

A look to the history of the “Anthropization and Environment of Rural Settlements Flora and Vegetation” international conferences

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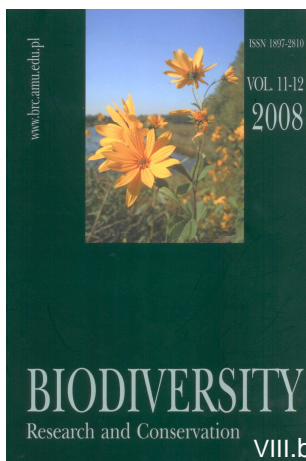
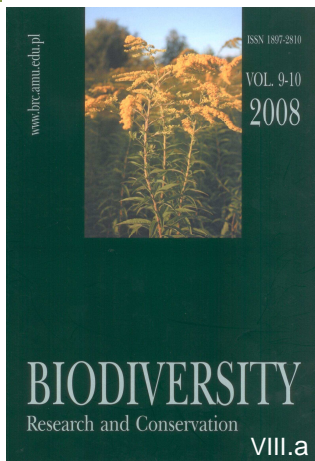
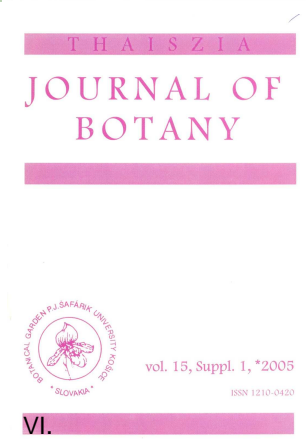
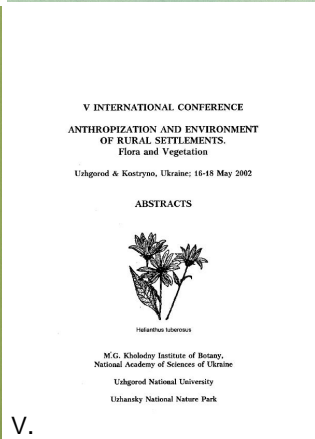
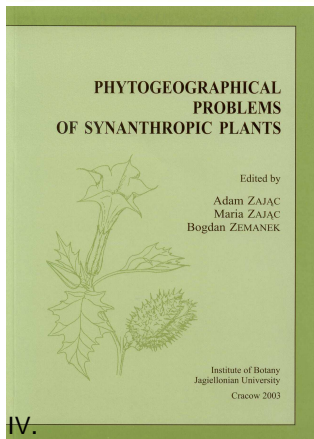
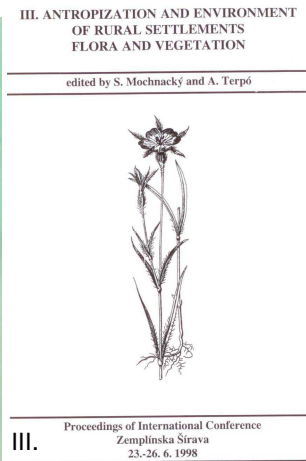
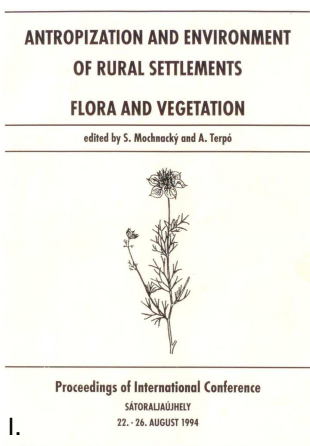
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Since 1994, the “Anthropization and Environment of Rural Settlements Flora and Vegetation” international conferences have been organised in 2-year intervals, always in one of the countries of the former V4 (Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine). The idea was turned to reality by prof. Andrász Terpó from Agricultural University in Gödöllő and doc. RNDr. Sergej Mochnacký, CSc. from Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice whose inspiration was motivated by the former Bratislava's Synanthropic Symposiums carried out by the Slovak Botanical Society of the Institute of Botany of SAS. The first conference was somehow unique because it took place in the two neighbouring countries, so we have got some special memories from the checkpoint in Slovenské Nové Mesto, which we were crossing twice a day, in mornings and evenings. The jubilee, 10th conference, again took place in Slovakia, in Danišovce. In terms of this, it is suitable not to miss the opportunity to bring an overview and some brief information about all already held conferences.

1st Conference: 1994 (August 22–26th) Viničky, Slovakia – Sátoraljaújhely, Hungary

Organizing Institutions:

- Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (Slovakia)
- Agricultural University in Gödöllő (Hungary)



- Vintner Association of Tokajhegyalja in Tokaj (Hungary)
- Section for Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation Research of the Slovak Botanical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (Slovakia)

Chairmanship: Terpó András, Gödöllő (Hungary); Mochnecký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia)

Scientific Committee: Zaliberová Marica, Bratislava (Slovakia), Zajač Adam, Kraków (Poland)

Objectives:

- recent results concerned with the environment synanthropization
- human impact on changes of vegetation
- composition and functions of synanthropic species and communities

Excursions: Hungary – Alföld Lowland, Tokaj, Slovakia – Východoslovenská nížina Lowland, Zemplínske kopce Hills

52 participants from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine

28 papers presented, published in the Conference Proceedings (Fig. 1-I.)

2nd Conference: 1996 (July 24–28th) Tokaj, Hungary

Organizing Institutions:

- Gödöllő Agrártudományi Egyetem (Hungary)
 - Mezőgazdasági Szaktanácsadási és Kutatásszervezési Intézet (Hungary)
 - Gödöllő Agrárközpont Közhasznú Társág (Hungary)
 - Talajtani és Agrokémiai Tanszék (Hungary)
 - Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (Slovakia)
 - Section for Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation Research of the Slovak Botanical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (Slovakia)
 - Tokajhegyaljai Szövetség, Szerencs (Hungary)
 - Bükk Nemzeti Park Igazgatósága, Eger (Hungary)
 - Tarcsl község Önkormányzata (Hungary)
- Chairmanship:** Miklós Németh, Tokaj (Hungary)

Scientific Committee: Barcsák Zoltán, Gödöllő (Hungary); Béres Imre, Keszthely (Hungary); Füleky György, Gödöllő (Hungary); Leskó István, Szerencs (Hungary); Marcinkó Ferenc, Tarcsl (Hungary); Mochnecký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia); Petri Gizella, Budapest (Hungary); Terpó András, Gödöllő (Hungary); Varga Ferenc, Eger (Hungary); Zajač Adam, Kraków (Poland); Zaliberová Marica, Bratislava (Slovakia)

Objectives:

- composition, functions and distribution of ruderal and segetal species and communities

Fig. 1. Publications with papers presented in the international conferences “Anthropization and Environment of Rural Settlements Flora and Vegetation I. – VIII.”.

- tendencies of neophytes penetration to communities made up of original (apophytic) species
- human impact on changes of vegetation

Excursions: Taktaköz: Taktakenéz, Tiszadob-Hortobágy: Újszentmargita, Ohat, Tarcál – Tokaj

48 participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine

38 papers presented, published in the Conference Proceedings (Fig. 1-II.)

3rd Conference: 1998 (June 23–26th) Zemplínska Šírava, Slovakia

Organizing Institutions:

- Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (Slovakia)
- Agricultural University in Gödöllő (Hungary) Section for Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation Research of the Slovak Botanical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (Slovakia)
- Slovak Ecological Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra (Slovakia)

Chairmanship: Mochnacký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia)

Scientific Committee: Shevera Myroslav, Kyjev (Ukraine); Terpó András, Gödöllő (Hungary); Zajač Adam, Kraków (Poland); Zaliberová Marica, Bratislava (Slovakia)

Objectives:

- succession of ruderal and segetal communities
- population dynamics of synanthropic species
- tendencies of neophytes penetration to plant communities

Excursion: Poloniny National Park of the Východné Karpaty Biosphere Reserve

58 participants from Austria, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine

34 papers presented, published in the Conference Proceedings (Fig. 1-III)

4th Conference: 2000 (September 13–15th)

Krakow, Poland

Organizing Institutions:

- Institute of Botany, Department of plant Taxonomy and Phytogeography of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków (Poland)

Chairmanship: Zajač Adam (Poland)

Scientific Committee: Zajač Maria, Kraków (Poland); Mochnacký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia); Terpó András, Gödöllő (Hungary); Zaliberová Marica, Bratislava (Slovakia); Zemanek Bogdan, Kraków (Poland)

Objectives:

- phytogeographical problems of synanthropic plants and vegetation

Excursions: Kraków surroundings: Morsko-Vistula River valley, "Waly" Nature Reserve by Raslawice in the Miechów Upland, "Kwiatówka" Nature Reserve by Książ Wielki in the Nida River Basin

67 participants from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Ukraine

44 papers published in the Conference Proceedings (Fig. 1-IV)

5th Conference: 2002 (May 16–18th)

Uzhgorod & Kostryno, Ukraine **Organizing Institutions:**

- M. G. Kholodny's Institut of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv
- Uzhgorod National University (Ukraine)
- Uzhansky National Park (Ukraine)

Chairmanship: Shevera Myroslav (Ukraine); Kricsfalusy Volodymyr (Ukraine)

Scientific Committee: Ivaneha Ivan (Ukraine); Komendar Vasyľ (Ukraine); Kopach Vasyľ (Ukraine); Mochnacký Sergej (Slovakia); Mosyakin Sergej (Ukraine); Petrus Yuriy (Ukraine); Protopopova Vira (Ukraine); Sytnik Kostyantyn (Ukraine); Terpó András (Hungary); Zajaç Adam (Poland)

Objectives:

- flora and vegetation of rural and urban habitats
- the role of alien species in floras and plant communities
- endangered and protected species and plant communities

Excursion: Uzhansky National Park

80 participants from Hungary, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine

54 papers presented, published in the Conference Proceedings (Fig. 1-V)

6th Conference: 2004 (September 28th – October 1st)

Danišovce, Slovakia **Organizing Institutions:**

- Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (Slovakia)
- Slovenský raj National Park (Slovakia)
- Weed Biological Society of Prof. M. Újvárosi, (Hungary)
- Section for Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation Research in the Slovak Botanical Society of Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (Slovakia)

Chairmanship: Mochnacký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia); Terpó András, Gödöllő (Hungary)

Scientific Committee: Jarolímek Ivan, Bratislava (Slovakia); Kelbel Peter, Košice (Slovakia); Latowski Karol, Poznań (Poland); Leskó István, Tarcál (Hungary); Shevera Myroslav, Kyiv (Ukraine); Zaliberová Marica, Bratislava (Slovakia)

Objectives: invasive plants in autochthonous phytocoenoses

- synanthropisation of natural biotopes

Excursions: Slovenský raj National Park, Spišský hrad (Castle) and surroundings

45 participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine

38 papers presented, published in the Thaiszia Supplement (Fig. 1-VI)

7th Conference: 2006 (June 25–28th)

Tarcal, Hungary

Organizing Institutions:

- Szent István University, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Gödöllő (Hungary)
- Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice (Slovakia)
- Section for Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation Research of the Slovak Botanical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (Slovakia)

Chairmanship: Terpó András, Budapest (Hungary)

Scientific Committee: Füleky György, Gödöllő (Hungary); Latowsky Karol, Poznań (Poland); Mochnacký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia)

Objectives:

- the role of settlements in invasive plants preservation and distribution
- green surfaces of settlements
- up-to-date effects of human impact on vegetation
- environmental tolerance of trees and bushes
- urban planning and green surfaces
- protected and unprotected species

Excursions: villages in Tokaj area and towns in Zemplén Hills

30 participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine

23 papers presented, published in the Thaiszia Supplement (Fig. 1-VII)

8th Conference: 2008 (June 30th –July 2nd)

Katowice – Siewierz, Poland

Organizing Institutions:

- Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, University of Silesia, Katowice (Poland)
- Department of Plant Systematics, University of Silesia, Katowice (Poland)
- Department of Geobotany and Nature Protection, University of Silesia, Katowice (Poland)

Chairmanship: Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, Katowice (Poland)

Scientific Committee: Terpó András, president, Gödöllő (Hungary); Jarolímek Ivan, Bratislava (Slovakia); Latowski Karol, Poznań (Poland); Lesko István, Tarcal (Hungary); Mochnacký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia); Shevera Myroslav, Kyiv (Ukraine); Wika Stanisław, Katowice (Poland); Zajaç Adam, Krakow (Poland)

Objectives:

- flora and vegetation of rural and urban habitats

- the role of alien species in floras and plant communities, their impact on biodiversity of a given area
- population dynamics of synanthropic species
- endangered and protected species and plant communities

Excursions: Cracow-Czestochowa Upland and surrounding areas, rocky grasslands, xerothermic grasslands, the Parkowe Reserve

70 participants from the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Russia, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine

64 papers presented, published in Biodiversity Research and Conservation (Figs. 1-VIIIa,b)

9th Conference: 2010 (June 29th – July 1st)

Kamyanets-Podilskiy & Boyany, Ukraine **Organizing Institutions:**

- M. G. Kholodny's Institute of Botany, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- Ivan Ogiyenko's Kamyanets-Podilsky National University (Ukraine)
- "Podilski Tovtry" National Park (Ukraine) Yuriy Fed'kovych's National University in Chernivtsi (Ukraine)

Chairmanship: Shevera Myroslav, Kyiv (Ukraine), Lyubinska Liudmyla, Kyiv (Ukraine)

Scientific Committee: Terpó András, Budapest (Hungary); Jarolímek Ivan, Bratislava (Slovakia); Latowski Karol, Poznań (Poland); Lesko István, Tarcál (Hungary); Mochnacký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia); Shevera Myroslav, Kyiv (Ukraine); Tokarska-Guzik Barbara, Katowice (Poland); Zajač Adam, Krakow (Poland)

Objectives:

- urban flora and vegetation
- synanthropization of the plant cover in regions
- the role of invasive species in floras and plant communities, their impact on biodiversity
- endangered and protected species and plant communities
- monitoring and management of biodiversity

Excursions: Podillya and Bukovina

127 participants from Bulgaria, Byelarus, Canada, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine

74 papers presented, papers are to be published in the Conference Proceedings.

10th Conference: 2012 (September 4–7th)

Danišovce, Slovakia

Organizing Institutions:

- Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (Slovakia)
- Institute of Botany of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (Slovakia)

- Section for Synanthropic Flora and Vegetation Research of the Slovak Botanical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (Slovakia)
- Slovenský raj National Park (Slovakia)

Chairmanship: Mochňacký Sergej, Košice (Slovakia) **Scientific Committee:** Jarolímeček Ivan, Bratislava (Slovakia); Latowski Karol, Poznań (Poland); Shevera Myroslav, Kyiv (Ukraine)

Objectives:

- biodiversity and alien plant species

Excursions: Slovenský raj National Park, Levoča – the town historic core

35 participants from Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine

18 papers presented, published in the this volume of *Thaiszia*

Conclusion

As it is seen from the overview, in 20 years 10 conferences were carried out, in average 3,5 times they were held in Slovakia, 2,5 times in Hungary, twice in Poland and twice in Ukraine. A total of 612 participants gave 415 presentations. Yet the results were published in 5 Proceedings, 3 Supplements of *Thaiszia* and 2 numbers of *Biodiversity Research and Conservation*. The first conference has determined the primary fields of synanthropic vegetation research in Central-Eastern Europe. At earlier stages, the research in individual countries was targeted at the plant communities sampling, data collection and the elaboration of the reviews of ruderal and segetal vegetation. At the same time, it was also focused on neophytes' invasions, their adaptation in new environment and further distribution, penetration into native plant communities, along patterns of their invasive behaviour. After the finishing of synanthropic vegetation reviews, the survey and sampling results were aimed at the completion of the checklists of alien species. The attention has also been paid to the succession of ruderal and segetal vegetation, to methods of survey, terminology and analyses of species threat.

The exchange of essential data followed by discussions, which were the inseparable part of each conference, significantly deepened our knowledge on the problems of human impact on flora and vegetation.

The last meeting of synanthropic botanists brought a discussion on further trends of international conferences, in terms of which the following conclusions and recommendations were accepted:

- to adjust the conference name the "Anthropization and Environment of Rural Settlements Flora and Vegetation" to "Synanthropization of Flora and Vegetation" with the option to specify topics of anthropization problems and their impacts on the environment in the agenda of organized conference;
- the conferences are to be organized in the same 2-year intervals in alternating collaborating countries, with the prospect to engage Romania and the Czech Republic to their organisation;

- the papers from conferences are to be published in the scientific journal Thaiszia of the UPJŠ Botanical Garden, or in the Conference Proceedings;
- the next, XI. International Conference "Synanthropization of Flora and Vegetation", is planned to be held in Hungary.

The participants of the 10th, jubilee, conference acknowledged the Organizing Committee for the efforts made for the conference smooth run.

A lot of work in synanthropic vegetation research in Central-Eastern European Region has already been done, but still there remain a lot of work in progress awaiting its completion and evaluation.

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