near Sea to lack a completed descriptive manual of its flora, a work permitting, by means of descriptions and keys, the identification of its plants. Now the circle has been closed. The present volume is the last missing link among Mediterranean Floras. Its publication is an event well worth being celebrated!

The two first volumes (see OPTIMA Newsletter 38: (16). 2008) were published in 1999 and 2007 as volumes 36 and 38 of the same prestigious monograph series of the Institut Scientifique in Rabat, better known by its former attribute Chérifien. The present, concluding volume encompasses the treatments of the last dicot families (*Rubiaceae* to *Compositae*) and of all monocots. The family key and illustrated glossary are again included, and there is a cumulative index of genera for all volumes. The presentation is elegant yet concise, avoiding details such as nomenclatural source and type citations that would be of scant interest for the botanical practitioner.

The work as a whole is the essential instrument required for the formation of a new generation of keen Moroccan botanists. It must not be seen as a concluding event but as the door to ongoing studies leading, in a not too remote future, to an even better understanding and fuller knowledge of the extraordinary riches and variety of the vascular plants of Morocco.

Popular Books

Peter SCHÖNFELDER & Ingrid SCHÖNFELDER – Was blüht am Mittelmeer? [ed. 5] – Kosmos, Stuttgart, 2014 (ISBN 978-3-440-13742-0). 320 pages, 875

colour photographs, 286 maps, illustrated on inside cover and cover flaps; plastified cover. [Ca. 17 €; received May 2014].

Peter SCHÖNFELDER & Ingrid SCHÖNFELDER – Flora del Mediterraneo. – Ricca, Roma, 2014 (ISBN 978-88-6694-020-3). 320 pages, 875 colour photographs, 286 maps, illustrated on inside cover and cover flaps; plastified cover. [29 €; received September 2014].

This pocket guide to the common and characteristic representatives of the Mediterranean flora has undergone substantial change since its first edition in the Kosmos Naturführer series (1987), and even more so since its precursor, “Das blüht am Mittelmeer” (Bunte Kosmos Taschenführer, 1975), with its mere 120 photographs. The current, fifth edition has been modernised in presentation and improved in contents. For each of the 286 species treated in full a map showing the area-by-area distribution is provided, using the Med-Checklist territories as a base but with addition of the Canary Islands. Under most entries, a second species is illustrated and briefly commented upon, under the heading “Weitere Art”. It is slightly confusing, even though duly explained in the preface, that the map does not correspond to the species shown immediately below, in the same frame, but to the one that is illustrated on the opposite page. Needless to say, the photographs, taken by a botanist and master of the art, are not only beautiful and technically perfect but also illustrative of the characteristic traits of the plant. As a first, the book is available in parallel editions in Italian (see above), French and Croatian (not

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seen), which in an OPTIMA perspective is particularly welcome news.

Voislav VASIĆ & Marina ILIĆ – Belgrade through nature and time. Guide through bio-geo-diversity of Belgrade. – Association “School for Survival”, Beograd, 2012 (ISBN 978-86-914123-5-7). 108 pages, colour photographs, maps, table; paper. [Received fall 2013].

A guide and companion, through Belgrade and its immediate surroundings, for the hiker with naturalistic interests. It illustrates and comments monuments and geological features, gardens, parks and individual trees, as well as representative plants, fungi and animals, strung up along suggested itineraries where one can meet them. The acknowledged, commendable purpose is to acquaint visitors of all ages with the principal aspects of biological and geological diversity in a very attractive urban area.

Floristic Inventories and Checklists

Alain DOBIGNARD & Cyrille CHATELAIN – Index synonymique de la flore d’Afrique du Nord. Volume 5 Dicotyledoneae, Oleaceae à Zygophyllaceae. [Publication hors-série N° 11d.] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Genève, 2011 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0128-5). 451 pages, tables, map; laminated cover. [Received fall 2013].

The concluding volume of the work, for which the authors have been awarded OPTIMA’s Silver Medal at the Organisation’s recent Meeting in Palermo, September 2013. The previous volumes have been reviewed in OPTIMA Newsletter. 40: (12-14). 2011 and 41: (11-12). 2013. To quote from the first review: “Doubtless one of the most important

works in Mediterranean plant science published in recent years. A synthesis based on the first author’s experience of a lifetime with North African plants and on an extensive survey of old and recent literature, the *Index* raises our knowledge of the flora of that area to the level at which *Med-Checklist* has been aspiring”. The *Index* covers the countries of N Africa bordering the Mediterranean Sea plus Madeira, the Canary Islands and (partly) some southern bordering areas. As in previous volumes, There are critical notes by various authors at the end, plus updates to the four previous volumes, in which new country records are documented and several nomenclatural novelties presented (genera: *Centranthus*, *Colchicum*, *Danthonia*, *Pallenis*, *Polygonum*, *Potentilla*, *Ranunculus*, *Saxifraga*, *Taraxacum*, *Verbascum*, *Veronica*). The number of accepted vascular plant species listed for the area in all five volumes reaches an impressive total of 7860 (9098 different taxa).

Panayotis DIMOPOULOS, Thomas RAUS, Erwin BERGMEIER, Theophanis CONSTANTINIDIS, Gregoris IATROU, Stella KOKKINI, Arne STRID & Dimitrios TSANOUDAKIS – Vascular plants of Greece. An annotated checklist. [*Englera* (ISSN 0170-4818), 31.] – Botanischer Garten & Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem & Hellenic Botanical Society, Berlin & Athens, 2013 (ISBN 978-3-921800-88-1). 372 pages, tables, maps, graphs, figures, 24 plates of colour photographs; hard cover. [42 €; received November 2013].

This is the first inventory ever of the vascular flora of Greece in its present political boundaries. In its core portion, 6600 taxa (species and subspecies) oc-

curing in Greece in the native or naturalised state are listed in tabular form, each with within-country distribution by 13 regions and indication of status, chorology and life form categories. Other important chapters (or appendices) list synonyms (including misapplications) and critical notes on individual taxa. Literature has been covered very thoroughly and the information critically assessed. The book is therefore a remarkably reliable while easy-to-use source of information. At the end, colour photographs, mostly by Arne Strid, show 216 of the species, including many extremely rare and seldom encountered ones.

Siegmar-W. BRECKLE, Ian C. HEDGE & M. Daud RAFIQPOOR – Vascular plants of Afghanistan, an augmented checklist. – Scientia Bonnensis, Bonn, Manama, New York & Florianópolis, 2013 (ISBN 978-3-940766-64-9). 598 pages, numerous maps and colour photographs, graphs, tables, 1 sheet of Corrigenda; hard cover. [Received January 2014].

This book, aptly dedicated to Karl Heinz Rechinger and his widow Wilhelmina, is a companion volume to Breckle & Rafiqpoor's "Field Guide Afghanistan" of 2010 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 40: (17). 2011). The introductory and general parts are again bilingual (English and Tari), with the two versions side by side in parallel columns; but this time the pagination runs front to back, not the other way round as is the Arab custom. The general chapters were partly rewritten and much shortened, mainly at the expense of subjects such as physical geography and general notions of systematic botany, that had been mainly

designed for use by Afghan students. The core is a complete checklist of the Afghan vascular flora, in tabular form, comprising accepted names and main synonyms (with citation of nomenclatural source); Afghan distribution by provinces (as small maps); general distribution; altitudinal range; and Notes (including references to the "Field Guide", when applicable). Families, genera and species are arranged alphabetically within the 4 main groups, pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicots and monocots. The checklist was produced independently of, and often deviates from, Dieter Podlech's recent (2012) Afghan checklist available online, which furthermore lacks vascular cryptogams (see http://www.sysbot.biologie.uni-muenchen.de/de/personen/podlech/flowering_plants_afghanistan.pdf).

Regional Studies

Gerald PAROLLY, Kathrin GROTZ & Hans Walter LACK (ed.) – Kaukasus. Pflanzenvielfalt zwischen Schwarzem und Kaspischem Meer. Caucasus. Plant diversity between the Black and Caspian Seas. – Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Berlin, 2014 (ISBN 978-3-921800-90-4). 232 pages, numerous illustrations (prevalently colour photographs); laminated cover. [14€; Received May 2013].

The Caucasus Plant Diversity Initiative, launched in 2009, is a joint endeavour of the Berlin-Dahlem Botanic Garden and Museum with the leading academic institutions of the Transcaucasian countries, funded to a large extent by the Volkswagen Foundation. One of its outcomes, an important forum for the public presentation of its results, is an exhibi-

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tion that has been prepared at the renowned Berlin-Dahlem institution, which opened in May 2014 and is to last one year. The present, fully bilingual volume is divided into two halves, the second being an explanatory guide to the exhibition proper. The first half consists of a number of fluently written and informative essays on various topics related to (Trans-)Caucasian botany, by a large number of authors from all of the participating centres. Some present focal studies on particular families and genera (pears, bluebells and the relict tree *Zelkova*), others are of historical interest (in particular, Walter Lack's masterly synthesis of the countries' botanical exploration); several expand on the themes of conservation and sustainable use, through ecotourism in particular; cultural, including culinary and horticultural aspects feature prominently, with chapters on wine-making, saffron and pomegranate lore.

Studies of Flora and Vegetation

Sonja CONEVA, Valeri GEORGIEV, Vladimir VÁLEV & Anna GANEVA – **Atlas vodni i vodoljubivi rastenija v Bălgarija** [Atlas of aquatic and wetland plants of Bulgaria]. – Institut po Bio-raznoobrazie i Ekosistemni Izsledvanija pri Bălgarska Akademija na Naukite, Sofija, 2012 (ISBN 978-954-9746-28-0). 200 pages, prevalently of colour photographs; hard boards with ring binding. [Received fall 2013].

A splendid photographic atlas, depicting 150+ species of vascular plants and 13+ bryophytes out of the total of 345 recorded Bulgarian hydrophytes and hydrophilous plants. Concise texts provide relevant information for every species (or genus). For several critical groups

(e.g. *Callitriche*, *Carex*, *Cyperus*, *Persicaria*, *Juncus*), juxtaposed photographs allow ready comparison and easy identification. As most of the illustrated species are widespread, the book, which has an English summary, is likely to prove useful to botanists throughout the Mediterranean area.

Chorology

Arto KURTTO, Alexander N. SENNIKOV & Raino LAMPINEN – **Atlas florae europaeae. Distribution of vascular plants in Europe, 16, Rosaceae** (*Cydonia to Prunus*, excl. *Sorbus*). – Committee for Mapping the Flora of Europe & Societas Botanica Fennica Vanamo, Helsinki, 2013 (ISBN 978-951-9108-17-9). 168 pages, maps, tables and graphs; paper. [Received January 2014].

This ought to have been the final *Rosaceae* volume; but there will be one more for *Sorbus* alone, “which has recently experienced a renaissance of interest”. Of the 170 distribution maps, numbered 4709 to 4898, 30 relate to each *Crataegus* and *Prunus* (sensu lato, being the single genus recognised in *Amygdaloideae*), and no less than 73 to *Cotoneaster*. Species inflation in the latter is largely due to Britain, where the genus is not native but numerous ornamentals are reported as naturalised. Generic limits have been kept stable in the traditional way, inclusion of *Mespilus* in *Crataegus* being the single exception.

Excursions

Ina DINTER (ed.) – **Türkei**. Botanische Exkursion 2013. Institut für Botanik, Universität Hohenheim, Stuttgart. 3.-17. März 2013. – Universität Hohenheim,

Stuttgart, 2013 (ISBN 978-3-00-043497-6). v + 133 pages, maps, figures, colour photographs, tables; paper. [Received November 2013].

Ina DINTER (ed.) – Türkei. Botanische Exkursion 2014. Institut für Botanik, Universität Hohenheim, Stuttgart. 20.-30. März 2014. – Universität Hohenheim, Stuttgart, 2014 (ISBN 978-3-00-047553-5). vi + 130 pages, maps, graphs, colour photographs, tables; paper. [Received November 2014].

Ina DINTER – Pyrenäen und Ebrodelta (Spanien). Botanisch-Ornithologische Studienreise vom 17. – 28. Juni 2013. – Privately assembled/printed, Ostfildern, 2013. 57 pages + CD-ROM, maps, figures, colour photographs, tables; paper, plastic front cover sheet. [Received November 2013].

Ina DINTER – Südanatolien (Türkei). Botanische Studienreise vom 1. – 15. April 2014. Exkursionsbericht. – Privately assembled/printed, Ostfildern, 2014. v + 80 pages + CD-ROM, maps, graphs, colour photographs, tables; paper, plastic front cover sheet. [Received November 2014].

For the general scheme and layout of Ina Dinter's excursion accounts, see e.g. OPTIMA Newslett. 41: (15-16). 2013. The two first of the above items deviate from the usual standard. They relate to university excursions to SW Anatolia and are formal publications, rather than the customary privately published accounts. They are partly based on the students' own records taken on the spot, and the field identifications listed are sometimes supported by photographs but not by vouchers (perhaps a result of Turkey's new, very restrictive regula-

tions on biological collecting). The third and fourth item relate to excursions of the traditional type, to the Central Pyrenees of Aragón plus the Ebro delta and to Lycia, respectively (again, neither mentions vouchers). Even though the Spanish trip was part ornithological, botany clearly predominates in both accounts, and also in the complementary documentation on CD-ROM. For Lycia the latter, same as for previous excursions, comprises a rich harvest of plant and landscape photographs; but not for Spain, where the CD is entirely devoted to reproductions of relevant literature.

Applied Botany

Ana PETROVA, Vladimir VLADIMIROV & Valeri GEORGIEV – Invasive alien species of vascular plants in Bulgaria. – Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, 2013 (ISBN 978-954-9746-30-3). 320 pages, numerous colour photographs, c. 60 distribution maps; hard cover. [Received fall 2013].

Following general, introductory background information, 60 selected species judged to be invasive or threatening to become so are presented in alphabetical sequence. Excellent colour photographs (mostly by Vlado Vladimirov), representing both the general habit and habitat and analytical details in close-up, permit to recognise each species with confidence. Details of the introduction and spread are provided when available. Grid maps visualise the current distribution in Bulgaria, in which only the red dots stand for documented occurrences (blue dots denote the potential area of widespread but seldom collected weeds). Remarkably, there appears to be not a

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single documented locality of that widespread archaeophyte, *Erigeron canadensis*!

Neriman ÖZHATAY, Mine KOÇİĞİT & Mehmet BONA – İstanbul’un ballı bitkileri “Çiçek varsa bal var”. – Bal-der Bee Products, [Istanbul, 2010?] (ISBN 978-605-86798-2-5). 264 pages, numerous colour photographs, SEM micrographs, maps, graphs, table; hard cover. [Received fall 2013].

A picture book and manual for the melliferous plants of the Istanbul area, with Turkish text throughout. After introductory chapters, the main portion illustrates 150 (mainly) herbaceous species, grouped by flower colour, and 18 woody plants, each with one or more excellent colour photographs (by Adil Önder Erdem), a scanning micrograph of the pollen, and a map showing its distribution in the Istanbul area. Thirteen cultivated honey-yielding plants form an appendix.

Diego RIVERA, Gonzalo MATILLA, Concepción OBÓN & Francisco ALCARAZ – Plants and humans in the Near East and the Caucasus. Ancient and traditional uses of plants as food and medicine. An ethnobotanical diachronic review. **Volume 1. The landscapes.** The plants: ferns and gymnosperms. **Volume 2. The plants: angiosperms.** – Servicio de publicaciones, Universidad de Murcia, Murcia, 2012 (ISBN 978-84-15463-07-8, whole work; 978-84-15463-05-4, vol. 1; 978-84-15463-06-1, vol. 2). 341 + 1057 pages, tables, graphs, maps; plastified flexible cover. [Received fall 2013].

The work focuses on, and bridges, the interface between man and plants for a huge territory, coinciding approximately with the domain of Boissier’s *Flora ori-*

entalis bar Greece and Egypt, even though for some aspects geographical coverage may be more limited. The introductory portion deals with aspects of the physical geography, flora, vegetation and phytogeography on one hand, human settlement and archaeology on the other. In the main portion, the treatment is by families, genera and species. It is an exhaustive compendium of data on plants with their traditional uses, encompassing any and all aspects of interest to man, throughout historical times. The data derive from an impressive number and variety of published texts, including the writings of antiquity and archaeobotanical literature (listed for both volumes at the end of vol 1). It is not always clear how the botanical identity of the plants concerned has been established, particularly when important basic Floras such as Rechinger’s *Flora iranica* and inventories like Heller’s *Compendium florum orientalis* have not or scarcely been consulted. Usefulness of the books would have been greatly enhanced by running titles mentioning family and genus, and by the presence of indexes.

Conservation Topics

Andrew BYFIELD, Sema ATAY & Neriman ÖZHATAY – Important plant areas in Turkey: 122 key Turkish botanical sites. – WWF Turkey, İstanbul, 2010 (ISBN 978-605-60247-9-5). 463 pages, colour photographs and maps, tables; paper. [Received fall 2013].

The 122 current Important Plant Areas of Turkey were defined in 2003 (see OPTIMA Newslett. 37: 90-91. 2004). In that initial presentation each could be but briefly characterised, but three years

later Neriman Özhatay a published a book in which a selection of 22 of them were described and illustrated more fully (see OPTIMA Newslett. 38: (60). 2008). The present volume now gives a thorough, generously illustrated account of all 122 Turkish APIs, with their extension mapped and with lists, for each, of those species present that are of global or European conservation concern. The consolidated inventory of these 3056 taxa is included in Appendix II, whereas Appendix III brings accounts of 87 threatened endemic species of major concern. The alphabetic index to the subjects of the almost 400 colour photographs is a useful complementary feature of the book.

Florian MOMBRIAL, Beat BÄUMLER, Philippe CLERC, Christine HABASHI, Hélène HINDEN, Catherine LAMBELET-HAUETER, Pascal MARTIN, Michelle PRICE & Raoul PALESE – Flore en ville. Sites et espèces d'intérêt en Ville de Genève. [Publication hors-série n° 15.] – Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville, Genève, 2013 (ISBN 978-2-8277-0130-8). 276 pages, photographs, graphs, maps, tables, all in colour; laminated cover. [Received December 2014].

Essentially this is a description of 22 urban priority sites, defined for conservation purposes on the basis of the presence of priority plant species; as well as a characterisation of the priority species themselves. It rests on thorough inventories, 2011 to 2013, of vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens present in each site. On a total surface area of merely 46 ha 771 species are recorded: 437 vascular plants (57%), 149 bryophytes (19%), and 185 lichens (24%). The full documentation of the two latter groups,

often bypassed in this kind of studies, adds considerably to the interest of this well presented, superbly illustrated compendium, which also serves to document the dynamics of change undergone by urban areas: In 2011, at the onset of this study, 23 priority sites had been defined; at the end, 4 had been added and 5 deleted, partly because they had meanwhile been destroyed or had lost their priority species, partly because the latter's alleged presence rested on misidentification.

Gardens and Gardening

Gideon F. SMITH & Estrela FIGUEIREDO – Succulent paradise. Twelve great gardens of the world. – Struyk Lifestyle, Cape Town, 2013 (ISBN 978-143170-090-5). 184 pages, numerous colour photographs; paper. [Received December 2014].

The book is a round-trip to a selection of twelve botanic gardens specialised in the growing of succulent plants, or having a large section thus specialised. They are scattered over three continents (Africa, Europe, North America) and seven countries: South Africa (2), France (2), Monaco, Italy, Switzerland, the USA (4), and Mexico. None is among the great, universally known institutions of their kind; rather, they are small gardens of mostly recent origin, familiar mainly to insiders, often founded by privateers and some still privately owned. With a single exception (the City of Zürich's Succulent Plant Collection) they are situated in climates in which succulents can be freely grown out of doors – half of them in Mediterranean-type climate zones. An instructive and beautiful book, full of surprises and novel perspectives.

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Mariachiara POZZANA. – The gardens of Florence and Tuscany. Complete guide. – Giunti, Milano, 2011 (ISBN 978-88-09-75952-7). 191 pages, numerous colour photographs, drawings, maps; laminated cover with flaps. [14.90 €; Received 27 Feb 2015].

This is the ultimate guide to Tuscany's gardens. It describes and colourfully illustrates 9 gardens within the city of Florence, 15 in the surroundings and 37 elsewhere in the region: a glorious total of 61, each with details of access, opening hours and fees. Not counted in the total are 34 gardens judged to be of lesser importance or interest and only briefly mentioned, among them the Botanical Gardens of Pisa and Lucca! If you want to visit even a good selection only, which is certainly worth your while, plan well ahead, take your time, and choose a good season.

Bibliography and Biography

Stefan STANEV – Pärvoostroiteli na Bălgarskata botanika. Malko poznati imena ot Bălgarskata botanika. – Universitetsko izdatelstvo "Paisij Hilendarski", Plovdiv, 2015 (ISBN 978-619-202-022-4). 617 pages, black-and-white photographs (portraits); hardcover. [Received Mar 2015].

As the title suggests, this is two books in one, continuously paginated. The first half (pp. [3]-326) is devoted to the "Founders of Bulgarian botany", the second (pp. 327-615) to "Little known names in Bulgarian botany". Both consist of extensive biographical sketches, with mention of new discoveries (including newly named taxa), distinctions received (such as taxa named after each),

lists of publications, and relevant bibliographic sources. In the first half, the main protagonists of Bulgarian botany are treated – not all of them Bulgarian nationals: Frivaldsky, Janka; Pančić, Velenovský, Georgiev, Petkov, Urumov, Davidov, Bubak, Adamović, Arnaudov, Stojanov, Stefanov, Achtarov, Jordanov, Christov, and Kitanov. The 30 botanists of the second half, while obviously less well known, are also less documented in literature and therefore of particular interest. Both halves are in fact second editions, as is obvious from the preface matter but not mentioned in the impressum: the "Founders" volume was first published in Plovdiv, by the same editor, in 2008; the "Little known names" one in Sofia, by Pensoft, in 2001.

Francesco Maria RAIMONDO – Contributi alla promozione della cultura botanica. A cura di Franco PEDROTTI. [Collana *Natura e Aree Protette*, 29.] – Temi, Trento, 2015 (ISBN 978-88-97372-83-7). 245 pages, facsimiles in colour; paper with cover flaps. [15 €; Received 26 Feb 2015].

Presented to Raimondo at a symposium in Florence commemorating his recent 70th birthday, this book is a rather unusual kind of festschrift, having been written entirely by the birthday boy himself. It is also unprecedented in its contents. It is a (not quite complete) compendium of introductions to books and in some cases almanacs as well as laudations written by Raimondo. An excellent idea, is it not? One worthy of being copied. But then, how many persons, botanists in particular, do you know to have published over 100 such items – enough to fill a sizeable volume – as did Raimondo over a period of just 25 years

(starting in 1990, the last being dated 15 January 2015)? The 105 texts included (but unfortunately not indexed), embellished by the colourful facsimiles of the front covers of the respective publications, cover a vast range of topics, from purely botanical, even nomenclatural, to historical, biographic, geographical, pictorial and generally cultural, reflecting Raimondo's broad sphere of skills and interests. The title was aptly chosen by the editor Pedrotti, who also invented the whole idea. It expresses the fact that by this kind of contributions, which many may consider marginal and are indeed a mere by-product of a prolific botanical career, Raimondo has certainly done much to promote botanical culture in general.

Elena MACELLARI – *Botaniche italiane*, scienziate naturaliste appassionate. [*Collana Natura e Aree Protette*, **28.**] – Temi, Trento, 2015 (ISBN 978-88-97372-80-6). 233 pages, ca. 150 illustrations in colour or black-and-white; paper with cover flaps. [20 €; Received 26 Feb 2015].

This anthology of nine full and a dozen short biographies of women who, some overtly and prominently but many by discreet and modest work, have taken influence on the development of botany in Italy is not one of the too many books written in vindictive feminist style but a dispassionate display of how persons of female sex, while operating within the often constraining social and cultural environment of their time, managed to promote scientific knowledge in their discipline. You will find well-known figureheads among them, such as Eleonora Francini Corti, Daria Bertolani Marchetti and Carmela Cortini Pedrotti, each with a distinguished publication

record in her respective specialty and an often prominent academic career; but several other you have hardly ever heard of and whose name, in some cases, has been newly unearthed here for the botanical sciences. The book is written in a well readable, very personal style testifying to the personal involvement of its author, herself a member of the fair sex with botanical interests, in the persons and circumstances she describes.

Kristin VICTOR (ed.) – *Carl Haussknecht. Ein Leben für die Botanik* [*Beiträge aus den Sammlungen der Universität Jena*, **2.**]. – Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, 2013 (ISBN 978-3-00-044408-1). 111 pages, photographs (mostly in colour), facsimiles, maps; paper. [Received November 2013].

A Festband produced as a corollary and guide booklet for an exhibit to commemorate the well known botanist and founder of the Haussknecht Herbarium, Carl Haussknecht (1838-1903). Many original documents of botanical interest are reproduced, including portraits of contemporary botanists, mapped itineraries of Haussknechts SW Asian collecting expeditions, and herbarium specimens. There is an updated bibliography of Haussknecht's publications (by H. Manitz), a list of names of plants (plus one land snail) commemorating Haussknecht, and accounts of his collections – not only herbarium and library: antiquities and coins, too, formed part of his range of interest. A treasure trove for all interested in 19th Century travelling and in the botanical and geographical exploration of SW Asia.

Guido MOGGI – *Frammenti di memoria. Spigolature botaniche*: personaggi,

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collezioni, storie. – Polistampa, Firenze, 2013 (ISBN 978-88-596-1276-6). 157 pages, richly illustrated (photographs, drawings, graphs, facsimiles, maps, tables), mostly in colour; paper. [Received fall 2013].

Illustrated text of 11 lectures presented by the author at various conferences and meetings between 1978 and 2008, but so far unpublished. The range of subjects is broad: biographical (A. Lunardi, R. E. G. Pichi Sermolli), museological and historical (Museum Minà Palumbo, Gallipoli museum and library, Palermo Botanic Garden, acclimatization gardens in Tuscany, pre-Linnean plant systematics), particular plants (palms, saffron, common oak) – and where to place a subject such as the use of islets as penal colonies and its influence on their flora? A wealth of diverse information, to which the access is somewhat facilitated by good indexes (plant and personal names). At the end there is Moggi's succinct curriculum vitae and a list of his publications.

Per Magnus JØRGENSEN – Under magnoliaen. Plantminner. – John Grieg, Bergen, 2013 (ISBN 978-82-533-0301-7). 167 pages, photographs (mostly colour), drawings, facsimiles; paper. [Received fall 2013].

Assembles the author's and eminent lichenologist's botanical (mostly non-lichenological) reminiscences, conceived as his last report presented when retiring from his academic career.

History and Arts

Stefan STANEV & Ana PETROVA – Istoriya na bălgarskata botanika v dati. – Universitetsko izdatelstvo "Paisij Hi-

lendarski", Plovdiv, 2014 (ISBN 978-954-423-928-2). 193 pages, black-and-white photographs (portraits, group photographs) and facsimiles; paper. [Received Mar 2015].

The title translates "History of Bulgarian botany in dates". Botanically relevant events related to Bulgaria are enumerated in a year-by-year sequence, starting 1774 with Italian diplomat Domenico Sestini's visit and spanning to 2013. Among others, deaths, conferences, and book publications are put on record, with a list of relevant sources as an extra bonus. The book is not easy to consult, even for the Bulgarian speaking, owing to the lack of indexes.

Laura TALLANDINI (ed.) – Arte botanica in Italia oggi. Botanical art in Italy today. – Edizioni ETS, Pisa, 2013 (ISBN 978-884673768-7). 87 pages, with 9 pages of black-and-white and 31 of colour illustrations; paper with cover flaps. [14 €; Received 27 Feb 2015].

The booklet, prepared as a guide to the homonymous exhibition at the Padova Botanic Garden in October-November 2013, comprises four bilingual (Italian and English) texts and a colourful ample of the artworks on exhibit. Two of the chapters are devoted to the garden's history, from its foundation in 1545 as the earliest such institution still in existence today to its restoration and enlargement, achieved in 2013 as a consequence of the Garden's inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1997. The two remaining chapters are on botanical illustration and are largely based on the invaluable holdings of the Garden's library. The title, thus, does not really justice to the varied and interesting contents of the book.

Gabriele GALASSO & Enrico BANFI – Flora dipinta. Elementi botanici nell'arte di Bernardino Luini [*Natura (Milano)*, **104(2)**, ISSN 0369-6243]. – Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali & Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, 2014. 152 pages, numerous photographs and facsimiles in colour; laminated cover. [Received January 2015].

An exhibition devoted to the works of Renaissance painter Bernardino Luini (1481-1532), contemporary of Leonardo da Vinci, was shown in spring and summer 2014 in the Palazzo Reale of Milan. It prompted the publication of the present book: an interpretation of the plants shown on a selection of 14 of Luini's remarkably naturalistic paintings. In the first portion of the volume, the painting themselves and botanically relevant portions of them are shown; the second portion presents the 43 species identified, both alive and in botanical illustrations, especially the 16th Century books of Fuchs and Mattioli and an 18th Century manuscript of Giambattista Morandi.

Names and Nomenclature

John H. WIERSEMA, John MCNEILL, Nick J. TURLAND, Fred R. BARRIE, William R. BUCK, Vincent DEMOULIN, Werner GREUTER, David L. HAWKSWORTH, Patrick S. HERENDEEN, Sandy KNAPP, Karol MARHOLD, Jefferson PRADO, Willem F. PRUD'HOMME VAN REINE & Gideon F. SMITH – International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (Melbourne Code) adopted by the Eighteenth International Botanical Congress, Melbourne, Australia, July 2011. **Appendices II-VIII.** [Regnum Veg. (ISSN 0080-0694), **157.**]

– Koeltz Scientific Books, Königstein, 2015 (ISBN 978-3-87429-480-5). xix + 492 pages; hard cover.

More than two years after the main body of the *ICN* (see *OPTIMA* Newslett. 41: (22-23). 2013) and with more than twice its bulk, the Appendices traditionally forming part of it have at last been published. The Nomenclature Section of the Melbourne Congress had authorised this dissociation, wisely as it now appears. Not only would joint publication have resulted in too heavy and cumbersome a volume, it would also have delayed substantially the availability of the rules themselves. During the editing process, John Wiersema incorporated the contents of the Appendices in a database that also encompasses Dan Nicolson's famous "Proposals and Disposals" dataset providing insight into the historical background of each current entry. The result of Wiersema's effort is an extremely useful, online searchable information system (<http://botany.si.edu/references/codes/props/index.cfm>), which hopefully will henceforth be kept up to date. It is unlikely that hard-copy production of the Appendices can be maintained in the future, as every new edition will soon become outdated with respect to the online version.

Carlos E. de M. BICUDO & Jefferson PRADO (transl.) – **Código Internacional de Nomenclatura para algas, fungos y plantas (Código de Melbourne)**, adotado pelo XVIII Congresso Internacional de Botânica, Melbourne, Austrália, Julho de 2011. Preparado e editado por J. MCNEILL, Coordenador, F. R. BARRIE, W. R. BUCK, V. DEMOULIN, W. GREUTER, D. L. HAWKSWORTH, P. S. HERENDEEN, S. KNAPP, K. MARHOLD, J.

Publications

PRADO, W. F. PRUD'HOMME VAN REINE, G. F. SMITH, J. H. WIERSEMA, Membros, N. J. TURLAND, Secretário del Comitê Editorial. – Instituto de Botânica, São Paulo, 2013 (ISBN 978-85-7656-290-0). XXXIV + 208 pages; paper. [Received fall 2013].

Werner GREUTER & Pietro MAZZOLA (transl.) – **Codice Internazionale di Nomenclatura per alghe, funghi e piante (Codice di Melbourne)**, adottato dal Diciottesimo Congresso Internazionale di Botanica, Melbourne, Australia, luglio 2011. Preparato e edito da J. MCNEILL, Presidente, F. R. BARRIE, W. R. BUCK, V. DEMOULIN, W. GREUTER, D. L. HAWKSWORTH, P. S. HERENDEEN, S. KNAPP, K. MARHOLD, J. PRADO, W. F. PRUD'HOMME VAN REINE, G. F. SMITH, J. H. WIERSEMA, Membri, e N. J. TURLAND, Segretario del Comitato Editoriale. [*Informatiore Botanico Italiano* (ISSN 0020-0697), volume fuori serie]. – Società Botanica Italiana & Fondazione Internazionale Pro Herbario Mediterraneo, Palermo, 2014 (ISBN 978-88-85915-09-1). XXXII + 208 pages; laminated flexible cover with flaps. [Received June 2014].

The original English edition of the Melbourne Code and its Spanish translation, published almost simultaneously at the end of 2012, have been reviewed in *OPTIMA* Newslett. 41: (22-23). 2013 (q.v.). Translations to Portuguese and Italian have now followed, both of which are their perfect typographical likeness as to cover and text. In both cases, one of the translators had participated actively in the preparation of the English edition; faithfulness of translation can therefore be safely assumed. The decisions taken by the Melbourne Congress have led to fairly important changes in the rules governing nomenclature and,

additionally, have resulted in a substantial restructuring and rearrangement of an important chapter. It is therefore good to see the Melbourne Code translated to several languages relevant in the Mediterranean domain. To our knowledge, at least one more such translation, into Turkish, is in the pipeline

Congresses and Meetings

Franco PEDROTTI & Paolo GEROLA (ed.) – **108° Congresso della Società Botanica Italiana** onlus. Centro Congresso Piné 1000, Via C. Battisti, 98 Baselga di Piné (Trento), 18-20 settembre 2013. Riassunti. **Relazioni – Comunicazioni – Posters**. – Società Botanica Italiana, Firenze, 2013 (ISBN 978-88-85915-07-7). 203 pages, figures, graphs, maps, tables; paper. [Received fall 2013].

Includes the scientific programme of the Congress, followed by abstracts of 24 lectures and 156 oral or poster presentations.

Simonetta PECCENINI & Gianniantonio DOMINA (ed.) – Società Botanica Italiana, Gruppo per la Floristica. **Contributi alla ricerca floristica in Italia. Comunicazioni**. Orto Botanico, La Sapienza Università di Roma, 18-19 ottobre 2013. – Società Botanica Italiana, Firenze, 2013 (ISBN 978-88-85915-08-4). 56 pages, tables; paper. [Received October 2013].

Short versions of 21 papers presented at the annual meeting of the SBI Gruppo per la Floristica. For reviews of the abstract booklet for the 4 previous meetings, see *OPTIMA* Newslett. 39: (32). 2010; 40: (31-32). 2011; 41: (11-12). 2013. Disregarding the group's previously taken majority decision, three new combinations are again validly published

in abstracts (genera *Caroxylon* and *Helichrysum*), but the intended name of a new subspecies is not, due to lack of English or Latin descriptive material.

Lorenzo PERUZZI & Gianniantonio DOMINA (ed.) – Società Botanica Italiana, Gruppo per la Floristica, Sistematica ed Evoluzione. **Floristica, sistematica ed evoluzione.** Comunicazioni. Orto Botanico, La Sapienza Università di Roma, 21-22 novembre 2014. – Società Botanica Italiana, Firenze, 2014 (ISBN 978-88-85915-10-7). 52 pages, tables; paper. [Received November 2014].

Short versions (two pages each) of 23 papers presented at the annual meeting of the former SBI Gruppo per la Floristica, renamed for the occasion, with the title of the booklet reflecting the newly adopted name. The object of 19 of the paper is a single species or species group of the genera *Allium*, *Amaranthus*, *Androsace*, *Anthemis*, *Bituminaria*, *Carduus*, *Corydalis*, *Crocus*, *Euphorbia*, *Gymnospermium*, *Helichrysum*, *Limonium* (2), *Pancreatium*, *Pinguicula*, *Rhaponticoides*, *Sedum*, *Utricularia*, *Veronica*; three have a regional focus: Central Apennine, Latium, Lombardy; and one concerns the Visiani herbarium in Padua.

Franco PEDROTTI (ed.) – Stelvio '70. Biodiversità, dinamica del paesaggio e gestione delle aree montane. 8-11 settembre 2005. Rabbi (Trentino), Italia [*Colloques phytosociologiques*, **29.**] – Tipolitografia Editrice TEMI, Trento, 2013 (ISBN 978-88-97372-59-2). 799 pages, illustrations (some in colour), tables; hard cover. [25 €; received April 2014].

The Symposium “Stelvio '70” was held in the Rabbi valley, Trento Province, N. Italy, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Stelvio National Park. It had “Biodiversity. Landscape Dynamics and Management of Mountain Areas” as one of its three main themes. Papers presented in that section the manuscripts of which had been submitted before the end of 2005 (!) make up the present volume: 58 papers in English (28), Italian (22), French (6) or German (2), followed by a Guide to the Congress excursion. Some of the gray-tone pictures and graphs of the text reappear in colour at the end of the volume (pp. 767-796). Most papers are related to situations in the Alps, but some concern the Apennines, Sicily, Bulgaria, Russia, Caucasia and even Iran.

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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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