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

Forthcoming IAVS Symposia:

2021

63th IAVS Symposium
Vegetation goes Virtual

The 63th IAVS 2021 Virtual Symposium will take place between 20th till the 23rd of September 2021.

The meeting will be held entirely online, using a dedicated online conference platform. The Symposium will include both live and on-demand events. During each of the four main conference days, we will have three live events: a plenary talk, an organized Special Session and a workshop. There will be also a number of contributed oral talks, posters with an option for lightning talks, and (a new feature) virtual excursions. These contributions will be pre-recorded and offered on-demand during the main Symposium days and will remain accessible for the following month.

The Symposium will also include traditional activities, such as the Young Scientists’ Awards for excellent oral or poster presentations. During the final day of the Symposium, a General Assembly will be held, which will be live and open to all symposium participants, with announcements of Award winners and plans for future symposia.

Thematic sessions:

• Assembly rules
• Biomes
• Climate change
• Conservation and restoration
• Disturbance ecology
This event replaces the initial *Annual Symposium of the IAVS, Vegetation in the Anthropocene*, was presented by Pavel Krestov, Botanical Garden-Institute, Vladivostok, Russia, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. The symposium was initially scheduled for 20-24 July 2020 but it was indefinitely cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the planned in-person activities were transferred to 2021 to be held in the 2021 Madrid symposium such as the Altai excursion. After contacting with Nikolai Ermakov, he has agreed in transferring again the Altai excursion to 2022:

**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-steppes, 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.
**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.

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 has 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 accommodation 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.

**Dates:** The Symposium will take place between the 27th of June and the 2nd July 2022

**Excursions:**

- **Pre-symposium excursion: June 19-26, 2021.** Objective: central and southern Iberian high landscape diversity including inland marsh and saltmarsh vegetation, Sierra Morena mountain range and the Subbetic-Betic mountain ranges (with several remarkable landscapes such as limestone/dolomite and serpentinitized peridotite forests of the endemic *Abies pinsapo*, the Sierra Nevada National Park (with the Iberian highest point at Mulhacén Peak (3478 m asl), Sierra de Cazorla Natural Park, among others, all
of them genuine biodiversity hotspots. Various easy hiking stretches are planned during the excursion.

**Preliminary itinerary:** Madrid-Alcázar de San Juan-Daimiel (Tablas de Daimiel National Park)-Córdoba (Sierra Morena Nature Reserve)-Seville-Grazalema (Sierra de Grazalema Nature Reserve)-Ronda (Sierra de las Nieves Nature Reserve)-Marbella/Estepona (Sierra Bermeja Nature Reserve-Granada (Sierra Nevada National Park)-Cazorla (Sierra de Cazorla Nature Reserve)-Madrid.

**Post-symposium excursion:*** **July 3rd to 10th.** Objective: landscape diversity throughout the Iberian Central System (Spain/Portugal), including various easy hiking stretches and one full-day hike. Objective: landscape diversity throughout the Iberian Central System (Spain/Portugal).

**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).

**Mid-symposium excursions:** There will be several one-day mid-symposium excursions (Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, Montejo de la Sierra beech forests, Somosierra birch forests, El Lobo Peak area, El Escorial area, Central Spain inland salt-marsh habitats, limestone landscapes south of Madrid and Toledo Mountain ranges).

It is expected that, in coordination with the Symposium, the Altai excursion will take place in summer of 2022, so that the symposium participants will have the opportunity to take part in it.

**Scientific program**

The symposium will focus on the urgent need to preserve the diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats. The development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network is Europe’s foremost strategy for biodiversity conservation, and includes both the continent and its biological content. The scientific comparison between the strategies and protocols applied in other countries will undoubtedly serve to promote major advances in the conservation of the territory.

Both, the conservational and methodological strategies, the landscape human uses, the habitat restoration, among others, will be different great topics. Specific themes include:

- Diversity and functioning of natural and semi-natural habitats
- Conservation of relictual vegetation as threatened habitats
- Pre-human landscapes
- The human impact as vegetation dynamics driver
- Habitat restoration
• How about the future? Habitat conservation in a climate change scenario

The symposium will include a book of abstracts, a program, and specially prepared detailed excursion guides for the pre-, mid- and post symposium excursions. A special webpage will be prepared with basic information at least one year before the symposium; proposal and announcements were made at Bozeman (2018) and Bremen (2019).

ENVIROVEG (Vegetation and Environment), an approved Research Group from Complutense University led by Daniel Sánchez-Mata and Rosario Gavilán, will guarantee a high level of the symposium both academic and scientific. Also the Spanish Geobotanical Society, led at this moment by Daniel Sánchez-Mata, and the Spanish Botanical Society will officially support the meeting.