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Inspecting a large population of *Limonium vulgare* during the Post-symposium Excursion in Wadden Sea, Germany, July 2019.

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July 20-24, 2020, Vladivostok, Russia

The 63rd Annual IAVS Symposium in Vladivostok is approaching!

IMPORTANT DATES

30 March 2020 - deadline for abstract submissions
30 March 2020 - deadline for submissions of travel grant applications
20 April 2020 - decisions on IAVS travel grant applications and abstract acceptance
10 May 2020 - early registration deadline (reduced fees)
10 May 2020 - deadline for submissions of documents for invitation

http://geobotanica.ru/symposium_2020/
Statistical courses with Pierre Legendre

July 18 and 19, 2020, Vladivostok (Russia)

The IAVS Ecoinformatics working group is organizing two statistical courses taught by Pierre Legendre (Université de Montréal, Canada) during the two days before the Annual IAVS Symposium, with the following topics:

**SATURDAY, 18 JULY**

An overview of ordination methods
- Ordination methods for community composition data
- Transformations for ordination of species data
- Algebra of Principal Component, Correspondence and Coordinate Analyses

**SUNDAY, 19 JULY**

Spatial eigenfunction modelling
- Origin of spatial structures
- Spatial eigenfunction methods
- Test of space-time interaction

The first-day course is an introduction to ecological ordination methods, whereas the second-day course will present advanced spatial modelling methods. On each day, the formal lectures will be followed by practical exercises using the R statistical language. Students will need their own computers with R already installed.

Registration to the course is free for participants in the symposium and should be made before 30 March 2020 (same deadline for abstract submissions to the IAVS symposium), indicating interest to attend the first, second or both days. Please note that the number of participants is limited to 80 (priority will be given to early registrants).


Contact person: Borja Jimenez-Alfaro jimenezalfaro@uniovi.es
The contribution of the European Vegetation Survey to the biodiversity strategy 2020

European Vegetation Survey Meeting 2020

4-7 May 2020, Rome, Italy

http://www.evs2020roma.info

Important dates

January 31, 2020: Request for financial support and letter of invitation
February 15, 2020: Abstract submission
March 15, 2020: Fee payment
April 4, 2020: Last call
Ukrainian steppes along climatic gradients

14th EDGG Field Workshop

25 May — 3 June 2020, Ukraine

Preliminary itinerary:

25 May (Monday) 09.00-19.00: Kherson - Syvash Lake - Henichesk
26 May (Tuesday) 08.00-18.00: Henichesk - Syvashyk Liman - Henichesk
27 May (Wednesday) 08.00-19.30: Henichesk - Melitopol - Zaporizhzhia
28 May (Thursday) 08.00-18.00: Zaporizhzhia - Stepnohirsk - Zaporizhzhia
29 May (Friday) 08.00-18.30: Zaporizhzhia - Vidradne - Dnipro
30 May (Saturday) 08.00-18.00: Dnipro - Spaske - Samara river - Dnipro
31 May (Sunday) 08.00-19.00: Dnipro - Nehvoroshcha - Poltava
01 June (Monday) 08.00-18.30: Poltava - Klymovka - Stepove - Poltava
02 June (Tuesday) 08.00-18.30: Poltava - Zin’kiv - Poltava
03 June (Wednesday) 08.00-15.30: Poltava - Klymovka - Stepove - Poltava

Deadline for applications is 15th February 2020

http://edgg.org/fieldworkshop2020
Grasslands dynamics and conservation in a changing world

17th Eurasian Grassland Conference
07-13 September 2020, Tolosa, Spain

- Succession and species turnover in abandoned grasslands
- Biodiversity of urban grasslands
- Above and belowground grassland diversity
- Grassland conservation and global change

Program outline

September 7, Monday: Technical workshops, EGC registration, welcome drink

September 8, Tuesday: Registration, 1st session day

September 9, Wednesday: Mid-conference excursion, grassland party

September 10, Thursday: 2nd session day, EDGG General Assembly

September 11-13, Friday to Sunday: Post-conference excursion to the Basque Country and Navarre

http://edgg.org/egc2020
The 62nd Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science was held at the Conference Centre Bremen, Germany, from 14-19 July, 2019. The main theme of the symposium was “Vegetation Science and Biodiversity Research”, highlighting the important contribution of vegetation science to the documentation and explanation of biodiversity patterns and of the current biodiversity loss. The symposium was organized by Martin Diekmann, Cecilia Dupré, Maike Isermann, Karen Rink, Martina Stickan and Andreas Suchopar, together forming the Local Organizing Committee.

In total there were 329 participants from 44 countries. The host country Germany and other countries in Europe were particularly well-represented, but there were also many participants from North and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia, i.e. all continents except Antarctica.
Preceding the symposium and with financial help from IAVS, Francesco de Bello and Lars Götzbenberger organized a workshop on **Saturday and Sunday (13-14 July)** about “Integrating functional and phylogenetic differences between species for community ecology”. The general scientific program started on **Monday (15 July)** with a keynote lecture by Helge Bruelheide, who showed that “Biodiversity mechanisms drive intertrophic relationships in subtropical forests”. After the coffee break the symposium continued with oral presentations, throughout the week organized in four parallel sessions. Most of the time slots for talks were taken up by 12 special sessions from varying fields of vegetation science:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Organizer(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) How can vegetation ecoinformatics support biodiversity research</td>
<td>Borja Jiménez-Alfaro, Sebastian Schmidtlein, Viktoria Wagner, Susan Wiser, Andrei Zverev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Remote sensing of vegetation for biodiversity research</td>
<td>Jana Müllerová, Duccio Rocchini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Plant phenology and plant traits</td>
<td>Christine Römermann &amp; Emma Jardine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Macroecological vegetation science: large grain patterns and processes of plant diversity</td>
<td>Meelis Pärtel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Species-area relationships and other scaling laws in plant biodiversity</td>
<td>Alessandro Chiarucci, Iwona Dembicz, Jürgen Dengler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Vegetation and plant diversity dynamics during the late Quaternary</td>
<td>Hermann Behling, Thomas Giesecke, Lyudmila Shumilovskikh, Vincent Montade, Petr Kuneš</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Long-term studies in vegetation science</td>
<td>Markus Bernhardt-Römermann, Radim Hédl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Plant reproduction and dispersal: A trait-based approach</td>
<td>Leonid Rasran, Péter Török, Judit Sonkoly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) The legacy of the past in the biodiversity of current vegetation</td>
<td>Radim Hédl, Guillaume Decocq, Péter Szabó, Peter Poschlod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) Patterns, drivers, and conservation opportunities of grassland biodiversity</td>
<td>Didem Ambarli, Riccardo Guarrino, Alla Aleksanyan, Péter Török</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11) Using plant traits for the recovery of ecosystem functions and services: Trait-based ecosystem engineering?</td>
<td>Béla Tóthmérész &amp; Péter Török</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12) Global biodiversity of plant species, plant forms and plant communities</td>
<td>Franco Pedrotti, Kazue Fujiwara, Elgene Box</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome Reception.
In total there were about 182 oral presentations. **Tuesday (16 July)** morning started with the ceremony for the 2019 Alexander von Humboldt Award bestowed to Pierre Legendre, who after the celebration gave a keynote lecture on “Temporal beta diversity: identify sites where species communities have changed in exceptional ways” (for slides of the presentation, see http://iavs.org/getattachment/2019-Annual-Symposium/Home/TBI_seminar_Legendre.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US).

The afternoon included the first poster session of the symposium, a total of 95 posters were displayed during the symposium in the central hall of the conference centre. In the afternoon another plenary talk was given by Sebastian Schmidtlein, introducing the software “Vegapp, a field app for vegetation relevés”.

After the mid-week excursion day (see below), the symposium continued on **Thursday (18 July)** morning with a plenary talk given by Vigdis Vandvik who presented “A burning issue: Understanding the imprints of humans on the ecology and biodiversity of coastal heathlands”. The final plenary on **Friday (19 July)** was devoted to a discussion on the future of vegetation science and of the IAVS, in which the audience reflected on the most important forthcoming tasks of the discipline and of the association, based on a questionnaire distributed to the participants at the start of the symposium. PDFs of abstract book and symposium program can be found on the homepage of IAVS under [http://iavs.org/2019-Annual-Symposium/Home.aspx](http://iavs.org/2019-Annual-Symposium/Home.aspx).

The scientific symposium program was accompanied by various meetings, of the Editorial Board of our journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*, of the IAVS Councils and of the varying IAVS working groups and sections. An important decision taken by the newly formed IAVS Council was the election of a new Governing Board, with Susan Wiser as the new president, David Zelený as the new secretary, and five vice-presidents (Alessandra Fidelis, Monika Janišová, Martin Diekmann, Javier Loidi, and Peter Minchin).

The symposium was preceded by a 5-days excursion to the Harz and Kyffhäuser region, guided by Heige Bruelheide and Ute Jandt, and followed by another long excursion (6 days) to the Wadden Sea islands Baltrum and Spiekeroog, guided by Maike Isermann. On
Wednesday (17 July) the mid-week excursions took place during which eight different sites were visited - luckily the rather cold weather of the first symposium days had changed to summer weather on the excursion day. The destinations were:

- Wadden Sea island of Spiekeroog (guided by Michael Kleyer)
- Bogs SW of Bremen - restoration of cut over bogs through introduction of Sphagnum mosses (Peter Raabe)
- Beech forests and restoration of calcareous grasslands in former limestone quarries in the Teutoburger Wald mountains (Norbert Hölzel)
- Forests and grasslands at the mountain ridge Sieben Berge (Martin Diekmann, Josef Müller)
- The ancient forest of Hasbruch & heathlands and fens at Pestrup (Cord Peppler-Lisbach, Hans Konrad Nettmann)
- Lüneburger Heide (Johann Schreiner)
- Coastal heathlands and forests at Cuxhavener Küstenheiden (Heike Culmsee, Tobias Leikauf)

The Local Organizing Committee is thankful to all the symposium guides who spent a lot of time for preparations, pre-excursions and excursion handouts, and who guided the participants in a competent and dedicated manner.

Scientific program and excursions are important for the success of (IAVS) symposia, but equally important are the discussions and personal interactions. There were two main organized social events: the welcome party in the Conference Centre Bremen on the day of arrival on Sunday evening, and the dinner party at the traditional Union brewery on Thursday, offering good food and a variety of excellent craft beers (and at an advanced time some music and dance).

The organizers wish to thank all participants of the symposium who contributed with talks, posters, working group and business meetings, excursions and social events. Apart from the many people already mentioned, we would like to acknowledge also the members of the Scientific Committee who helped with the preparation of the scientific program, the review of abstracts and chairing sessions (Alicia Acosta, Sándor Bartha, Zoltán Botta-Dukát, Helge Bruehlheide, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Francesco de Bello, Guillaume Decocq, Jürgen Dengler, Alessandra Fidelis, Martin Hermy, Monika Janišová, Florian Jansen, Pavel V. Krestov, Jan Lepš, Javier J. Loidi, Peter Minchin, Meelis Pärtel, Robert Peet, Valério Pillar, Joop H.J. Schaminée, Nina Smits, Otto J. Wildi, Wolfgang Willner, Susan Wiser, David Zelený, and Martin Zobel). Last but not least, we express our gratitude to all the student volunteers, FASEB staff and assistants who helped with thousand little things behind and before the scene to make the symposium a success: Margaux D’Ambly, Johanna Diekmann, Lennard Haltermann, Lisa Hetherington, Meghan Kennedy, Leonie Mazalla, Josef Müller, Ayla Murray, Barbara Schultz, Judith Seliger, and Kathrin Stoltenberg.
Minutes of the Old IAVS Council in Bremen, Germany, 2019

Time: Tuesday, July 16, 18.00 - 21.00
Location: room Borgward

Participants

**Members present:** Martin Diekmann (President), Susan Wiser (Secretary), Alessandra Fidelis (Vice President), Monika Janišová (Vice President), Javier Loidi (Vice President), Peter Minchin (Vice President), Alicia Acosta, Sándor Bartha, Zoltán Botta-Dukát, Elgene Box, Helge Bruehlheide, Andraž Čarni, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Francesco de Bello, Guillaume Decocq, Jürgen Dengler, Kazue Fujiwara, Tomas Herben, Florian Jansen, Pavel Krestov, Meelis Pärtel, Robert Peet, Valério Pillar, John Rodwell, Joop Schaminée, Otto Wildi, Wolfgang Willner, David Zelený, Martin Zobel = 31 votes

**Proxy votes:** Iva Apostolova (Monika Janišová), Sara Cousins (Susan Wiser), Jessica Gurevitch (Susan Wiser), Jan Lepš (Francesco de Bello), Martin Hermy (Guillaume Decocq), Ladislav Mucina (Andraž Čarni), Yukito Nakamura (Kazue Fujiwara), Michael Palmer (Valério Pillar), János Podani (Robert Peet), Marcel Rejmánek (Francesco de Bello), Nina Smits (Susan Wiser) = 10 votes

**Absent:** Nikolai Ermakov

**Guests:** Carol Clark (Wiley), Lisa Hetherington (FASEB), Péter Török (EDGG Working Group), Daniel Sanchez-Mata (as organizer of possible IAVS 2021 venue; Madrid, Spain), John Hunter (to propose a possible venue for IAVS 2022: New South Wales, Australia), Reginald Guuroh (Young Scientists).

1. Welcome

President Diekmann brought the meeting to order at 18:00.

2. Announcements of proxy votes (Wiser)

Secretary Wiser read the proxy votes. Proxy representation of 10 members was reported and approved (see above). Total voting members represented: 31 + 10 = 41

3. Finances

a. Report for 2018 - issues (Diekmann)

President Diekmann explained that he received the report pertaining to our US-based accounts just a few days ago so hasn’t been able to reconcile this with the Dutch account; therefore, no report was distributed. He did present a summary for discussion.

Our income was higher than had been projected; this was a surprise as we expected we may see an impact of the decreased value of the £, but this has not affected our income. Our expenditures broadly matched our income, based on our US accounts. The balance in the Dutch bank account dropped by ~ €13,000. The value of our second Dutch account (the large account was split into two accounts for safety several years ago) has remained stable. As the total value of the Dutch accounts decreases, we will transfer the funds from the second account into the original account, so we only have one Dutch account. Overall, we earned US$20,000 more than projected and spent US$20,000 more than projected.

Diekmann will send the full financial report details after the symposium. [A link to the report is provided here](#)

The outstanding issue is that the Bank of America statement is very difficult to interpret, and we are not receiving a bookkeeping/accounts statement from the FASEB accounting services. We have raised this issue in the past with FASEB and although the situation has improved from that of a year ago it is still not solved. There were no questions from Council about the 2018 financial report.

[Attachment 1 IAVS Finances Development.pdf]

Diekmann described the graph showing the trends in the IAVS financial position since 2004. The IAVS financial position has remained stable over the last several years.
b. Auditing of financial report for 2018 (Wildi, Jansen)

Diekmann explained how the problems of our administration providing the level of detail required for our accounts to be audited persists. Wildi and Jansen are provided with no bookkeeping details that can be audited. Although Diekmann can download pdfs of transactions that he approves and so ascertain the nature of individual transactions, this isn’t summarized in a way that is accessible to the auditors. Wildi pointed out that doing bookkeeping is not a task the President of IAVS should be doing and that clearly our administrator doesn’t understand the task and what we require. Although the auditors haven’t seen any sign that there are problems with the integrity of our finances, the current situation is far from satisfactory. In particular, the auditors need to be able to ascertain what the nature of each financial transaction was, that they are properly receipted, etc.

Hetherington explained that most FASEB societies have their auditors come into the FASEB offices and spend a day with the accounting staff, but she doesn’t know how the process would work remotely with auditors who cannot travel to the FASEB office. She also doesn’t understand how the actual accounting/bookkeeping system works.

Peet suggested that he and Wiser visit the FASEB office in person, discuss our needs with the FASEB accounting staff and facilitate a process for Wildi and Jansen.

Wildi pointed out that he will not be serving on the new Council so this task should be transferred to someone else.

c. Update of budget for 2019 - discussion and approval (Diekmann)

Diekmann explained that we gave more money to support travel grants and more to working groups and have estimated costs for launching the new journal, Vegetation Classification and Survey. This results in a small negative balance of -US$20,000.

Diekmann also explained that in 2017 we had to pay tax in the Netherlands again (as we are registered in the Netherlands) because our income exceeded expenses.
This was because the AVS special issue cost was deferred from 2017 until 2018. This will not be a problem for 2018 or 2019. We should receive some of this tax back the next time we file our return in the Netherlands.

Minchin commented on the US$3000 budgeted for the costs of the new journal. He felt the actual coast could be higher as the new journal may initially make as much as a US$15,000 loss. It might make sense to increase the budgeted cost to US$10,000. Dengler pointed out that these costs will not be incurred until the journal starts publishing articles, mostly in 2020, so there is no need for a change in the 2019 budget. Diekmann felt it appropriate to retain an extra US$2000 because we may need legal advice regarding various issues arising from ongoing negotiations with Phytoecoenologia. The projection was amended accordingly.

Wildi pointed out that this projection demonstrates the level of detail regarding how expenses are categorized that is what auditors require.

Council approved the 2019 projection and no further changes were required.

d. Financial projection for 2020 – discussion and approval (Diekmann)

[Attachment 3 IAVS 2020 Financial projection.pdf]

Diekmann explained that there is still uncertainty around our income and expenses for 2020. Regarding our income there is uncertainty around whether the £ will change in value relative to the US$ and € when Britain leaves the EU. Diekmann suggested that Council should discuss i) the costs of the new journal (Vegetation Classification and Survey); ii) potential costs of new working groups; and iii) the partitioning of the GSC awards (currently US$30,000 to support travel awards to the 2020 Vladivostok symposium, US$5000 in travel awards for both the EVS and EDDG meetings. Diekmann pointed out that this year we had more funds for the Bremen symposium awards than we typically do because of extra grants and the profit from the Bozeman symposium.

Dengler expressed that if our income will support it, we could consider increasing the funds to the Working Groups to $7500 each. Other Council members felt it would be better to allow the Governing Board some flexibility around these amounts. Wildi suggested that Council could approve a % change to give the Governing Board latitude around these amounts so that they don’t have to seek approval from Council for a small increase over the projection. Zeleny suggested to increase the total travel grants to US$45,000, with $30,000 allocated to Vladivostok and $7500 to each WG. If the Working Groups spend less, any remaining funds could be used to support awards for Vladivostok.

Minchin suggested increasing the budget for the new journal to US$15,000, which is the maximum already approved by Council.

Peet stated how for several years he has raised the issue that we are spending money without knowing what our future financial situation will be as we have no plan of maintaining a baseline investment. Jansen disagreed and felt that we currently have a sufficient buffer. Zeleny reiterated that if we decide to move to Open Access with JVS/AVS that might also affect income, but as Diekmann said earlier we can’t predict the impact of such a move on our finances currently.

Wiser described how FASEB is planning on no longer providing administrative services to societies like ours that are not FASEB members. The Governing Board learned of this only two weeks ago and has not yet had a discussion with FASEB about what the implications for IAVS are. There are no clear advantages to IAVS in becoming a FASEB member and it is quite costly (~US$13,000). The new Governing Board will need to identify a new solution for the administration of IAVS.

Dengler asked whether honoraria should be increased for the editorial board. He also suggested that honoraria will be needed for the editors of the new journal. Chytrý felt this needs to be based on income generated by the journal; until the journal generates income, financial support for the editors may not be justified. Jansen stated how he expects the new journal will be successful, but he also felt that IAVS is already being generous with the US$15,000 and agreed that the new journal needs to earn funding for honoraria. Wiser suggested that if the new journal hasn’t spent the US$15,000 by March/April, perhaps some funds could be diverted to support one-off Honoraria for the Chief Editors.

Wildi felt it was important not to make financial projections overly conservative.

Council approved the projection

e. Appointment of auditors (Diekmann)

Jansen agreed to continue in his role as auditor. Wildi would like to step down from this role as he is stepping down from Council. Pillar suggested Peet as a replacement. Peet agreed to serve in this role for one year.

Council approved the new auditors. Council also thanked Wildi for his years of serving as one of the auditors.

IAVS Business Office (Hetherington)


Hetherington presented her report. She explained FASEB has been transitioning from using in-house proprietary systems to outsourcing services. The report provides more details about these services.
Peet enquired about the cost of becoming a FASEB member. Hetherington replied that this would be approximately US$13,000/year.

Reports on publications

a. Publishers report (Carol Clark, Wiley)

- The 2018 Publisher report for IAVS was distributed to all Council members. Clark’s goal at the Council meeting was to describe ongoing changes in the publishing landscape. Recently a Strategy day was held between the Wiley representatives, the Chief editors of JVS/AVS and Minchin. Clark summarized the discussion of that day. Issues raised subsequently included:

  - There is great concern over Clark’s suggestion to court article submissions from authors from countries that fund Open access as this is against IAVS policy of trying to reach out to all countries, including those that are not wealthy.

  - There is great concern of the huge impact of a shift to Open Access on countries whose governments do not fund Open Access. Hopes that these agreements will be sought with other countries to support authors. Pillar pointed out that if a country currently spends more on subscriptions than it would need to spend on Open Access fees, it would be better off if the journals went Open Access; similarly if there are few subscribers, then Open Access may be more expensive.

  - Bruehlheide asked what is the advantage to Wiley from moving from a subscription basis to Open Access?

  - Bruehlheide then asked why are JVS/AVS giving our rejected papers to Wiley to publish in their own Open Access journal? We only get a small part of the Open Access fee and Wiley makes most of the money. Is the 20% proportion to IAVS negotiable? [IAVS signed an agreement on 9 May 2019 to pass rejected papers onto the Wiley Open Access journal Plant Interactions/Ecology Evolution]. Dengler and Wiser asked why we shouldn’t be flipping JVS/AVS papers to our new Open Access journal?

  - Bruehlheide thanked Clark for her strategizing and forward thinking.
Minchin provided highlights from his report. JVS and AVS continue to do well and generate most of the revenue for the association. The Impact Factor (IF) has increased for both. The high AVS IF is largely due to one article, so this may be short-lived, but the overall trend is good. The relationship with Wiley is much improved over recent years; Clark is very good to work with especially compared to the previous person.

- Wiley and Open Access strategy

Minchin explained that the strategy day was excellent. As articulated by Clark, the trend in scholarly publications to Open Access will be a continuing issue we have to deal with. One option for us would be to reduce our income by having a lower author page charge (APC). A new contract will need to be reviewed by the end of December 2020.

- Bulletin

Minchin expressed that Janišová continues to do an excellent job at editing and arranging for production. There have been some delays in production, but these problems have now been solved.

- Phytocoenologia/new journal ‘Vegetation Classification and Survey’

Minchin reminded us that Council recently voted to approve the establishment of this new journal. A task for the new Governing Board will be to work with the new editors to get this off the ground. Most of the current Phytocoenologia editors are very interested in being editors for the new journal. The new Governing Board will need to decide whether any new editors needed. There are issues regarding the journal name and past content. The owner of Phytocoenologia is very unhappy about this move on the part of IAVS and currently we can’t negotiate with him. Hopefully he will calm down and then we can discuss whether he will be willing to sell the name and past content. IAVS doesn’t care so much about the name but we would want to keep the IF.

c. Chief Editors (Chytrý)

Chytrý added the point that after a discussion with Clark and Minchin, the Chief editors, Associate editors and Editorial Board would like to switch to electronic only, continuous publication. Currently JVS has only five hard copy subscriptions. From Jan 2021, they would like to stop publishing hard copy journals. Wiley will provide a cost estimate for this change when the contract is renegotiated.

Peet asked whether there will be virtual issues or volumes? Chytrý said that Special Issues will be ‘virtual’ and published as they appear. There will also be ‘Spotlight issues’ that highlight a defined topic, e.g. vegetation survey, plant traits, vegetation of China.

d. Bulletin (Janišová)

Janišová explained that she had issues resulting in very long production times during the past couple of years. In January we stopped using FASEB for the design and layout and changed to using Anna Kuzemko. The designing and layout are now done very quickly, and production time has shortened. She also thanked the linguistic editors. Zelený asked whether it would be possible to professionally print some issues so hard copies could be displayed at conferences? Other suggestions included printing yearly highlights and producing electronic books as opposed to pdf formats as electronic books are easier to read on Smart phones. Kuzemko uses Microsoft Publisher. Jansen, Zelený and Krestov think that this format can be produced from Microsoft Publisher and this would be useful to explore.

e. Phytocoenologia (Jansen)

Jansen thanked Council for welcoming the journal (Vegetation Classification and Survey) into IAVS. The website vcs.pensoft.net is already online and there have been two submissions! At this point everything is still preliminary. There will be two more issues of Phytocoenologia published this year. Only one member of the editorial board declined to move to the new journal.

Bruelheide asked whether IAVS has any leverage to buy the name Phytocoenologia and the back catalog. He suggested offering a reasonable sum (e.g. €10,000) by a deadline.

Wiser asked whether Naegle (of Borntraeger) is seeking new editors to replace those who have resigned. Diekmann replied that he is.

Diekmann felt that Naegle is too angry to approach at the current time.

Čarni felt it is reasonable to offer €10,000 Euro. Bruelheide suggested to start with €3000 and go up to €10,000 if necessary. Diekmann has the impression that Naegle is stubborn. Herben asked whether Naegle could take legal action owing to our cancellation of the MOU.

f. Membership Committee (Dengler)

- Membership statistics
- Membership strategy

Dengler described how he had reconstructed the Membership committee comprising himself (Chair), Javier Loidi, Bianca Andrade, (BR), Frank Yonghong Li (CN) and Riccardo Guarino (IT). They met in March 2019 and provided a 2-page recommendation to the Governing
Board with a top priority to revise the membership fee structure before the next membership renewal cycle including i) a 3-level fee structure based on the per-capita income of the country of residence; ii) discounted membership for students and unemployed persons; iii) options for 3-year and lifetime membership.

The committee began to prepare promotional materials but decided to wait until the new proposed fee structure could be implemented. Once the new membership structure is in place, they will develop specific membership campaigns.

Zelený felt the promises in terms of member numbers were a bit over-ambitious and that a more appropriate emphasis should be on attracting and motivating new members who will be actively engaged with the IAVS.

Chiarucci said that the journals need discounts for members to be pro-rated in a similar fashion, i.e. using the 3-level structure based on per-capita income of the country of residence.

g. Global Sponsorship Committee (Zelený)


Zelený explained how he recently became the Chair of the committee and there are also new members. The GSC approved the applications by EVS and EDGG for travel awards, and selected awardees for IAVS symposium awards (criteria were adopted that are more structured and transparent than in the past and are in detail reported in the GSC report). The symposium awards averaged €1200. The GSC hopes the same level of funding will be available in 2020.

h. Awards Committee (Schaminée)

[Attachment 9 Report of the IAVS Award Committee over the year 2019.pdf]

Schaminée expressed that he was very happy with the celebration today to honor Pierre Legendre, the 2019 recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt award and how we were in the midst judging the young scientist
awards. He requested that any nominations for Honorary Members be submitted 1 Jan 2020.

i. Meetings Committee (Loidi)

- Information on the IAVS symposium in 2020 (Vladivostok, Krestov)

Krestov delivered a presentation on the upcoming symposium in Vladivostok. The symposium website was launched in March of 2019. Soon after the Bremen symposium he will begin to distribute preliminary information in the first circular. He presented a list of potential partner organizations via which he hoped to obtain additional funding to support the symposium. He also reviewed the symposium themes and potential topics of special sessions.

The symposium will take place from 20–24 July 2020. There will be two pre-symposium excursions from 10 to 19 July, one to the Altai and the other to the Caucasus. There will be two 7-10-day post-symposium excursions to Kamchatka and the Sikhote-Alin Mountains. Excursion guides have been arranged and excursion prices will be released in October. He described the conference venue and options for accommodation (ranging from hotel-style to dormitories for students).

- IAVS symposium in 2021 (Madrid, Sanchez-Mata)

Sanchez-Mata delivered a proposal to host the 2021 symposium in Madrid. He explained how the location provides access to Mediterranean ecosystems to the south and more temperate ecosystems to the north and supports a diversity of ecosystems and species. There is an extensive network of Natura 2000 sites nearby; as such a theme focused on protected areas may be appropriate. The city of Madrid is a cultural center and has excellent public transport. The university is large (80,000 students), has both historic and new buildings and good conference facilities. The planned dates are 28 June – 3 July, so as not to be too hot for a pre-symposium excursion in Southern Spain. The post-symposium excursion is planned to be to the north. Mid-symposium excursions will include cultural landscapes, historical centers and gardens and some of the

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Post-symposium excursion group in the Wadden Sea.
locations visited in the pre- and post-symposium excursions. The symposium theme has not yet been decided.

– IAVS symposium in 2022 (NSW, Australia, Hunter)

John Hunter explained that he is exploring the feasibility of hosting the 2022 symposium in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia, located an hour’s flight from either Sydney or Brisbane. There are two options. One is to have a normal stand-alone IAVS symposium (September-October). The other is to hold a joint symposium with the group involved with the National Regional, Rural and Remote Education Strategy in January 2023. This would be a much larger experience and would be new to IAVS members. He has a conference company in mind and University provides facilities for free. There would be a wide variety of habitats for excursions.

Krestov suggested IAVS should focus on parts of the world not recently, or ever, visited. He suggested Taiwan. Zelený pointed out that Taiwan is a problem as Chinese people would not be able to attend. An option would be to hold a meeting in Okinawa that was jointly hosted with Taiwanese colleagues.

Loidi also pointed out that IAVS can organize excursions without symposia

j. Ethics committee (Wiser)

– proposal to form a standing committee
– task to prepare a formal complaints procedure

Wiser described that an ethics investigation in 2019 made the Governing Board aware of the need for a standing committee on Ethics. One of the first tasks of this committee would be to draft a formal complaints procedure, as the guidelines in the Code of Professional Ethics are insufficient for this.
6. Reports of Working groups / Regional sections

All reports were tabled. Any comments/discussion are noted below

a. European Vegetation Survey (EVS) (Chytrý)

b. Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature (GPN) (Theurillat/Willner)
   [Attachment 12 2019_GPN_Report_Bremen.pdf]

Willner announced that a new nomenclature code has been launched and that further details would be available at the Groups meeting at the symposium.

c. Vegetation Classification (VCWG)
   [No report tabled]

d. Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) (Török)

e. Ecoinformatics (Jiménez-Alfaro)
   [Attachment 15 Ecoinformatics WG Annual Report to IAVS-2019.pdf]

f. North American Section (Minchin)
   [No activity, no report]

g. Young Scientists (Guuroh)
   [Attachment 17 Young Scientists 2019.pdf]

Reginald Guuroh (Ghana) is the new chair for the Young Scientists steering committee. Committee members come from Italy, Serbia, Argentina and Indonesia. They are working to promote communication within the group as they have not been very active in the last year. Their emphasis is on social media including LinkedIn and Twitter. They had their largest meeting in several years today. This year they engaged with the Chief Editors of AVS/JVS to compile a virtual issue of AVS/JVS that featured papers published by early career scientists. The group is very grateful for this opportunity.

h. Historical Ecology Working Group (Decocq)
   [Attachment 18 Historical Vegetation Ecology WG annual report 2019.pdf]

7. Other business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 21:00

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Post-symposium excursion.
Minutes of the New IAVS Council in Bremen, Germany, 2019

Time: Wednesday, July 17, 19.00 - 21.00
Location: room Borgward

Participants

Members present: Martin Diekmann (President), Susan Wiser (Secretary), Alessandra Fidelis (Vice President), Monika Janišová (Vice President), Javier Loidi (Vice President), Peter Minchin (Vice President), Alicia Acosta, Idoia Biurrun, Elgene Box, Helge Brueelheide, Andraž Čarni, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Francesco de Bello, Guillaume Decocq, Jürgen Dengler, Kazue Fujiwara, Riccardo Guarino, Tomáš Herben, Flori-an Jansen, Borja Jiménez-Alfaro, Anna Kuzemko, Meelis Pärtel, Robert Peet, Valério Pillar, John Rodwell, Joop Schaminée, Peter Török, Viktoria Wagner, Wolfgang Willner, David Zelený, Martin Zobel = 32 votes

Proxy votes: Iva Apostolova (Monika Janišová), Sara Cousins (Susan Wiser), Jan Lepš (Francesco de Bello), Ladislav Mucina (Andraž Čarni), Alireza Naqinezhad (Fidelis), Vladimir Onipchenko (Fidelis), Michael Palmer (Valério Pillar), Emma Shidolo (Dengler) = 8 votes

Guests: Lisa Hetherington (FASEB), Daniel Sanchez-Mata (as organizer of possible IAVS 2021 venue; Madrid, Spain), Reginald Guuroh (Young Scientists).

1. Welcome

President Diekmann brought the meeting to order at 19:00.

2. Announcements of proxy votes (Wiser)

Secretary Wiser read the proxy votes. Proxy representation of 8 members was reported and approved (see above). Total voting members represented: 32 + 8 = 40

3. Election of new officers

a. Nominations from the Nominations committee

The following members of Council were nominated, by the Nominations committee in consultation with Council, to serve on the Governing Board: Cousins, Dengler, Diekmann, Fidelis, Janišová, Loidi, Minchin, Wiser, Zelený. President Diekmann and Secretary Wiser explained the nature of the responsibilities of the Governing Board. Then all nominees who were present stated how they would serve IAVS if elected.

b. Nominations from the floor

There were no further nominations.

c. Election of President, Secretary, and five vice-presidents

Susan Wiser was nominated to serve as President by Diekmann, seconded by Peet. She was unanimously elected.

David Zelený was nominated to serve as Secretary by Wiser, seconded by Diekmann. He was unanimously elected.

A private ballot was used for nomination of the five vice-presidents, with each Council member having five votes. Votes were tallied by Wiser and Zelený:

Diekmann 40
Janišová 39
Loidi 37
Minchin 37
Fidelis 33
Dengler 7
Cousins 5

Accordingly Diekmann, Janišová, Loidi, Minchin and Fidelis were elected to serve as Vice Presidents.

4. Administrative services

a. Changes in FASEB and implications for IAVS

[Wiseeklo, Wiser, Hetherington]

Wiser described, as she had for the meeting of the outgoing Council, how FASEB is planning on no longer providing administrative services to societies like ours that are not FASEB members. The Governing Board learned of this only two weeks ago and has not yet had a discussion with FASEB about what the implications for IAVS are. There are no clear advantages to IAVS in be-
coming a FASEB member and it is quite costly (~US$13,000). The new Governing Board will need to identify a new solution for the administration of IAVS.

5. Discussion of future activities and initiatives

a. Committees and role of serving on them

Diekmann described the current Committees (Global Sponsorship, Meetings, Membership, Ethics, Publications, Awards and Website and Social Media). The Governing Board will re-establish these committees. In some cases, they will continue as currently constructed whereas others will be reformed. Council members were asked to let the Governing Board know if you want to serve on any committee. Dengler suggested that committees be comprised solely of Council members. Wiser felt that it useful to have at least one committee member on Council to facilitate open communication between that committee and the leadership, but she also felt this should not be a requirement as service on a committee can be a segue into becoming more active in IAVS in the future. Minchin encouraged all Council Members (except Chief Editors who already have a huge workload) to serve on a committee.

There was a question about the process for forming committees. Diekmann explained that the President and Governing Board appoint the Chair of the committee and then the Chair selects members to serve on that Committee.

b. Potential to enable annual meetings of Council to be accessible remotely (e.g. via Skype)

Wiser suggested this as an option to allow Council members who are unable to attend the annual Symposium to participate more actively in the governance of IAVS than they are able to via a proxy vote alone.

c. Reducing the carbon footprint of IAVS symposia

The issue of the need to for IAVS to be more active in reducing our carbon footprint was raised by Wagner. She suggested alternatives to be as explored, such as reducing the frequency of our symposia.
are doing this) and enabling remote participation in the symposium. A range of views were expressed by Council. Loidi, as Meetings Chair, said no immediate decisions on this can be made as we are already committed to symposia for the next two years. Some members felt that it would be very sad to not hold symposia annually, that IAVS is their scientific ‘home’ and that such a step would be detrimental to IAVS. The view was also expressed that steps, such as this one, that are suitable for other societies may not be suitable for IAVS. Diekmann pointed out that the IAVS Bylaws state that IAVS will hold an annual symposium. Others pointed out that IAVS does not actually know what the carbon footprint of our activities is and it would certainly be worthwhile to quantify this as a baseline against which we could identify ways to reduce this footprint. For example, what is the difference between different potential symposium locations (e.g. number of participants, C footprint of short flights versus long flights); would changing the catering to vegetarian or vegan make a material difference? The decision was made to form a Special Committee to investigate the Carbon Footprint of IAVS and determine how to quantify a baseline estimate of our current impacts. Wagner, Rodwell and Diekmann volunteered to serve on this committee.

6. Other business

Wagner commented that in various online fora, members had complained that the cost of the symposium was too high for them to attend. Should IAVS respond to this? Diekmann replied that the cost was about average compared to other international ecological symposia. Fees in Bremen were similar to those in Bozeman, but higher than in Palermo, Brno etc. He suggested that the Meetings Committee, Governing Board and Council need to explicitly consider cost when approving future meeting venues and should also seek countries where the cost of running a symposium is not high.

Dengler suggested that members of Council should receive a small honorarium to encourage them to attend the annual symposium and associated meeting of Council. Diekmann said that this really depends on the finances of IAVS.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:51.
Members and organisation of the EDGG

Since the last report in 2018, we revised the membership list and validated the contacts. The number of validated EDGG members is 1,299 from 64 countries (June 2019). Membership in EDGG is free of charge and can be activated by sending an e-mail to our membership administrator Idoia Biurrun (idoia.biurrun@ehu.es). So far, the membership administration has been maintained separately from IAVS, creating double work and some inconsistencies. We have hoped for several years that the IAVS administration would merge these management activities, but unfortunately this has not happened. The biennial election of our governing body, the Executive Committee (EC), in spring 2019 saw the departure of Mike Vrahnakis, who decided not to stand for re-election, and the election of two new members, Alla Aleksanyan and Iwona Dembicz. Eleven candidates stood in the EC elections, of which eight were duly elected for the term 2019–2021. The chairs in the current executive committee are Alla Aleksanyan (Armenia), Didem Ambarlı (Germany/Turkey), Idoia Biurrun (Spain), Iwona Dembicz (Poland), Jürgen Dengler (Switzerland), Anna Kuzemko (Ukraine), Péter Török (Hungary), and Stephen Venn (Finland).

Past EDGG events

The 16th Eurasian Grassland Conference (EGC) was jointly organized in Austria and Slovenia during May–June 2019. The topic was the economic value of species-rich grasslands in the Palaeartic realm. It provided an opportunity to attend workshops on scientific writing, on Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, and take part in a field excursion on bryophyte identification, led by Christian Berg. The conference had three keynote talks, by Zsolt Molnár, Matej Vidrih and Wolfgang Willner, as well as a mid-conference excursion to a variety of relevant habitats in Neumarkt/Steiermark (Austria). The post-conference tour took us to semi-natural grasslands in Slovenia, with destinations of the Goričko Landscape Park, the Haloze region and the Slovenian Dinaric region. The event was hosted by the University of Graz (Austria), and University of Maribor (Slovenia) and our hosts were Martin Magnes, Nataša Pipenbaher, and Sonja Škornik.

See further details on: https://edgg.namupro.de/egc2019

The 11th EDGG Field Workshop was held in the Eastern Alps, Austria from 6th–13th July 2018, with Martin Magnes, Philipp Kirschner and Helmut Mayrhofer as the local organizers. The field workshop was attended by 18 participants from ten countries; fifteen nested-plot series and 37 additional standard plots were sampled.

The 12th Field workshop also targeted the inner-alpine valleys but in Switzerland, organised by Jürgen Dengler and his co-workers (11-19 May, 2019). This field workshop was attended by 16 participants from five countries. During the field workshop, 30 nested-plot series and 81 additional standard plots were sampled.

The 13th Field Workshop: “Grasslands of Armenia along an elevational gradient” was held between 26 June –7 July 2019 in Armenia, organised by Alla Alexsanyan. Further details will be included in the next report, as the Field Workshop was in progress at the time of the submission of this one.

Future EDGG events

The 17th Eurasian Grassland Conference will be held during 2020, in Tolosa (Basque Country, Spain), organized by Idoia Biurrun.

For future years there are many offers for hosting EDGG Field Workshops, among them Bosnia, Montenegro, Middle Asia, Central System of Spain, European Russia,
Italian Alps, or Northern Poland, and if the demand for participation remains at a high level, it is possible for two such events to be organised in the same year.

**Publication activities of EDGG**

In 2018, the former Bulletin of the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group was transformed into a fully-fledged scientific journal of a new type, called *Palaearctic Grasslands*. Currently six issues of *Palaearctic Grasslands* have been published. While *Palaearctic Grasslands* continues to be the platform for official announcements of the EDGG Executive Committee to the members (“News”, “EDGG Events”), for “Short Contributions” from members for members, “Book Reviews”, overviews of “Recent Publications of our Members” related to grasslands and “Forthcoming Events”, it now has two major new elements: (i) *Palaearctic Grasslands* now publishes scientific articles in four categories: “Research Article”, “Review”, “Forum Article” and “Scientific Report”. They are subject to editorial peer review, which ensures on the one hand scientific soundness, and on the other hand fast decisions. (ii) *Palaearctic Grasslands* has a strong focus on excellent quality photography from Palaearctic grasslands, their flora and fauna and the people using them. The new format of “Photo Stories” allows grassland articles of a couple of pages to be submitted, consisting mainly of photos with brief texts, which celebrate the beauty of certain grasslands of specific regions and their rich biota.

Moreover, we now have a regular “Photo Competition” on selected topics, such as animal-plant interactions or grassland people, of which then the three best contributions are presented in the subsequent issue. *Palaearctic Grasslands* is made possible by an international Editorial Board of 30 dedicated members from 17 countries throughout the Palaearctic, from Spain to Japan.

**EDGG Organised Special Features**

Further, EDGG continued its long-standing tradition of Special Issues/Features in international journals. In the reporting period, EDGG organised three special issues during the reported period. There were two regular issues organised in the journals *Hacquetia* and *Tuexenia* and one issue in progress in *Flora*:

- In *Hacquetia*, the fourth Special Feature was edited by Orsolya Valkó, Stephen Venn, Idoia Biurrun, Rocco Labadessa, Jacqueline Loos and Michal Zmihorski. This special feature was initiated by members of the EDGG attending the 13th Eurasian Dry Grassland Conference (EDGC) at Sighisoara, Romania, in September 2016. It contains six papers dealing with the conservation, ecology, syntaxonomy and zoology of grassland and steppe habitats from East Europe to central Asia. The core topic of the issue is the challenge of abandonment in the conservation of Palaearctic grasslands.

- The 13th regular EDGG Special Feature in *Tuexenia* focuses on the conservation, management, restoration and biodiversity of semi-natural and natural grasslands in Central Europe. The special feature was guest edited by Balázs Deák, Thomas Becker, Steffen Boch and Viktoria Wagner. Altogether 43 authors from six countries contributed to this publication.

- A further special issue organised by EDGG was guest edited by Péter Török, Barbara Neuffer, Karl-Georg Bernhardt and Karsten Wesche in the journal *Flora*. This special issue is devoted to the ecology and evolution of steppe biodiversity and forms a nice addition to the formerly published issues and papers on the topic. So far 20 papers have been invited and the tentative publication deadline is in the first months of 2020.
During the reported period, EDGG members worked on a comprehensive book “Grasslands of the World: Diversity, Management and Conservation” for the publisher CRC. The book was co-edited by EDGG Chair Jürgen Dengler, and a team of 28 EDGG members wrote eight regional chapters (nearly half of the book) of Western and Northern Europe, Eastern Europe, Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East, Russia, Kazakhstan and Middle Asia, China and Mongolia, and Japan. The book was introduced by a synthesis chapter by P. Török and J. Dengler. In this book, the origin, biodiversity, types, threats, management, and conservation issues of grasslands were summarised for the first time for the whole Palaearctic.

Other EDGG media

The EDGG homepage (https://edgg.org/) was re-constructed with the support of IAVS under a new server with a new content management system, easy-to-follow layout and many other innovations. The new homepage contains all information about the EDGG family, past, current and planned conferences (https://edgg.org/ecg/overview) and field workshops (https://edgg.org/fw/overview), as well as publications (https://edgg.org/publ/overview): EDGG journal, special features and publications from members. Furthermore, Events and News sections inform visitors about upcoming events of interests and other news. A login system allows participants of previous events to register for future ones without having to repeatedly enter their personal data.

In order to enhance the rapid dissemination of information to our members about EDGG activities, as well as in order to attract new members, a discussion on various topics related to grasslands research and conservation has been established in the EDGG Facebook group. It can be visited at https://www.facebook.com/groups/938367279561202/?ref=bookmarks

Facebook page editors: Stephen Venn (stephen.venn@helsinki.fi) and Anna Kuzemko (anyameadow.ak@gmail.com).

Database activities of EDGG

In our last report we informed the IAVS about the relaunch of the EDGG managed GrassPlot database, based on the former Database Species-Area Relationships in Palaearctic Grasslands. GrassPlot stores multi-scale richness, composition and environmental data from precisely delimited plots of grasslands and other open habitats of the Palaearctic Realm. Since its formal establishment during an international workshop in March 2017, with 87 datasets, 27,355 plots and 1,144 nested-plot series of at least four grain sizes, the database has increased its content and spatial coverage. GrassPlot version 2.0. contains 190,684 plots and 4,654 nested-plot series from 184 datasets. A new report will be published shortly in Palaearctic Grasslands, providing an update on the content and functionality of GrassPlot version 2.0.

A new Governing Board of GrassPlot was elected in February 2019. Jürgen Dengler, Idioia Biurrun, Iwona Dembicz and Riccardo Guarino continue from the former Governing Board, and Jutta Kapfer, Sabina Burscano and Remigiusz Pieleh are new members for the period 2019-2021.

In addition to GrassPlot, the development of some national databases was also been facilitated by EDGG. The Ukrainian Grassland Database contains 11,953 relevés (June, 2019). During 2018-2019, work has been done to improve and refine the data in the database. Some gaps in the representativeness of the data were filled - several thousands of relevés from the Western regions of Ukraine (Chernivtsi and Ivano-Frankivsk regions) and the Steppe Zone (Odessa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions) were added. Also the Romanian Grassland Database (RGD) and the Balkan Dry Grassland Database (BDGD) have developed very dynamically under the leadership of Kiril Vassilev, while the Nordic-Baltic Grassland Vegetation Database (NBGVD) and the German grassland database (GrassVeg.DE) experienced few additions. All five regularly contribute valuable data to continental and global analyses, organised via the European Vegetation Archive (EVA) and sPlot, respectively.

Financial issues

The main financial support of EDGG occurs via IAVS. In 2017 and 2018, IAVS provided an annual baseline support (500 €). The IAVS provided travel grants for the EDGG Field Workshops and EGC in total of 7500 €. IAVS also provides honorarium (1000 €) to one EDGG representative to attend the annual IAVS Symposium to Bremen. The support is greatly acknowledged by the EDGG.

EDGG received from IAVS an additional 3700 € project funding for 2019 for supporting chairs to attend the EDGG conference in Graz (up to 3000 €), and for covering costs of linguistic editing of non-native authors in the EDGG special features in Hacquetia and Tuexenia (in total of 700 €).

This year we organised a campaign to raise funds for the EDGG. By charity donations EDGG received 1608 €, which were transferred to the virtual account of EDGG. From these donations this year we supported EDGG Field Workshops. The EDGG has also received from FlorSoz a language correction support for Tuexenia (500 €). All support is greatly acknowledged.

We cordially invite you to join EDGG, its events and activities!

Péter Török
(on behalf of the Executive Committee of the EDGG)
The main activities of the European Vegetation Survey Working Group over the last year (from June 2018 to June 2019) were the following:

(1) The European Vegetation Archive (EVA), a centralized vegetation-plot database of the European Vegetation Survey, was further extended and used in various projects. By March 2019, this database consisted of 84 contributing databases containing a total 1,654,974 vegetation plots, of which 86% were georeferenced, and 61% were assigned to phytosociological syntaxa. Of these plots, 59% may be accessed under the semi-restricted regime and 26% under the restricted regime, while the other 15% are open access. By June 2019, EVA data have been delivered to 82 projects (see their list at http://euroveg.org/eva-database-eva-projects). Nowadays there are 52 on-going EVA projects, of which 15 started in the last year. By March 2019, EVA data have contributed to 15 journal papers, one book, nine technical reports, one bachelor thesis and 65 presentations at conferences or workshops. Details are available in the EVA annual report at http://euroveg.org/download/EVAannualreports/EVA_REPORT_2019.pdf. For an updated list of all publications, visit this EVA webpage: http://euroveg.org/eva-database-eva-publications. The EVA management team (especially Jiří Danihelka, Stephan Hennekens and Ilona Knollová) also did a lot of work on matching taxon concepts and names from individual contributing databases, in order to improve consistency of the datasets provided to EVA projects.

(2) The Wageningen Environmental Research (Alterra), working together with Masaryk University (Brno) for the European Environment Agency under the Framework Service Contract, updated the crosswalks between the revised EUNIS Habitat Classification, European Red List of Habitats, EuroVegChecklist and Habitats Directive Annex I. They also revised and updated the expert system for automatic classification of European grasslands, shrublands and forests, in which many international specialists from European Vegetation Survey were involved. They also started to work on the revision and update of coastal and mire habitats in the revised EUNIS classification.

(3) Planning for the EVS Annual Meeting 2019 is underway. Based on the invitation of Rosario Gavilán, it will take place at Complutense University, Madrid on 2–6 September 2019. The main topic is Vegetation Diversity and Global Change (http://evs2019madrid.es/)

Milan Chytrý

European Vegetation Survey (EVS)
Historical Vegetation Ecology

- The Historical Vegetation Ecology Working group (HVE WG) was created in July 2018 during the annual symposium of the IAVS in Bozeman (MT, USA). During this symposium:
  1—A workshop was organized on Sunday 22 July by Radim Hédl and Guillaume Decocq (see [http://iavs.org/2018-Annual-Symposium/Program/Workshops.aspx](http://iavs.org/2018-Annual-Symposium/Program/Workshops.aspx)). This workshop aimed at promoting discussion on the aims and focus of the newly proposed IAVS working group.
  2—The IAVS Council approved the creation and the bylaws of the new WG.
  3—A special session entitled “Historical ecology in vegetation science” was organized on Thursday 27 July 2018. A number of talks and posters were presented. Part of these communications are being compiled for a special issue of *Journal of Vegetation Science*. This should be completed by the end of 2019.
- The end of 2018 was dedicated to the collection of members and the election of the Steering Committee of the HVE WG:
  - An invitation to become a member of the WG was sent to all IAVS members via the membership e-mail list. As of June 15, 2019, the WG had 173 members, of which 138 were IAVS members. This is quite a large number of members and reveals that the creation of the working group meets the expectations of many vegetation scientists.
  - From 19 September to 19 October 2018 voting for the election of the Steering Committee (2019-2022) took place via an electronic ballot. Fifteen members were candidates for the election. Of the 130 voters, 72 (55.4%) have effectively voted. Based on the results of the ballot, the five following candidates were officially elected as members of the Steering Committee (Fraction of votes): Guillaume DECOQCQ (83.3%), Radim HÉDL (61.1%), Peter POSCHOLD (36.1%), Péter SZABÓ (51.4%), and Kris VERHEYEN (45.8%).
  - Guillaume DECOQCQ and Radim HÉDL were subsequently elected as Chair and Deputy chair, respectively, during the first meeting of the newly elected Steering Committee (14 November 2018).
- An Internet page presenting the HVE WG has been prepared and added to the IAVS web site at the beginning of 2019 (see [http://iavs.org/Working-Groups/Historical-Vegetation-Ecology.aspx](http://iavs.org/Working-Groups/Historical-Vegetation-Ecology.aspx)).
- The beginning of the year 2019 was dedicated to two actions:
  1—Assembling a directory within the HVE WG, to facilitate internal communication. For this purpose, all members were invited to complete a one-page formatted document.
  2—Conducting an on-line survey, to help the Steering Committee define priorities for the coming years.
- The HVE WG will meet in Bremen, during the 62nd IAVS annual symposium and will also organize a special session entitled “The legacy of the past in the biodiversity of current vegetation”.

**Guillaume Decocq and Radim Hédl**
Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature (GPN)

State of the art

- Presently (as of 14 July 2019) the GPN counts 66 members in good standing with the payment of the IAVS membership fee for 2018 or 2019. Most members are from Europe (83%) although several other countries around the world are represented as well (Figure 1). In addition, there are 15 members who are not in good standing but who nevertheless receive GPN information.

- Steering Committee (2018-2022): Jean-Paul Theurillat (chair); Daniela Gigante (secretary); Andraz Čarni, Federico Fernández-González, Helga Bültmann, Laco Mucina, Wolfgang Willner (members).

- Three Topic Committees are active:
  - Committee for the Changes and the Conservation of Names (CCCN)
  - Committee for the Registration and the Typification of Names (CRTN)
  - Committee for the Website and the Online Database (CWDB)

Contacts: secretarywgpn@gmail.com

Activities since the Business Meeting in Wrocław (24 May 2018)

- The annual business meeting of the GPN was held on 24 May 2018 in Wrocław during the 27th meeting of the European Vegetation Survey.

A final version of the 4th edition of the International Code of Nomenclature, except for editing and coherency bugs, was submitted for approval to the membership of the GPN on 25 April 2019 until 25 May. The new edition was approved by 91% of the members who participated to the vote (30 yes against 3 no). The participation rate was 50%.

Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee met in Wrocław to discuss some remaining issues related to the 4th edition of the Code.

- Following the Business Meeting of the WG in Wrocław, SC has concentrated heavily on the completion of the 4th edition of the International Code of Nomenclature (ICPN), in collaboration with Prof. Heinrich Weber (the lead author of the 3rd edition). Email exchange was the main means of communication. It is expected that the new Code will ready for submission to JVS during Summer of 2019.

Committee for Change and Conservation of Names (CCCN)

- The decision on nomenclatural proposals (1), (16) and (18), accepted on 22 April 2015, will be published in Phytoecoenologia 49 (Gigante & al.)

Registration of Names

The online nomenclatural database PhytoS, developed for the registration of names and types of plant communities, is awaiting the completion of ed. 4 of the ICPN to proceed further. At the moment, the database can be accessed at https://phytos.vinca.at. For assistance, please contact Wolfgang Willner (wolfgang.willner@univie.ac.at).

Figure 1. The composition of GPN members in good standing with the payment of the IAVS membership fee, as of 14 July 2019 (n = 66).
Ecoinformatics

Meeting in Montana
The last meeting of the Ecoinformatics Working Group (EIWG), held in Bozeman (USA) during the 61st Symposium of the IAVS, focused on the new directions of the EIWG for the following years. The main discussion focused on the delineation of the role of the EIWG in the context of the IAVS activities, and the required tasks of the new Steering Committee to be elected during 2019.

Election of the Steering Committee
On January 2019 a new Steering Committee (SC) was elected for the next four years (2019-2022), consisting of Borja Jiménez-Alfaro, Sebastian Schmidtlein, Susan Wiser, Viktoria Wagner & Andrei Zverev (Stephan Hennekens, former chair of the SC, was responsible of coordinating the election). The SC designed Borja Jiménez-Alfaro as the chair. The secretary will be designated during the next meeting of the SC in 2019 during the 62th IAVS meeting in Bremen (Germany).

New proposals of the Steering Committee
Between January and June 2019, the SC developed a list of tasks to be prioritized during the following years. These tasks are:

- Reframe the objectives of the EIWG bylaws on fostering ecoinformatics knowledge and skills in the IAVS community, e.g. by organizing workshops, talks and sessions at IAVS conferences, administering IAVS funds for advancing ecoinformatics, and doing outreach to make tools that are already available more visible.
- The new bylaws should be agreed by the SC after consultation with the members of the EIWG and then submitted to the IAVS Council for approval.
- Describe the main topics that fall into the objectives of the EIWG, including e.g. standards for data exchange, tools for gathering and storing co-occurrence data, list of available software, data processing of large and heterogeneous data, specific tools and methods for the analysis of vegetation big data, sensors for data acquisition, etc.
- Regenerate the website of the EIWG by including the objectives and topics established in points 1 and 2. The website should be the repository for updating information and news related to ecoinformatics and vegetation science, and the main portal for gaining visibility of the EIWG activities.

Activities for the IAVS Symposium in Bremen
The EIWG promoted the following activities to be held during the IAVS Symposium in Bremen:

- Software demonstration of Vegapp by Sebastian Schmidtlein
- Workshop and presentation about REMAP tool and Google Earth Engine by Mitch Lyons (unfortunately cancelled because of personal reasons, the SC will try again in the next year)
- A meeting of the EIWG for discussing the new proposals of the SC, the activities for the next year, and the designation of major duties of the SC members.

Borja Jiménez-Alfaro (chair), Sebastian Schmidtlein, Viktoria Wagner, Susan Wiser & Andrei Zverev

Poster session in the Conference Centre Bremen.
Young Scientists

Promoting communication within the group

We were not able to increase the activity on the LinkedIn social media platform. Thus, we decided to try other platforms, such as twitter (@IavsYoung) and facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/353191064892110/), which has recently been advertised via our mailing list. We hope that this will simplify and increase within-group communication and networking in addition to the yearly meeting during the conference.

Virtual issue for Young Scientists in AVS

To promote the scientific work and the publications of young scientists, Applied Vegetation Science and the IAVS Young Scientists Group published a virtual issue of AVS, focusing completely on studies made by IAVS young scientists. This issue compiles 17 publications from AVS and JVS, written by PhDs, research fellows and others, being at the start of their scientific careers, from all over the world. We gladly thank all AVS editors for providing this opportunity to the authors and the Young Scientists Group!
IAVS Meetings Committee

Forthcoming IAVS Symposia:

2020
Vladivostok (Russia)

63rd Annual Symposium of the IAVS, Vegetation in the Anthropocene, presented by Pavel Krestov, Botanical Garden-Institute, Vladivostok, Russia

I invite the IAVS to the annual symposium in Vladivostok, Russia, in the last pristine temperate region in the northern hemisphere. Vladivostok is located inside the middle (or cool) temperate zone with temperate deciduous broadleaved and mixed forests; this area may be known to the international public as Ussuri taiga, after the Oscar winning movie ‘Dersu Uzala’ by Akira Kurosawa.

The venue will be the Far Eastern Federal University, on Russkii (Russian) Island, connected with the City of Vladivostok by the world’s biggest cable-stayed bridge over the Stark strait. The university conference facilities can easily accommodate about 1000 participants. Far Eastern Federal was established in 1920 from the Eastern Institute, which was created in 1899 to support a European place of the first European business in eastern Russia and vegetation in volcanic areas.

The excursion will include several areas in Kabardino-Balkarian Republic (Baksan valley) and Karachai-Cherkessian Republic (Kuban, Teberda, Arkhyz). We also will visit the National Park “Prielbrus’e” and Teberda Biosphere Reserve.

Excursions. Now we are working on the logistics for pre- and post-symposium excursions in four different areas: The North Caucasus (group leader Vladimir Onipchenko), the Altai Mountains (Nikolai Ermakov) and Kamchatka (Pavel Krestov). Of course, we will also have an excursion near Vladivostok to the Sikhote-Alin Mountains. Because of long distances to be covered by all excursions, we will reserve a minimal time period for each excursion of eight days, except for in Sikhote-Alin, where it will be possible to plan 2, 4 and 7-day excursions.

The four major excursions can be described briefly as:

1. Caucasus (Vladimir Onipchenko). The excursion will cover different types of mountain vegetation in two areas: 1) the oceanic west Caucasus with montane dry grasslands, broad-leaved forests, coniferous forests, subalpine shrubs and tall-herb meadows, alpine grasslands and meadows as well as sub-nival rocky vegetation, 2) the central Caucasian continental vegetation near the highest European peak - Elbrus (5642 m) with dry grasslands, petrophytic vegetation in dry valleys, pine and birch forests, subalpine and alpine vegetation. The excursion will include several areas in Kabardino-Balkarian Republic (Baksan valley) and Karachai-Cherkessian Republic (Kuban, Teberda, Arkhyz). We also will visit the National Park “Prielbrus’e” and Teberda Biosphere Reserve.

2. Altai (Nikolai Ermakov). This is one of the most important biodiversity centers in Northern Eurasia. The wide range of altitudes, climate humidity and continentality allow the formation of a large number of zonal vegetation types. The excursion route will take place along the geographical transect crossing the ultra-humid, humid and arid geographical sectors of the mountain system. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the natural communities of North Asian and European-Siberian dark coniferous and light coniferous forests, the zonal types of West Palaearctic and Central Asian meadow-steppes, typical steppes and desert-stepes, as well as various types of high mountain vegetation. We will see remarkable landscapes of the Katun river valley, Kuraiskaya and Kosh-Agachskaya intermontane basins and the surrounding high mountain ridges.

3. Kamchatka (Pavel Krestov). One of the most extreme corners of the world’s boreal zone with a variety of vegetation you would never expect at these latitudes elsewhere in a world. Very nice Betula ermanii forests
that survive probably the deepest snow in Northeast Asia, endless Pinus pumila thickets, tall-herb (really tall) meadows and a variety of tundras adapted to continental and oceanic conditions. The major highlights are volcanoes; 300 are dormant and 30 are active. Some of them are very active now. We will visit two major groups of volcanoes: Klyuchevskaya group (includes Klyuchevskoy Volcano itself, Bezymyannyy, Tolbachik) and Avachinskaya group (home volcanoes for Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky city. They are superb natural laboratories to study plant succession, and therefore we plan a field excursion here.

Since the Russian Far East, and especially Kamchatka, is one of volcanically most active regions in the Pacific Ring of Fire, and in 2003 we had a great experience in organizing the field symposium "Plants and Volcanoes"; it would be unforgivable to miss the opportunity to repeat such an event in Kamchatka this time.

4. Shikote-Alin Mountains (tbc). The world’s wildest place in latitudinal range 40-50 degrees with ecosystems whose food chains end with tiger, the world’s biggest cat. This place is populated with indigenous people, who try to keep their own culture in this changing world. We will be able to see the legendary nearly intact broadleaved-Korean pine forests, the vertical vegetation zonation ending with Pinus pumila thickets and mountain tundra on the tops and a variety of vegetation type characteristic of this beautiful area. We will visit the National park Bikin, Sikhote-Alin Biosphere reserve, Hanka Lake, and look at North Korea across the state boundary.

Dates of symposium: 20 – 24 July 2020

Themes. Now we all are witnessing a transfer between the two geological epochs: the Holocene and the Anthropocene. Humanity has created a fundamentally new environment, in which it will develop further. New human habitats have acquired new qualities, such as depleted biodiversity, significant changes in the atmosphere, the increasing deposition of “technofossils”, the degradation of terrestrial ecosystems and a sharp increase in population. This has led to changes in vegetation unprecedented in historical times. This symposium focuses on understanding how deep the transformations are that have changed the Earth’s vegetation, how new vegetation will be able to serve to needs of a large human population, and how to best fit vegetation science theory and methodology to this new situation.

We anticipate that this symposium will create a common ground not only for vegetation scientists, but also for geophysicists, biochemists, paleobiologists and anthropologists and provide a useful step forward in understanding how these new, large challenges for humanity in the Anthropocene epoch.

The main theme of the Conference: Vegetation in the Anthropocene: This will encompass transformation, new vegetation combinations, the value of relictual vegetation, migrations, and new environments for humanity. We will try to assess how effective existing and developing theories and methodologies will be for the future study of the world’s flora and vegetation.

More specifically this main theme will include:
1. Diversity and functioning of natural and artificial vegetation
2. Traditional and new drivers of ecosystem transformations
3. Ecosystems before humans
4. Ecosystems under human impact
5. The Anthropocene changes in vegetation
6. How vegetation science can contribute to sustainable development for humanity.

2021

Madrid (Spain)

64th Annual Symposium of the IAVS, presented by Daniel Sánchez-Mata, Dept. of Plant Biology, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain.

Venue: Facultad de Farmacia, Complutense University, Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid, Spain.

In addition to papers on these topics, we welcome your proposals for other subjects to be discussed during the Symposium.

The Symposium will be held in Madrid, the current capital city of Spain. The historical origin of Madrid goes back to the IX century when the emir Muhammad I (852-886) ordered a fortress to be built on the river bank of the Manzanares river. This settlement was known as Mayrit (corrupted to Magerit by the Castilians) and was built over earlier ruins of the Visigoth period (VII century). The fortress was erected in the place currently occupied by the Royal Palace to control the mountain passes of the neighboring Guadarrama range. In the IX century, Madrid was incorporated into the Kingdom of Castile by king Alphonse VI (1083) and in 1561 is established as the permanent capital of the Spanish Monarchy by Philip II.

Madrid and its metropolitan area have a population of over 6 million inhabitants and has a very efficient public transportation network and many international flight connections. The cultural offerings are very rich, with an important number of outstanding museums, such as Museo del Prado, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Reina Sofía, Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza or the Museo Arqueológico Nacional. A couple of emblematic historic cities are near to the capital city, such as Toledo, Segovia, Ávila, La Granja de San Ildefonso, Aranjuez or El Escorial, making possible for one-day visits to those places to be taken. The city has a large accom-
moderation capacity that allows a large population of visitors to be hosted.

The symposium will take place in the Campus Moncloa (International Excellence Campus) of the Complutense University of Madrid, which provides all the facilities needed for such an event. The connection between the campus with the city is very easy and is provided by bus and by subway (only one station). The halls existing in the Faculty of Pharmacy will be available for the Symposium and there will be bar, coffee shop and restaurant facilities too.

The symposium will include an abstracts book, program, and excursions guides specially detailed for the pre- and post-symposium excursions. A conference website will be ready with basic information at least one year before the symposium; announcements will be also provided at the Bremen (2019) and Vladivostok symposia (2020).

**Dates:** The Symposium will take place between the 5th and 11th July 2021

**Excursions:**

The **Pre-symposium excursion** will take place between June 28th and July 2nd across southern Spain (La Mancha, Sierra Morena, Bermeja, Nevada and Cazorla). Objective: high landscape diversity including marsh and saltmarsh inland vegetation, and subbetic-betic mountain ranges (with the remarkable and endemic *Abies pinsapo* forests on serpentinized peridotites and the Sierra Nevada National Park, a true hot-spot for biodiversity, including a full hiking-day.

The **Post-Symposium excursion** is scheduled for July, between the 12th and the 16th. Objective: landscape diversity throughout the Iberian Central System (Spain/Portugal), including a full hiking-day. Preliminary itinerary: Madrid-Navacerrada-Cotos Pass (Sierra de Guadarrama National Park)-Segovia-Ávila-Hoyos del Espino (Sierra de Gredos Mountains Regional Park)-Béjar-Candelario-Peña de Francia-Serra da Estrêla (Portugal).

The **Mid-Symposium one-day excursions.** At least two or three one-day mid symposium excursions will be organized (Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, Toledo Mountains, southern Madrid areas, etc.).

Javier Loidi (Chair)
Guillaume Decocq
Jason Fridley
Gudrun Bornette
Meelis Pärtel
Valério Pillar
Jodi Price
Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil
Franklin Scott
Otto Wildi

Dinner party at Union brewery.
Award Committee

At the annual IAVS meeting in Bozeman (United States), Ladislav Mucina became an IAVS Honorary Member, for all the works he has performed for our organisation for so many years. This year, at the meeting in Bremen, for the fifth time, the Alexander Von Humboldt Award will be awarded to an outstanding scientist in the field of vegetation research. After awarding Professor Philip Grime in 2011, David Tilman in 2013, Sandra Lavorel in 2015 and F. Stuart Chapin III in 2017, Pierre Legendre will receive this award. At the meeting in Bremen, the prize winner will be honoured by a laudatio speech, given by Peter Minchin. Legendre will receive – in line with former prize winners – an original watercolour painting, especially made for this occasion by the Dutch artist Ed Hazebroek, depicting the landscape of the Canadian Saint Lawrence river with salmons and a brown bear catching them. The members of the Governing Board are invited to nominate candidates for the next honorary member, before 31-12-2019.

At the meeting in Bozeman, also the young scientist competitions took place, for best poster and best oral presentation. The winners were announced at the General Assembly and their names will be mentioned on our website www.iavs.org (see under Awards).

Joop Schaminée, chair
The twenty-eighth annual meeting of the European Vegetation Survey was held on September, 2-6, 2019 in Madrid (Spain). The School of Pharmacy of Complutense University welcome scientists working on vegetation and related features.

Complutense University is one of the oldest universities in Spain. Although it was founded in 1822, it received the heritage of Alcalá (Complutum, in Latin) University, funded in 1499 and moved to Madrid in 1836.

The Department of Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy and Botany has organized this event for the first time to Madrid. Traditionally, Pharmacy has been considered as guarantor of environmental health, and its relationships with the Official Professional Pharmaceutical College of Madrid has resulted in sponsoring the congress; then its president, Luis González Díaz joined us in the Opening ceremony. The Pharmacy vice-dean, Manuel Córdoba on behalf of the Dean, Irene Iglesias, the Secretary of EVS (European Vegetation Survey), Milan Chytrý, and the chair of the Organizing Committee, Rosario G. Gavilán welcome participants in the Opening ceremony (see pictures). The Spanish Geobotanical Society (with Daniel Sánchez-Mata as its current president) was also a remarkable sponsor of our scientific event.

The main topic was ‘Vegetation Diversity and Global Change’ to show all works that are being developed around one of the most important environmental concerns existing on biodiversity. More than 160 scientists from 28 countries attended the meeting. The numbers of participants by country were: Albania (1), Austria (2), Belgium (2), Bulgaria (5), Croatia (2), Czech Republic (6), Denmark (1), Egypt (1), Finland (2), France (10), Germany (3), Hungary (16), Italy (26), Latvia (7), Lithuania (4), North Macedonia (1), Poland (9), Portugal (3), Russia (10), Serbia (2), Slovakia (7), Slovenia (7), Spain (29), The Netherlands (3), Turkey (1), Ukraine (6), United Kingdom (2), USA (1). IAVS sponsored with travel grants 11 participants from Bulgaria, Egypt, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The programme included 3 keynote lectures that covered some of the main features of EVS: functional aspects of plant community assembly, ways of measure biodiversity (habitats) and studies on different types of vegetation:

Adrian Escudero, Linking above and below ground plant community responses: a melting pot of interactions and soil heterogeneity.

Alessandro Chiarucci, A sampling approach for habitat monitoring at a national scale.

Pilar Rodríguez Rojo, Singularity of Iberian Mediterranean grasslands in the European context.
A total of 124 presentations were delivered, comprising 56 oral presentations and 75 posters organized around 12 oral and three poster sessions over the three days of the congress. The topics covered in the congress were:

- Assessment and conservation of European habitats
- High mountain vegetation
- Vegetation classification and data management
- Aquatic vegetation
- Vegetation dynamics and succession in different habitats: from old fields to forests
- Habitat restoration and plant invasions

Excursions

On Friday 6th, two one-day post-symposium excursions were organized to visit two of the most interesting vegetation landscapes in Madrid:

**Excursion 1: Sierra de Guadarrama National Park**

Mediterranean high-mountain communities on metamorphic substrata (granite and gneiss) were visited in...
the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park. Sierra de Guadarrama is one of the mountains that form the Sistema Central, a range that divides the Central Iberian Plateau. We walked from the visitor center to upland areas including the glacial cirque of Dos Hermanas and Peñalara peak (the highest summit in Sierra de Guadarrama, 2428 m asl) and Peñalara lakes. The excursion was divided into two groups to follow the National Park rules, which were guided by Rosario (Charo) Gavilán, Alba Gutiérrez-Girón, José Luis Izquierdo (S. Guadarrama National Park) and Camila Monasterio with the collaboration of Rosina Magaña.

**Excursion 2: Landscapes on Miocene bedrock in Southeastern Madrid province**

Different plant communities were visited ranging from open oak woodlands (*Quercus rotundifolia*, *Q. faginea*), seral scrub formations on limestone and gypsum soils near the Tajuña River Basin (Madrid) and cliffs in Miocene sediments close to El Campillo lagoon (gypsum soils, Southeast Regional Park, Madrid) to diverse halophytic communities colonizing endorheic depressions in El Salobral Nature Reserve and surrounding territories (Madrid / Castilla-La Mancha). The excursion was guided by Daniel Sánchez-Mata.

**Social events**

The congress started with a welcome drink offered on the first day during the registration time. After the meeting a social dinner was also offered to participants to share some traditional values of the country; a Flamenco show in Madrid was the appropriate atmosphere to relax from the intensive work of the former days.

**Opening ceremony: Milan Chytrý introducing EVS working group.**

After the Congress

The journal *Mediterranean Botany* (formerly Lazaroa, IF 2019: 0.947), edited by the Botany Unit of the Department of Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy and Botany, is working now on the preparation of a special issue with a selection of contributions presented in this EVS meeting.

Finally, all people involved in the organization of this meeting worked enthusiastically to cover all expectations of participants. They included the Organizing Committee formed by professors and students from the Department of Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy and Botany (Rosario G. Gavilán (chair), Alba Gutiérrez-Girón, Daniel Sánchez-Mata, José Mª Pizarro, Rosina Magaña, Javier Pérez Hernández, Zuzana Ferencova); Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo (Federico Fernández González, Santiago Sardinero); Department of Biology, Autonomous University of Madrid (Irene Sánchez, Esteban Ramírez), and Biodiversia S. Coop. (Alba Gutiérrez-Girón, Camila Monasterio and Guillermo Amo). Senior professors from other Madrid universities and Spanish research centers formed a part of the Advisory Council and the Scientific Committee formed by the EVS Steering Committee. We hope Madrid and Spain have been enough friendly during your stay with us. Thank you for coming!

**Publications derived from the Meeting**


**Professors Wolfredo Wildpret de la Torre and Daniel Sánchez-Mata answered questions to a UCM journalist on vegetation conservation problems in the Canary Islands.**
People going up to Dos Hermanas surrounded by shrubs of Senecioni carpetani-Cytisetum oromediterranei.

Starting the meeting, activity at the registration desk.
Excursion to the Sierra de Guadarrama (José Luis Izquierdo, Alba Gutiérrez Girón and Camila Monasterio leading one of the groups).

Avenello ibericae-Pinetum ibericae, Cotos Pass (1850 m a.s.l., Sierra de Guadarrama National Park).
Sierra de Guadarrama National Park: Peñalara peak (2428 m asl) and Peñalara lake.

Lunch in the Sierra de Guadarrama excursion on Nardus grasslands of Campanulo herminii-Festucetum ibericae, still quite green in September.
Talking about vegetation during the lunch; at the bottom shrublands of Senecioni carpetani-Cytisetum oromediterranei with Gentiana lutea (dry) in Campanulo herminii-Festucetum ibericae.

Excursion to Southeastern Madrid.
Excursion to Southeastern Madrid (Daniel Sánchez-Mata, the leader, and Gianmaria Bonari).

Excursion to Southeastern Madrid. Open forest remnants of *Cephalanthero rubrae-Quercetum fagineae* and shrublands of *Cisto clusii-Rosmarinetum officinalis*; at the bottom olive cultures.
Excursion to Southeastern Madrid. Tall halophilous dry grasslands of *Senecioni auriculae-Lygeetum sporti* and tall-chamaephytic communities (*Suaedo braun-blanquetii-Arthrocnemetum macrostachyi*).
Recently defended theses in vegetation science

In this issue we introduce recently defended PhD theses in vegetation science provided to the bulletin. You are welcome to present your work to a broad audience of vegetation scientists throughout the world this way. Your message can be published in the forthcoming issues if you send your contribution to monika.janisova@gmail.com containing the following information: 1) Name and affiliation of the student (photo appreciated); 2) Name and affiliation of the supervisor (photo appreciated); 3) Topic of the thesis; 4) Summary of the thesis; 5) Date of defense; 6) Publications related to the thesis.

The effect of global change on sessile oak forests on the NE Iberian Peninsula
(defended on 11 April 2019 at University of Girona, Girona, Catalonia, Spain)

Jordi BOU
LAGP-Flora and Vegetation, Institute of the Environment, University of Girona, Girona, Catalonia, Spain
Supervisor:
Lluís VILAR
LAGP-Flora and Vegetation, Institute of the Environment, University of Girona, Girona, Catalonia, Spain

The sessile oak forest (Lathyro montani-Quercetum petraea), in the NE Iberian Peninsula are at the southernmost limit of the Quercus petraea range, in Mediterranean-type conditions at the xeric limit. Studies of vegetation dynamics in these extreme conditions are crucial for improving our knowledge of vegetation response to climate change. Currently, sessile oak forests occupy a small area of the NE Iberian Peninsula, but they have not always presented this distribution pattern and, in the future, their range may be altered as a result of global change. Climate change has many direct effects on plants, like the thermophilization of plant communities. However, despite being a well-studied topic, there is little work on low- and medium-altitude mountains, which is precisely where these forests grow in the NE Iberian Peninsula. Also, land use change has had an important effect on forest, since woodlands have been exploited and transformed since ancient times. However, forest use has changed over time, particularly in the mid-20th century, that has led to open spaces being replaced by scrublands and forests in both Europe in general, and the NE Iberian Peninsula.

This is the context of this thesis, the main goal of which is to describe the ecological dynamics of sessile oak forests in the NE Iberian Peninsula since the mid-20th century. To test the hypotheses on the effects of global change, we studied the modifications of sessile oak forests corresponding to their evolution over recent years. Focusing on the sessile oak forest plant community in the NE Iberian Peninsula (Chapter 1), we put special emphasis on the case study of the Montseny Massif, looking in detail at the distribution and structure of the sessile oak woodland (Chapters 2 and 3), as it is clearly a site at the xeric limit, in other words, strategically important for the management and conservation of these forests.

Floral inventories of the sessile oak groves in the NE Iberian Peninsula show that the community species composition has been altered since the second half of the 20th century, but in slightly different ways in each region; the changes are fairly significant in the Catalan Coastal Range where the Montnegre Natural Park has experienced a clear loss of biodiversity. In fact, many of the changes in the sessile oak forest species composition in the NE Iberian Peninsula can be explained by...
changes in forest use. Sixty years ago, with the abandonment of traditional sessile oak woodland agroforestry exploitation, there was an increase in deciduous macrophanerophytes, resulting in reduced light levels in the forest and a consequent decrease in hemicryptophytes in the undergrowth. At the same time, climate change during this period has also affected the chorological spectrum of the sessile oak forests, where thermophylization has been observed in some localities. The most obvious case is the Coastal Range, where Mediterranean plants have been favoured, although this process has been less intense in the Pyrenees, where Atlantic plants have been slightly affected; even though these dynamics are evident in the easternmost sessile oak forests, they appear to be much less discernible in the westernmost woodlands. These western sessile oak forests are more stable in the face of global change, in all likelihood due to their location in the Aran Valley and the county of Pallars Sobirà, which have far more favourable environmental conditions.

In the Montseny Massif, mapping analysis shows that about half the sessile oak forests from 60 years ago have become denser, and the oak woodland may even have expanded slightly, due to the abandonment of agroforestry land use in the massif beginning in the mid-20th century. Currently sessile oak forests can be classified into five different types. Firstly, there are young, dense sessile oak forests where there is a great abundance of fast-growing pioneer arboreal species, corresponding to old scattered stands. A second type involves young, dense sessile oak forests with a high number of young sessile oaks, which 60 years ago were dense stands and which we believe would have had a similar forest structure to the first type described, where the oaks have now replaced the accompanying species. A third type comprises sessile oak forests with intermediate structures, including some cases of more mature woodland, which we think would be the climax stage of these forests. Finally, there are a further two types of forest situated in limiting conditions for sessile oak. Therefore, in the Montseny Massif there has been recovery not only of the sessile oak at forest level, but also of the floral community in general, as there has also been an increase in the dominance of Euro-Siberian plants typical of these forests. Despite this remarkable recovery from the impacts of age-old exploitation, the oak forests are still significantly fragmented and there is a lack of mature structures due to past exploitation and the emergence of new forestry practices, such as Douglas fir plantations, which are causing new environmental problems in these forests.

The sessile oak groves in the NE Iberian Peninsula are, therefore, recovering from the change in forest use, and the Montseny Massif is the best example of this dynamic. For some oak forests, however, such as those in the Montnegre natural park, climate change poses an uncertain future. For this reason, it is important to take advantage of natural refuges of these species as reservoirs and places where the habitat can be preserved. Sustainable management is required to allow the forest to develop naturally, and continue towards maturity in the future. Management adapted to climate change should not only focus on reducing its impacts, but also take advantage of the resilience of this habitat, proposing a strategy for the recovery of sessile oak woodland in areas where they would potentially be found, and which may currently be occupied by semi-natural formations or introduced plant species. These dynamics in the NE Iberian Peninsula, especially at the xeric limit, require further study in order to facilitate an understanding of future changes in these forests across this region and Europe in general.
Dry grassland with dominant Anthericum ramosum and the participants of the Pre-symposium Excursion to Harz and Kyffhäuser, Germany, July 2019.

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