



## *Newsletter N° 42 (1-2)*

*April 2015*

---

### **OPTIMA *Newsletter***

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

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

ISSN: 0376-5016 printed; 2225-6970 online 42: 1-12 (1)-(21), (2015), OPTIMA Newslett.  
DOI: 10.7320/OptNewslett42.0.1

---

The *OPTIMA Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the support of:*



Orto Botanico ed Erbario Mediterraneo  
Università degli Studi di Palermo

# OPTIMA *Newsletter*

*Editors:* G. Domina and W. Greuter

*Layout:* M.J. Albert

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

### **Executive Council 2013-2019**

Francesco M. Raimondo, Italy (President)  
Georgia Kamari, Greece (Vice-President)  
Gianniantonio Domina, Italy (Secretary)  
Magda Bou-Dagher, Lebanon  
Mohammed Fennane, Morocco  
Vernon H. Heywood, U. K.  
Karol Marhold, Slovak Republic  
Benito Valdés, Spain  
Olja Vasic', Serbia  
Werner Greuter, Switzerland (Permanent Guest)

### **Auditors**

Pietro Mazzola, Italy  
Riccardo Guarino, Italy

### **International Board 2013-2019**

Executive Council and:  
Mariam Aghababyan, Armenia  
K. Husnu Can Baser, Turkey  
Loutfy Boulos, Egypt  
Theophanis Constantinidis, Greece  
Avinoam Danin, Israel  
Tuna Ekim, Turkey  
Eleonora Gabrielian, Armenia  
José M. Iriondo, Spain  
Daniel Jeanmonod, Switzerland  
Stephen Jury, U. K.  
Joël Mathez, France  
Frédéric Médail, France  
Yamama Naciri, Morocco  
Christoph Oberprieler, Germany  
Silvano Onofri, Italy  
Dražena Papeš, Croatia  
Fátima Sales, Portugal  
Sonja Siljak-Yakovlev, France  
Pertti Uotila, Finland  
Ernst Vitek, Austria  
Vladimir Vladimirov, Bulgaria

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

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

Through an agreement between OPTIMA and the Herbarium Greuter Foundation, you may pay OPTIMA membership fees, or purchase volumes of *Bocconea*, by sending herbarium specimens to the Herbarium Greuter 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, Herbarium Greuter, Via Lincoln 2, I-90133 Palermo, Italy.
6. Please also send a communication by E-mail, to the OPTIMA Secretariat in Palermo (e-mail: [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)).

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

**WHEN ORDERED FROM THE OPTIMA SECRETARIAT**

**From the OPTIMA Secretariat**

**Med-Checklist.** Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are available for OPTIMA members with a special discount (reduced prices: 83€, 101€, 92€ and 117€ respectively, including shipping charges). Please ask for further information at the following address: OPTIMA Secretariat, via Lincoln 2/A, I-90133 Palermo fax 0039 0916165997, tel. 003909123891209, e-mail: [secre@optima-bot.org](mailto:secre@optima-bot.org).

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 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: 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.

**(*Flora Mediterranea* and *Bocconeae* are available for OPTIMA members with 70% and 30% of discount respectively)**

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

## PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

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

Volume	Price	OPTIMA member Price	Shipping cost
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 1)	€ 90	€ 9073	€ 10
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 2)	€ 121	€ 121 91	€ 10
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 3)	€ 102	€ 102 82	€ 10
<i>Med-Checklist</i> (Volume 4)	€ 134	€ 134 107	€ 10

***Flora Mediterranea (Volumes 1-22)***

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

***Bocconea***

Volume	Price	OPTIMA member Price	Shipping cost
1	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
2	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
3	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
4	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
5 (I & II)	€ 200	€ 140	€ 10
6	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
7	€ 75	€ 52	€ 10
8	€ 50	€ 35	€ 10
9	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
10	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
11	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
12	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
13	€ 75	€ 52	€ 10
14	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
15	€ 50	€ 35	€ 10
16 (I & II)	€ 140	€ 98	€ 10
17	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
18	€ 50	€ 35	€ 10
19	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
20	€ 95	€ 66	€ 10
21	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
22	€ 50	€ 32	€ 10
23	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
24	€ 55	€ 38	€ 10
25	€ 50	€ 38	€ 10
26	€ 50	€ 38	€ 10

***Proceedings of OPTIMA Meetings***

Number	Price	Member Price	Shipping cost
--------	-------	--------------	---------------

OPTIMA NEWSLETTER OPTIMA NEWSLETTER OPTIMA NEWSLETTER

II	€ 60	€ 48	€ 10
V	€ 125	€ 100	€ 10
VI	€ 60	€ 48	€ 10
VIII	€ 45	€ 75	€ 10
VII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII see Boccone vol. 5, 13, 16, 21, 23, 24			

**OPTIMA Newsletter**, issues:

5, 6, 7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 17-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37(1), 37(2), 38(1-2), 39 (1-2), 40(1-2)

	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

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

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

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

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

	Price	Member Price	Shipping cost
	€ 30	€ 15	€ 6

**Orders:**

Send all orders to the OPTIMA Secretariat, via Lincoln 2, I-90133 Palermo, preferably by e-mail ([secre@optima-bot.org](mailto:secre@optima-bot.org)) or fax (+39 0916165997). **Payment is required in advance. Please contact the secretariat for multiple dispatches.**

**Payment:**

- By Paypal or Credit card, send an email to the secretariat ([secre@optima-bot.org](mailto:secre@optima-bot.org)) to receive further instructions.
- I am sending a bank transfer to the OPTIMA, account No. 240-396199-M3T (IBAN: CH79 0024 0240 3961 99M3T; BIC: UBSWCHZH80A), Union Bank of Switzerland, CH-8401 Winthertur, Switzerland. (Please, include photocopy of bank slip).
- 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

## Membership categories

**Ordinary** members receive announcements, circulars and the OPTIMA Newsletter via e-mail (or the latter in print, against extra charge), a free subscription to *Flora Mediterranea*, benefit from reduced rates on page charges for papers in *Flora Mediterranea*, on for selected publications and on registration for OPTIMA Meetings, and have all the rights and benefits of being a full member.

**Online Only** members receive links for downloading *Flora Mediterranea*, announcements, circulars and the OPTIMA Newsletter via e-mail, benefit from reduced rates on page charges for papers in *Flora Mediterranea*, for selected publications and on registration for OPTIMA Meetings and have all the rights and benefits of being a full member

**Institutional** members, in addition to the Ordinary members, 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, Online Only 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: .....	€ 40.00
Online .....	€ 20.00
Life membership: .....	€ 600.00
Institutional members: .....	€ 100.00

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

OPTIMA Ordinary + SBI: .....	€ 110.00
OPTIMA Online + SBI.....	€ 92,50
OPTIMA Ordinary + SBI + Plant Biosystems: .....	€ 137.00
OPTIMA Online + SBI + Plant Biosystems:.....	€ 119.50

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 ([secre@optima-bot.org](mailto:secre@optima-bot.org)).
- Bank transfer to OPTIMA, account No. 240-396199-M3T (IBAN: CH79 0024 0240 3961 99M3T; BIC: UBSWCHZH80A), Union Bank of Switzerland, CH-8401 Wintherthur, Switzerland.
- International bank cheque or Eurocheque sent to OPTIMA Secretariat in Palermo.

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

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

## 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 23<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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 *Bocconeia* 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### **14<sup>th</sup> 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

### **110<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Italian Botanical Society (3<sup>rd</sup> 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
----------------------

#### **6<sup>th</sup> 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](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