

XI OPTIMA Meeting
Beograd 5-11 September 2004

First Circular

Dear Colleagues,

At the X OPTIMA Meeting in Palermo in 2001, it was agreed that the XI OPTIMA Meeting should be organized in 2004 in Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro). You may recall that in Delphi (Greece), in 1989, organization of the OPTIMA Meeting for 1992 had already been entrusted to the Natural History Museum in Belgrade. This plan could not then be realized due to unfortunate, non-botanical reasons. We therefore welcome this new opportunity with great pleasure.

We invite you to come to Belgrade in September 2004, to inaugurate the second decade of OPTIMA Meetings. We trust that we will host the Meeting in full agreement with its successful tradition, and we will do our best to organize it in such a way that you will keep a beautiful and pleasant memory of Belgrade.

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT US AT

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Includes 12 Symposia with invited speakers, and two Poster sessions with offered presentations, which may or not may be correlated to the Symposium topics.

SYMPOSIA:

✿ **J. Pignatti: *The legacy of the geological past and the ice ages in the Mediterranean area***

Several elements were crucial in shaping, through time, the physical environment and the flora in the Mediterranean area. Symposium topics will include (a) the complex geological history of the region, where shifting tectonic plates caused fragmentation and reassertment of land and sea, influencing biogeographical patterns and enhancing spatial heterogeneity; (b) the biotic, adaptational and evolutionary consequences of recurrent, cyclic climatic changes that became increasingly rapid and extreme in late Neogene and Quaternary times, with sharp contrasts in processes, as reflected by the complex genetic structure of recent populations and species; and (c) the late Pleistocene and Holocene anthropic impact.

The invited oral presentations will focus on new concepts, methods and results, by presenting an array of subjects to illustrate the complexity and diversity of the disciplines involved. Such topics may include the genetic legacy of the ice ages, phylogeography, palynostratigraphy and paleobotany, biogeography, evolutionary interactions and dynamics, and palaeoclimatology.

Posters on case studies and general issues are welcome, so that the Poster session may provide the opportunity for discussion and pave the way for new collaborations.

✿ Symposium had to be cancelled.

N. Kilian and C. Oberprieler: *Mediterranean Compositae*

This symposium will give an overview of the current synantherological research in the Mediterranean, presenting contributions to taxonomic, phylogenetic and evolutionary aspects of the *Compositae* in one of its diversity centres.

The invited oral presentations will cover different taxonomic levels, from species group to tribe, and range from the databasing of Mediterranean *Compositae* (Euro+Med Plant Base) to contributions to *Compositae* phylogenetics in the framework of the International Compositae Alliance (TICA).

Posters dealing with the mentioned topics are welcome.

K. H. C. Başer: *Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*

The symposium will focus on various aspects of medicinal and aromatic plants growing in the Mediterranean area. Main topics will include (a) ethnobotany and traditional uses of plants for the benefit of humans and animals, (b) plant chemistry as a tool for

studying Mediterranean medicinal and aromatic plants, and (c) the sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants growing wild in the Mediterranean region.

Invited oral presentations will be given by distinguished speakers.

Poster presentations on the above or any related topics are welcome.

U. Plitmann: *Landscape ecology of the Mediterranean*

The symposium shall present illustrated extracts of selected chapters from the OPTIMA book “Landscapes of the Mediterranean Vegetation”. Each presentation is to describe the principal or important communities/formations (natural and man-made), with mention of their distribution, dominant components, the main ecological and biogeographical features, and floristic highlights (e.g. biologically unique, endemic or introduced species). The symposium will be preceded by general, introductory presentations.

T. Constantinidis: *Edaphic Islands*

The symposium will consider the various ways in which edaphic factors may affect the evolution, speciation, distribution and isolation of plant taxa or populations. Edaphic endemism, disjunct distributions, adaptation to particular geological substrates, floristics, and biodiversity estimates under contrasting geodaphic situations will also be considered.

The invited oral presentations will demonstrate, by a variety of examples, the diverse influence that geological factors may have on plant life.

Poster presentations that deal with any such (or similar) topic are welcome.

E. Pacini and A. Dafni: *Pollen dispersal in the Mediterranean plants*

Pollen dispersal must be adapted to the environment, exploit the most suitable vectors, and reduce the losses to a minimum. The Mediterranean climate determines the prevalence of certain types of pollination syndrome and the relative rarity of others. In fact, the distribution of a species rarely extends beyond the climatic limits of its pollination system. This symposium will approach representative aspects of pollination in gymnosperms and angiosperms.

In addition to the invited oral presentations, poster presentations are welcome.

S. Onofri: *The influence of environmental factors on the diversity of fungi (including lichens) in the Mediterranean*

Diversity of fungi in the Mediterranean area is barely known, and even the lichenised fungi are not yet exhaustively investigated. An in-depth knowledge of environmental factors affecting the presence and distribution of fungi (including lichens) could be a powerful tool for environmental monitoring. This symposium will deal with the study of diversity and distribution of fungi, including lichens, in the Mediterranean area.

Invited oral presentations will focus on geographical, anthropic, and climatic factors influencing fungal diversity, also contributing to the knowledge of mycota in different and scarcely known regions.

Posters on local inventories and on the influence of environmental factors on mycodiversity, including adaptive strategies, will be welcome.

B. Valdés: *Euro-Mediterranean Plant Databases*

Floristic projects usually involve huge amounts of data which call for the use of computing facilities. The Symposium will focus on floristic projects using electronic databases as their core, from which a variety of outputs can be generated. Two types of such

projects will be included: (1) those covering large areas, which may extend beyond the Mediterranean region, and (2) national and regional Mediterranean floristic projects.

In addition to the invited oral presentations, posters, especially those dealing with the second topic, are welcome.

M. Fennane and P. L. Nimis: *Botanical Networks in the Mediterranean area: collection data, georeferenced information and interactive identification tools*

This symposium will be devoted to on-line networks providing access to data on plants and fungi of the Mediterranean region. It will concentrate on three main topics: (a) collection data (both from herbaria and living collections), (b) taxonomic, distributional and ecological data, and (c) the development of tools for the interactive or automated identification of organisms.

The invited oral presentations will concentrate on already available large data sets, on links with broadly based international projects, on problems of data standardization, and on difficulties in certain countries or sub-regions for using data-processing tools in botany.

Posters presenting local or specialized collections and data sets are welcome.

J. M. Iriondo: *Spatial analysis in Mediterranean Botany*

The fast development of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) combined with novel methods for the treatment of spatial data (geostatistics, spatial autocorrelation techniques, spatial modelling, etc.) is providing new perspectives for the study of Mediterranean botany.

This symposium will present and discuss examples of the practical application of these novel tools, along with more traditional approaches linked to plant chorology.

In addition to the invited oral presentations, poster presentations directly or indirectly linked to the use of spatial data in Mediterranean botany are welcome.

O. Vasić: *Botany in Serbia and Montenegro*

This symposium will be devoted to studies on the flora of Serbia and Montenegro. Main themes are to include diversity of the flora, the presence, distribution and abundance of plant taxa, as well as analyses of taxonomic and phytogeographic elements.

The invited oral presentations will concentrate on relatively large and/or ecologically significant areas, as well as on taxonomic revisions at various levels.

In addition to the invited oral presentations, poster presentations are welcome.

O. Vasić: *Botany in ex-Yugoslav countries*

This symposium will present the results of research on the flora of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia.

Eminent experts from research institutions of these countries will be invited to present an overview of floristic, taxonomic and phytogeographical research in their respective area.

Poster presentations on the above or any related topics are welcome.

POSTER SESSIONS:

V. H. Heywood: Session 1

D. Zohary: Session 2

LOCATION AND DATES:

The XI OPTIMA Meeting will take place in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and Montenegro, according to the program that follows:

3-5 September: Non-public meetings of the International Board, Executive Council, and the Commissions

6-11 September: Scientific program

12-15 September: Post-congress excursions

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:

English and French

REGISTRATION FEE

No.	Category	Payment in Euros		
		Regular	Late	On-Meeting
1	Regular OPTIMA Members	250	375	500
2	Associated members	320	480	640
3	Non-members	320	480	640
4	Accompanying persons	150	225	300
5	Students	120	180	240

Registration fee covers

Full (1-3): book of abstracts, program, all printed meeting documents; welcome reception, farewell dinner, reception, break refreshments; one-day excursion.

Accompanying persons: program, welcome reception, farewell dinner, reception, break refreshments, one-day excursion.

Students: book of abstracts, program, welcome reception, break refreshments, one-day excursion. The farewell dinner will be available at extra cost.

Regular registration rates apply to payments made prior to **30 April 2004**. After that date, **late registration rates** will apply. Details of payment will be announced in the second circular.