

of the European Dry Grassland Group



Dear members of the EDGG,

we would like to encourage all those of you who have not voted yet for the new Executive Committee of the EDGG to do so now, before the election ends on 8th May. If you have not received an invitation to participate in the election, or have not succeeded in registering your vote, then please contact Steve Venn to: Stephen.venn@helsinki.fi. To help you to choose whom to vote for, we have prepared biosketches of all 10 candidates for the 7 seats. All members are encouraged to make full use of their entitlement to vote for seven candidates. In addition to some spring impressions from dry grasslands, this Bulletin also contains information on the re-launch of the journal "Phytocoenologia", in which some of us are deeply involved and which is currently preparing to produce a Special Issue for us, and three book reviews.

Shortly after the publication of this Bulletin, the term of duty of the current EDGG Executive Committee will end. One of us (Solvita) is not standing for re-election and also we others do not yet know whether we will be re-elected by you. We would therefore like to thank you for the good cooperation and your support during the past two years and look forward to meeting many of you during the forthcoming EDGG and IAVS events.

*Jürgen Dengler, Monika Janišová, Solvita Rusina, Péter Török,
Stephen Venn & Michael Vrahnaĳis*

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Pulsatilla grandiflora, Tallya, Hungary. Photo: Piotr Chmielewski

May 2015

EDGG homepage: www.edgg.org

European Dry Grassland Group

The European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) is a network of specialists for European dry grassland and Palaearctic steppes. EDGG is a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS).

The basic aims of the EDGG are:

- ♠ to compile and to distribute information on research and conservation in dry grasslands beyond national borders;
 - ♠ to stimulate active cooperation among dry grassland scientists (exchanging data, common data standards, joint projects).
- To achieve its aims, EDGG provides seven media for the exchange of information between dry grassland researchers and conservationists:
- ♠ the **Bulletin of the EDGG** (published quarterly);
 - ♠ the **EDGG homepage** (www.edgg.org);
 - ♠ e-mails via our **mailing list** on urgent issues;
 - ♠ the **European Dry Grassland Meetings** - organized annually at different locations throughout Europe;
 - ♠ **EDGG research expeditions and field workshops** to sample baseline data of underrepresented regions of Europe;

EDGG Subgroups

EDGG members are automatically assigned to the Regional Subgroup of the region in which they reside. If you additionally wish to join other Subgroups or the new Grassland Conservation and Restoration Subgroup, just send an e-mail to the Membership Administrator (juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de).

Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen (Germany) (contact: Thomas Becker - beckerth@uni-trier.de), Ute Jandt - jandt@botanik.uni-halle.de : 244 members

Working Group on Dry Grasslands in the Nordic and Baltic Region (contact: Jürgen Dengler - juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de): 91 members

South-East European Dry Grasslands (SEEDGG) (contact: Iva Apostolova - iva@bio.bas.bg): 273 members

Mediterranean Dry Grasslands (Med-DG) (contact: Michael Vrahnakis - mvrahnak@teilar.gr): 307 members

Topical Subgroup Grassland Conservation and Restoration (contact: Péter Török - molinia@gmail.com): 67 members

♠ EDGG vegetation databases;

♠ **Special Features** on dry grassland-related topics in various peer-reviewed journals.

The EDGG covers all aspects related to dry grasslands, in particular: plants - animals - fungi - microbia - soils - taxonomy - phylogeography - ecophysiology - population biology - species' interactions - vegetation ecology - syntaxonomy - landscape ecology - biodiversity - land use history - agriculture - nature conservation - restoration - environmental legislation - environmental education.

Anyone can join the EDGG without any fee or other obligation. To become a member of the European Dry Grassland Group or its subordinate units, please, send an e-mail to Jürgen Dengler, including your name and complete address, and specify any of the groups you wish to join. More detailed information can be found at: http://www.edgg.org/about_us.htm.

As of 24 April 2015 EDGG had **1049 members from 62 countries** all over the world. While we are well-represented in most European countries, few European countries are still not or hardly covered by members. Moreover, the extra-European part of the Palaearctic realm (which according to our Bylaws is the geographic scope of EDGG!) is still grossly underrepresented.

EDGG Executive Committee and responsibilities of its members

Jürgen Dengler: Membership Administrator, Coordinator for Special Features, Coordinator for EDGG Expeditions, Book Review Editor, Deputy Contact Officer to other organisations. juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de

Monika Janišová: Editor-in-Chief of the Bulletin of the EDGG, Representative to the IAVS, Deputy Meetings Coordinator. monika.janisova@gmail.com

Solvita Rūsiņa: Editor-in-Chief of the EDGG homepage (incl. other electronic media). rusina@lu.lv

Péter Török: Contact Officer to other organisations, Deputy-Secretary-General, Deputy-Officer of the Special Policy Committee. molinia@gmail.com

Stephen Venn: Secretary-General, Deputy-Editor-in-Chief of the EDGG homepage (incl. other electronic media). stephen.venn@helsinki.fi

Michael Vrahnakis: Meetings Coordinator, Officer of the Special Policy Committee. mvrahnak@teilar.gr

Elections of the EDGG Executive Committee go until 8 May 2015

The elections to the EDGG Executive Committee started on 10 April 2015 and will continue until 8 May 2015, 24:00 CET. **If you have not voted yet, we invite you to participate in the elections.** Each EDGG member has received the **login details in his/her e-mail.** If you had not received the e-mail, please contact [Stephen Venn](mailto:Stephen.Venn@helsinki.fi) Stephen.Venn@helsinki.fi.

There are altogether 10 candidates for the 2015 election of the Executive Committee of the European Dry Grasslands Group. Each member of the EDGG is entitled to **vote once, for a maximum of seven candidates.**

Biosketches of candidates



Candidate 1

Didem Ambarli, Turkey

I am an assistant professor at Duzce University, Turkey. My research interests include vegetation dynamics especially old field succession, management-vegetation relations, animal distribution-vegetation relations, vegetation classification and conservation. I am particularly interested in steppes. I am a member of EDGG and Med-EDGG since 2011. I can take responsibility in organizing meetings and managing EDGG homepage. Increasing recognizability of EDGG and membership from underrepresented countries and also promoting interdisciplinary work, especially with social sciences dimension are among things I'd like to do for EDGG.



Candidate 2

Idoia Biurrun, Spain

I am an associate professor at the University at the Basque Country in Bilbao, Spain, where I obtained my PhD in 1995. I am a vegetation scientist working on several vegetation types, dry grasslands among others. My interest is focused on classification and diversity patterns of dry grasslands, but I also want to learn more about their dynamics and their relationships with forests and scrubs. I have been an active member of EDGG since 2012 and I have participated both in conferences and field workshops. Last year I organized the 7th Field Workshop in Navarre (Spain). I would like to contribute to the development of EDGG, as it is an excellent network not only for getting a better knowledge of dry grasslands in Europe, but also for spreading this knowledge in society and administration in order to improve their conservation status.



Candidate 3

Jürgen Dengler, Germany

I am a vegetation ecologist by training, with strong competences in vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens, but also interests in various animal taxa. My Diploma thesis was on the dry grassland flora and vegetation of a Biodiversity Reserve in NE Germany. While I have worked in many other vegetation types across Europe and beyond, the European semi-natural grasslands and the natural steppes of the Palaearctic, their ecology, biodiversity and conservation, have always been my favourites. Currently, I am senior scientist at the University of Bayreuth for an experimental project on European grasslands and at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig for sPlot, the new global vegetation-plot database. In 2008, I was co-founder of the EDGG and since then have served as one of its chairs. Mainly and with great joy, I took responsibilities for the EDGG Special Features in international journals and the EDGG Field Workshops. For the future, I wish that EDGG manages to get more active in the Asian part of the Palaearctic and involves more zoologists to ensure a true multi-taxon perspective.



Candidate 4

Monika Janišová, Slovakia

I am a researcher at Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, focusing mainly on grasslands (classification, diversity, management) and population biology of grassland species. I have served as one of the EDGG chairs since 2008; my main task has been the preparation and design of the Bulletin of the EDGG. Since 2012, I have also been a representative of the EDGG to IAVS. I organized the European Dry Grassland Meeting in 2010 (Smolenice, Slovakia). I have taken part in three Research Expeditions organized by the EDGG. I like cooperation of grassland researchers very much and I would like to promote its development in the future.



Candidate 5

Anna Kuzemko, Ukraine

I am the Leading Researcher of the Herbaceous Plants Department at the National Dendrological Park 'Sofiyivka' of the NAS of Ukraine, and Doctor of Biological Science. My

scientific interests are grassland vegetation classification, ecology, dynamics, management and conservation. I have been a member of the European Dry Grassland Group since 2008. I organized the 2nd EDGG Expedition in Central Podolia (Ukraine) in 2010 and the 8th EDGG Meeting in Uman' (Ukraine) in 2011. I hope to help the EDGG to involve scientists from the countries of the former USSR and South-East Europe in the various activities of the EDGG.



Candidate 6

Alireza Naqinezhad, Iran

I work as an associate professor of plant ecology at the University of Mazandaran, Iran. My main interests are vegetation classification and phytodiversity of forest, steppe and alpine wetlands of Iran. Moreover, my several MSc and PhD students' theses have been focused on elevational gradients of plant diversity of steppes and dry grasslands in different mountainous systems in Iran. I am now a member of the IAVS Global Sponsorship Committee (GSC) and European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) and have participated in several meetings and expeditions carried out by the IAVS and EDGG. I suppose that the IAVS, and particularly the EDGG, have clear gap of representatives in the Middle East and the Central Asia. I hope I would be able to help the EDGG to effectively connect with the vegetation scientists of this part of the world. Moreover, I would like to help the EDGG in different aspects of field expeditions, public relations, membership administration and bulletin publications.



Candidate 7

Ilya Smelansky, Russia

I work as the Steppe Program Coordinator in the NGO Siberian Environmental Center (Novosibirsk). Currently working also as a main technical consultant in UNDP/GEF project on Russian steppe protected areas. My scientific interest is steppe community ecology for so different objects as soil invertebrates, steppe raptors, and plants. I'm managing and editing the Steppe Bulletin (since 1998), the only Russian-language periodical on steppe conservation, and the website "Conservation of steppes in Russia" (since 2010). Currently I am involved in the EDGG Special Policy Committee and had a part in organizing the 2014 European Dry Grassland Meetings. I wish EDGG to play more active role and be more effective as an international actor in the field of dry grasslands and steppes conservation. Uniting scientists and experts the EDGG could be a think tank to formulate policy positions, prepare analytical and policy reports, and participate in international meeting and international processes to advocate for saving steppe ecosystems.



Candidate 8

Péter Török, Hungary

I'm a young plant ecologist working at the University of Debrecen in Hungary. I'm interested in vegetation dynamics and restoration of various grasslands. I have served since 2011 as a chair in the IAVS European Dry Grassland Group, and was guest editor in several IAVS-EDGG coordinated special features in international journals. I was responsible for the contacts of the EDGG as contact officer, and was involved in the EDGG Special Policy Committee as deputy officer. In case of my election, I would like to facilitate the collaboration of IAVS-EDGG with other scientific organisations (SCB, SER) and help to increase the visibility and attractiveness of the group especially for young vegetation scientists and students. I would like also to work in the organising of special features and thematic issues in grassland ecology and restoration.



Candidate 9

Stephen Venn, Finland/UK

I am a member of the Urban Ecology research group at the University of Helsinki. My research currently focuses on trophic interactions in the plant-insect assemblages of dry meadows and their effects on the provision of such ecosystem services as pollination, in urban areas. I primarily work with carabid beetles bees (Apoidea). I joined the EDGG in 2010 and became Secretary General in 2011. My role, apart from secretarial duties, has focused on advancing the involvement of a broader range of taxa. I am also Invited guest Editor in Chief of the Hacquetia SF on Open Landscapes 2016. I also have a background in internet-based applications and am trying to promote the use of such tools as blogs, wikis and electronic forms. I have enjoyed working with the other chairs and hope that this election will result in the involvement of new, enthusiastic colleagues in the team, bringing new skills and ideas.



Candidate 10

Michael Vrahnakis, Greece

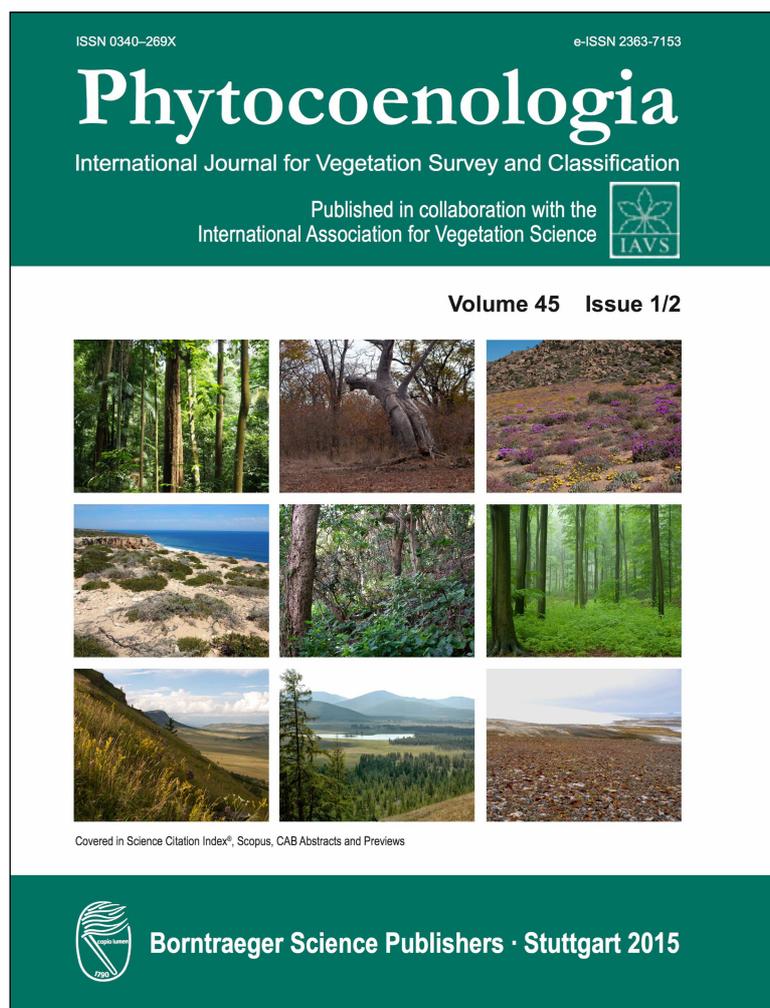
I am associate professor at the School of Forestry and Management of Natural Environment of the Technological Educational Institute of Thessaly, and I run the Laboratory of Rangeland Science. My main interests are quantification of biodiversity, rangeland ecology and management, conservation and restoration of Natura 2000 habitat types. Currently, I am one of the six chairs of the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) and responsible for the Mediterranean branch (namely Mediterranean Dry Grassland Subgroup, Med-DG). I am also responsible in organizing the annual European Dry Grassland Meetings (EDGMs), and I am involved in the Special Policy Committee of the EDGG. For the future, I wish the EDGG would be more active in the fields of Policy formulation for setting protection rules and schemes for the European (Asian part of the Palaearctic realm included) dry grasslands and steppes. I also believe we must include social dimension in the EDGG's interests.

Phytocoenologia

Re-launch of a classical vegetation ecological journal

Through its history, the journal *Phytocoenologia* has been closely connected to IAVS. It was founded in 1973 by leading IAVS members of that time, and since then many of the Editors and Board members were IAVS members. Yet, there was no formal relationship between IAVS and the publisher (Borntraeger Science Publishers, Stuttgart) for many years. This has changed in early 2014 when the IAVS Governing Board and the representative of the publisher, signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The most important points of the MoU are that the IAVS Governing Board and Borntraeger from that point on jointly appoint the Editors-in-Charge, IAVS has influence on future orientation, policies and content of *Phytocoenologia*, and IAVS members are entitled to significant discount on subscription fees, while at the same time *Phytocoenologia* is allowed to state that it is “published in collaboration with the IAVS.

The Memorandum of Understanding was the basis to appoint eight new Editors-in-Charge (EiCs) when in summer 2014 the long-term Chief Editor Ulrich Deil retired. They come from six countries and three continents and all have been active in IAVS and various of its subgroups for a long time: Erwin Bergmeier (Germany), Jürgen Dengler (Germany), Monika Janišová (Slovakia), Florian Jansen (Germany), Pavel Krestov (Russia), Jan Roleček (Czech Republic), Donald A. “Skip” Walker (United States), Wolfgang Willner (Austria). The EiCs jointly govern the journal scientifically, and always one of them serves as *primus inter pares* (Receiving Editor) for periods of 3–6 months. The new editorial team of *Phytocoenologia* is completed by two Linguistic Editors and 41 Editorial Board members from 23 countries and six continents, most of them also IAVS members.



Cover of the first double issue of the re-launched *Phytocoenologia*, to be published in mid-2015. The nine photos signify the nine ecozones or zono-biomes according to various global typologies.

Along with a new scope (see Bulletin 23, p. 26), the journal will have new layout and new Author Guidelines. The covers from now on will be in full colour, and upon authors' request also inside the journal colour figures will be possible.

From 2015 onwards, *Phytocoenologia* will have two permanent sections, **Phytosociological Nomenclature** (Section Editors Erwin Bergmeier & Wolfgang Willner) and **Ecoinformatics** (Section Editors Jürgen Dengler & Florian Jansen). We expect that articles belonging to these sections will appear in nearly any issue of the journal. They will always be placed at the end of the issue and have an indication in their header of their belonging to a section. While both sections are open to any kind of article from the field described by their name, they also serve as publication outlets for certain formal types of publications released in cooperation with other initiatives. In the section Phytosociological Nomenclature, all **proposals for *nomina ambigua* and *nomina conservanda*** submitted to the *Committee for the Conservation and Change of Names* of the IAVS Working Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature as well as the recommendations of the Committee on these will be published. The section Ecoinformatics, from now on will be the home for the official **Long Database Reports** (LDRs) and **Short Database Reports** (SDRs) of databases registered in the *Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases* (GIVD; www.givd.info). *Phytocoenologia* here continues the succes-

successful tradition started with a Special Issue of Biodiversity & Ecology on “Vegetation databases for the 21st century” (freely available at http://www.biodiversity-plants.de/biodivers_ecol/vol4.php; pp. 95 et seq.). Custodians of GIVD-registered vegetation-plot databases who are interested in that option should consult the Author Guidelines for details, but also directly can ask the two Section Editors.

As has previously been the case, *Phytocoenologia* will devote **Special Issues** to certain topics, such as specific vegetation types. Special Issues often, but not exclusively, are organised in conjunction with sessions at international conferences. They are edited by a team of two or more Special Issue Editors, at least one of which is an EiC. Currently, a **Special Issue on Palaeartic Grasslands** is in preparation in collaboration with the IAVS Working Group EDGG, with three EiCs (Dengler, Janišová, Willner) and one Guest Editor (Nikolai Ermakov, Russia). We are presently waiting for the submission of the preselected contributions, and the Special Issue might appear as 2016/1. If you would like to initiate a Special Issue yourself, e.g. in conjunction with the 2015 conferences of EVS, EDGG or IAVS, feel encouraged to get into touch with one of the EiCs.

With volume 45 (2015), new subscription fees become valid, with **special discounts** for (a) **Editorial Board members**, (b) **IAVS members** and (c) **institutions in developing countries and emerging markets**:

Institutions (print + online): 409 €

Personal subscriptions (print + online): 288 €

Personal subscriptions (print only): 214 €

EdBoard or IAVS members (print + online): 209 €

EdBoard or IAVS members (print only): 159 €

Institutions in low- and medium-income countries according to OECD (online only): 120 €

If you are interested in a subscription at reduced rate, contact the publisher directly: order@schweizerbart.de, <http://www.schweizerbart.de/journals/phyto/subscriptioninfo?l=EN>.

The monthly numbers of submissions are already now increasing, and the new Impact Factor 2014 will be by far the highest in the history of the journal. Together with the other new developments mentioned above, we assume that the attractiveness of the journal will rise significantly.

Finally, we would like to announce that we will have an **Editorial meeting of *Phytocoenologia* during the IAVS Symposium in Brno**, Czech Republic, 19–24 July 2015, where likely all EiCs as well as our publisher will be present. The precise date and place will be announced later. We look forward to a fruitful cooperation with members and subgroups of IAVS, in particular the submission of good manuscripts, and hope to meet many of you at the IAVS Symposium in Brno or at the conferences of the IAVS Working Groups EVS and EDGG in 2015.

*Jürgen Dengler, current Receiving Editor,
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EDGG well represented in IAVS Council 2015-2019

Like the Steering Committees of other IAVS subgroups also the EDGG Executive Committee had been asked by the Nomination Committee to provide nominations of competent representatives from within EDGG to stand for the election of the next IAVS Council. We nominated 16 particularly active EDGG members and only one per country. From these, 14 stood for the election and 5 were among the 40 candidates with the highest number of votes and thus are elected (compared to only 2 in 2011). Here are the detailed results (with comparison to the election 2011):

Elected (ranks 1-40):

Jürgen Dengler, Germany (161 votes, rank 16, + 13 ranks)

Monika Janišová, Slovakia (151 votes, rank 19, + 31 ranks)

Wolfgang Willner, Austria (137 votes, rank 25, + 22 ranks)

Andraž Čarni, Slovenia (132 votes, rank 29, + 25 ranks)

Iva Apostolova, Bulgaria (128 votes, rank 31, + 11 ranks)

Not elected (ranks 41-84):

Aveliina Helm, Estonia (109 votes, rank 45, new candidate)

Anna Kuzemko, Ukraine (108 votes, rank 46, + 27 ranks)

Idoia Biurrun, Spain (101 votes, rank 51, new candidate)

Zygmunt Kacki, Poland (87 votes, rank 58, new candidate)

Alireza Naqinezhad, Iran (82 votes, rank 65, + 23 ranks)

Didem Ambarli, Turkey (81 votes, rank 66, new candidate)

Péter Török, Hungary (79 votes, rank 67, new candidate)

Riccardo Guarino, Italy (78 votes, rank 68, + 4 ranks)

Renaud Jaunatre, France (54 votes, rank 80, new candidate)

We congratulate those who are elected and will serve IAVS in its Council during the next four years and we thank those who stood for the election and often only very shortly failed to succeed. The overall very good results (all candidates who stood for the Council election a second time dramatically improved their rank, and those who were candidates for the first time all got very reputable results) demonstrates that the work of EDGG is very well respected within IAVS.

IAVS travel grants for EDGG meetings in 2015

This year, our mother organization IAVS again, kindly supports the European Dry Grassland Meeting in Mainz and the EDGG Field Workshop in Poland with a total of 5,000 € for travel grants. The EDGG Executive Committee has topped-up this money with 1,030 € from our baseline funding, so that we could spend 6,030 € to support the participation of active EDGG members in one of both events. This funding requires that the persons are also IAVS members, a presentation is given and a motivation letter was submitted that explains (a) who the person is, (b) how he/she was active in EDGG/IAVS in the past or plans to be so in the future and (c) why he/she wants to attend the particular meeting. Based on these criteria, the EDGG Executive Committee evaluated all applications that had reached us in time. Finally, we could assign eight full or partial grants to participants of the EDGM in Mainz and seven to the Field Workshop in Poland. All grantees have been informed and most have agreed to accept their grants. Thank you, IAVS!

Seeking hosts for the EDGG Field Workshops 2016 et seq.

After Transylvania (Romania, 2009), Central Podolia (Ukraine, 2010), NW Bulgaria (2011), Sicily (Italy, 2012), NW Greece (2012), Khakassia (Russia, 2013) and Navarre (Spain, 2014), soon the 8th EDGG Field Workshop (formerly: EDGG Research Expedition) will take place in Poland with a great international group of grassland specialists participating.

However, we do not have yet a concrete offer of an EDGG member (or group of members) to host our very successful event in 2016 or the subsequent years. This could be anywhere in the Palaearctic realm, but preferably in regions where scale-dependent diversity patterns of grasslands have not been studied in detail yet. There were some vague ideas in the past that such an event could take place in S France, Central Italy, S Norway, Anatolia or Kazakhstan, but it would be now time to back this up with a more concrete planning. Therefore, **if any of you could imagine hosting the EDGG Field Workshop in 2016 or 2017, please contact the EDGG Expedition Coordinator preferably until 15 May 2015** to discuss details. To get an idea about the EDGG Field Workshops, their philosophy and their publication output, please consult:

Biurrun, I., García-Mijangos, I., Berastegi, A., Ambarli, D., Dembicz, I., Filibeck, G., Jandt, U., Janišová, M., Jaunatre, R., Kački, Z., Kuzemko, A., Pedashenko, H., Polchaninova, N.Y., Vynokurov, D., Dengler, J. (2014): Diversity of dry grasslands in Navarre (Spain): Experiences from the 7th EDGG Field Workshop, 15–24 June 2014. – Bull. Eur. Dry Grassl. Group 24/25: 4–21.

Jürgen Dengler (EDGG Expedition Coordinator,
juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de)



Euphorbia cyparissias infested by the rust fungus *Uromyces pisi-sativi*, Germany. Photo: J. Dengler



Primula veris, Germany. Photo: J. Dengler



Muscari botryoides, Germany. Photo: J. Dengler

Overview of current EDGG Special Features

Currently not less than six Special Features/Special Issues of EDGG in international journals are being prepared:

- The Virtual Special Feature (VSF) of **Applied Vegetation Science (AVS)** on “**Classification of European grasslands**” after publication of two papers in 2013 and three in 2014 is now entering into its third year and we hope that most of the remaining 14 invited contributions will be submitted or re-submitted this year. It is noteworthy that among the 68 papers of AVS 2013, our two were ranked first and third among the most cited papers of that year (Elias et al.: 19 citations so far and Dengler et al.: 10 citations so far, whereas the average citation rate of all articles is only 3.15). Likewise, in the last year two of our papers are among the most cited (Jimenez-Alfaro et al. 2014: 6 citations, rank 1; Silc et al. 2014: 3 citations, rank 8; average of all articles is 1.27). This is a great success for our VSF and underlines the importance of its content. It also contributes to increasing the impact factor of AVS. Here are the citations of the four papers that already attracted supraproportionally many citations:

Dengler, J., Bergmeier, E., Willner, W., Chytrý, M. (2013): Towards a consistent classification of European grasslands. – *Appl. Veg. Sci.* 16: 518–520.

Eliáš, P. jr., Sopotlieva, D., Dítě, D., Hájková, P., Apostolova, I., Senko, D., Melečková, Z., Hájek, M. (2013): Vegetation diversity of salt-rich grasslands in Southeast Europe. – *Appl. Veg. Sci.* 16: 521–537.

Jiménez-Alfaro, B., Hájek, M., Ejrnaes, R., Rodwell, J., Pawlikowski, P., Weeda, E.J., Laitinen, J., Moen, A., Bergamini, A., Aunina, L., Sekulová, L., Tahvaninen, T., Gillet, F., Jandt, U., Dítě, D., Hájková, P., Corriol, G., Kondelin, H., Díaz, T.E. (2014): Biogeographic patterns of base-rich fen vegetation across Europe. – *Appl. Veg. Sci.* 17: 367–380.

Šilc, U., Ačić, S., Škvorc, Ž., Krstonošić, D., Franjić, J., Dajić Stevanović, Z. (2014): Grassland vegetation of the Molinio-Arrhenatheretea class in the NW Balkan Peninsula. – *Appl. Veg. Sci.* 17: 591–603.

- The Special Issue of **Hacquetia 2015/1** on “**Biodiversity and conservation of Europe’s semi-natural open habitats**” (Eds. Péter Török, Idoia Biurrun, Marta Carboni, Jürgen Dengler, Jasmin Mantilla-Contreras, Mihai Zmihorski & Stephen Venn) is making good progress. A total of 14 papers have been submitted, of which the first have already been accepted and will soon appear early online. Print publication of the complete issue is expected for June 2015.

- In our “classical” **Dry Grassland Special Feature** in **Tuexenia 2015** (Eds. Thomas Becker, Steffen Boch, Eszter Ruprecht & Laura Sutcliffe) there are presently five papers under consideration (and mostly far progressed). Publication of the volume is planned for around June 2015.

- For the Special Issue of **Biodiversity and Conservation** on “**Ecology, biodiversity and conservation of Palearctic steppes**” (Eds. Jürgen Dengler, Didem Ambarli, Nikolai Ermakov, Johannes Kamp, Péter Török & Karsten Wesche) 28 papers have been invited after evaluation of the abstracts. Of these six have already been submitted and are in review, while many more have been announced until the submission deadline of 30 April 2015 and only few have asked for a deadline extension. So the prospects are good that we can publish a very comprehensive S.I. with some high-impact papers on this important topic next year.

- For the Special Issue of **Phytocoenologia** on “**Classification of Palearctic grasslands**” (Eds. Jürgen Dengler, Nikolai Ermakov, Monika Janišová & Wolfgang Willner) we have invited 13 papers from a wide range of grassland types and regions. The original deadline was 31 May 2015, but we likely will extend it to capture most of the nice papers.

- Our planned third Special Feature for **Hacquetia 2016/1** (Eds. Stephen Venn, Iva Apostolova, Idoia Biurrun, Rocco Labadessa, Solvita Rusina, Orsolya Valko and Michael Vrahnakis), after the big success of the Special Issues 2014 and the emerging one for 2015, strangely attracted only few abstract proposals and no submission yet. At the EDGM in Mainz we will discuss what to do about that, i.e. to renew the call for papers to include also contributions from Mainz or to cancel/interrupt our series of S.I.’s/S.F.’s in this important regional journal.

Jürgen Dengler (*EDGG Special Feature Coordinator*,
jurgeng.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de)



Orchis morio near Slatina, Slovakia. Photo: M. Janišová

Propositions for changing our organization's name, icon, meeting's name

Dear member of the European Dry Grassland Group,

Our organization is continuously growing and now it reaches a number of more than 1000 members from more than 60 countries not only from Europe, but outside as well. It seems it is time to proceed with slight changes to reflect such expansion.

(a) Since our geographic scope, as it is described in our Bylaws, includes Palaearctic grasslands and steppes I suggest to change our name to EurAsian Grassland Group (abbreviated as EAGG). I believe such change reflects this expansion, and also its abbreviated figure (EAGG) is similar to the one we have (EDGG).

(b) I propose to keep the same symbol of our group (the well-known *Stipa* awns).

(c) Finally, I propose to change the name of our meeting (currently European Dry Grassland Meeting, EDGM) to Palaearctic Grassland Conference (abbreviated as PGC). I believe that such changes are necessary since the word Meeting is too narrow to fit our increasing number of members (more than 1000), and by Palaearctic we emphasize our scientific (with the strict sense of the word) focus to Palaearctic domain.

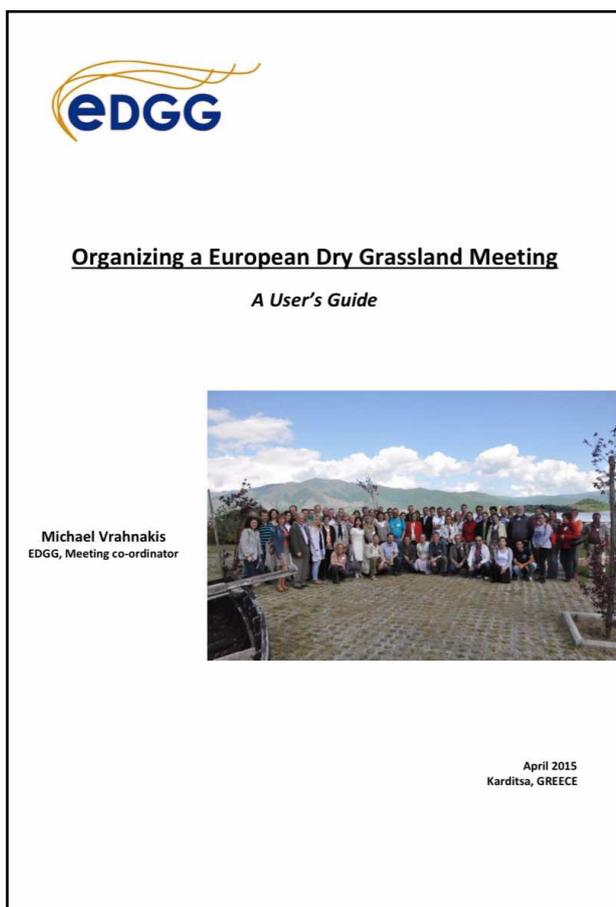
Michael Vrahnakis, Karditsa, Greece

Organizing a European Dry Grassland Meeting (EDGM) in your country? Why not?

Our annual meeting (EDGM), together with our field workshop (ex research expedition), are probably the most important events for our organization. During the days of EDGM, we all have the opportunity to meet each other, to exchange good ideas of our scientific interests, establish synergies, take part in our General Assembly, and meet the beauties (natural and not) of the host place. No exaggeration to say that organizing an EDGM is a life experience! I believe that this phrase is common to all of us who had that challenge and the opportunity to organize a EDGM.

In the table (next page) you have a view of some data about former EDGMs. One of a side consequence of EDGMs is the expansion of our membership lists, in terms of individuals and countries; something that really increases our visibility and affects.

To facilitate the organization of our EDGMs we have developed a manual where to help Local Organizing Committee to organize their activities prior, during and after the EDGM. You can download the manual from



http://www.edgg.org/pdf/How_to_organize_a_EDGM_26_04_2015.pdf. Also, you can have looks at the webs of EDGMs from 2012 onwards in <http://www.edgg.org/events.htm>.

So, if you like the idea to undertake the organization of such event and share this experience with all of us, please communicate it to our EDGM coordinators Michael Vrahnakis (mvrahnak@teilar.gr). Remember that according to our Bylaws, the host place must be approved by our General Assembly (GA), and the GA of Mainz (Sunday 24 May 2015) is a good idea for this

Michael Vrahnakis, Karditsa, Greece

Historical development of the European Dry Grassland Meetings (EDGMs)

Year	Meeting	Location	Motto	# Participants	# Countries	# Talks	# Posters
2004 (24-26 September)	1 st Annual Conference of the <i>Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen</i>	<u>Lüneburg</u> (Germany)	<i>Dry grasslands as biodiversity hotspots</i>	31	1	10	10
2005 (26–28 August)	2 nd Annual Conference of the <i>Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen</i>	<u>Münster</u> (Westf.) (Germany)	<i>Observation scales in dry grasslands</i>	33	3	11	9
2006	3 rd Annual Conference of the <i>Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen</i>	Halle (Germany)	[cancelled]				
2007 (6-8 September)	4 th Annual Conference of the <i>Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen</i> ¹	<u>Freising</u> (Germany)	<i>Restoration and spontaneous establishment of dry and semi-dry grasslands at traditional and urban/industrial sites</i>	49	2	13	6
2008 (28-30 August)	5 th Dry Grassland Meeting ²	Kiel (Germany)	<i>Dry grasslands in a changing environment</i>	44	10	10	15
Foundation of the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) – autumn 2008							
2009 (31 August – 02 September)	6 th European Dry Grassland Meeting	Halle (Germany)	<i>Dry grasslands – species interactions and distribution</i>	40	11	15	16
2010 (28 May-1 June)	7 th European Dry Grassland Meeting	<u>Smolenice</u> (Slovakia)	<i>Succession, restoration and management of dry grasslands</i>	100	19	35	38
2011 (13-17 June)	8 th European Dry Grassland Meeting	<u>Uman</u> (Ukraine)	<i>Dry Grassland of Europe: biodiversity, classification, conservation and management</i>	80	18	20	33
2012 (19- 23 May)	9 th European Dry Grassland Meeting	Prespa (Greece)	<i>Dry Grasslands of Europe: Grazing and Ecosystem Services</i>	120	25	23	100
2013 (24- 31 May)	10 th European Dry Grassland Meeting	<u>Zamość</u> (Poland)	<i>When theory meets practice: Conservation and restoration of grasslands</i>	82	16	21	56
2014 (05- 15 June)	11 th European Dry Grassland Meeting	Tula (Russia)	<i>Steppes and Semi- natural Dry Grasslands: Ecology, Transformation and Restoration</i>	55	10	29	18
2015 (22- 27 May)	12 th European Dry Grassland Meeting	Mainz (Germany)	<i>From Population Biology to Community Ecology</i>				

¹ Also 2nd Workshop 'Floristics and geobotany – Contributions to applied questions' of the *Floristisch-soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft*.

² Jointly organised by the *Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen* and the Working Group on Dry Grasslands in the Nordic and Baltic Region.

Recent publications of our members

With this section, the contents of which will also be made available via our homepage, we want to facilitate an overview of **dry grassland-related publications** throughout Europe and to improve their accessibility. You are invited to send lists of such papers from the last three years following the style below to monika.janisova@gmail.com and rusina@lu.lv. We will include your e-mail address so that readers can request a pdf. For authors who own full copy-right, we can also post a pdf on the EDGG homepage. As we plan to publish a book about the European dry grasslands at some point in the future, under the auspices of the EDGG, we would appreciate if you could send a pdf (or offprint) of each of your dry grassland publications to juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de.

Argagnon O. (2014): L'habitat prioritaire 1510, "steppes salées méditerranéennes (Limonietalia)", dans le territoire du Parc naturel régional de la Narbonnaise en Méditerranée. Définition floristique et écologique. Documents Phytosociologiques Série 3, 1: 44-52

Pokorný P., **Chytrý M.**, Juříčková L., Sádlo J., Novák J. & Ložek V. (2015): Mid-Holocene bottleneck for central European dry grasslands: Did steppe survive the forest optimum in northern Bohemia, Czech Republic? *The Holocene* 25: 716-726.

Sojneková M. & **Chytrý M.** (2015): From arable land to species-rich semi-natural grasslands: Succession in abandoned fields in a dry region of central Europe. *Ecological Engineering* 77: 373–381.

Palpurina S., **Chytrý M.**, Tzonev R., Danihelka J., Axmanová I., Merunková K., Duchoň M. & Karakiev T. (2015): Patterns of fine-scale plant species richness in dry grasslands across the eastern Balkan Peninsula. *Acta Oecologica* 63: 36–46.

Piqueray J., Ferroni L., Delescaille L-M., Speranza M., Mahya G. & Poschlod P. (2014): Response of plant functional traits during the restoration of calcareous grasslands from forest stands. *Ecological Indicators* 48: 408-416.

Schwabe A., Eichberg C., Stroh M. & Storm Ch. (2015): Gefährdete Sandvegetation der nördlichen Oberrheinebene: vegetationsökologische Untersuchungen der Technischen Universität Darmstadt 1995-2013 im Landkreis Darmstadt-Dieburg und im Bereich der Stadt Darmstadt. *Braunschweiger Geobotanische Arbeiten* 11: 249-300.

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Fritillaria meleagris in Pstruša, Slovakia. Photo: M. Janišová

Book reviews

Here we present recently published books that might be relevant for grassland scientists and conservationists, both specific grassland titles as well as faunas, floras, or general books on ecology and conservation biology. If you (as an author, editor or publisher) would like to propose a certain title for review, or if you (as an EDGG member) would like to write a review (or reviews in general), please contact the Book Review Editor (dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de).

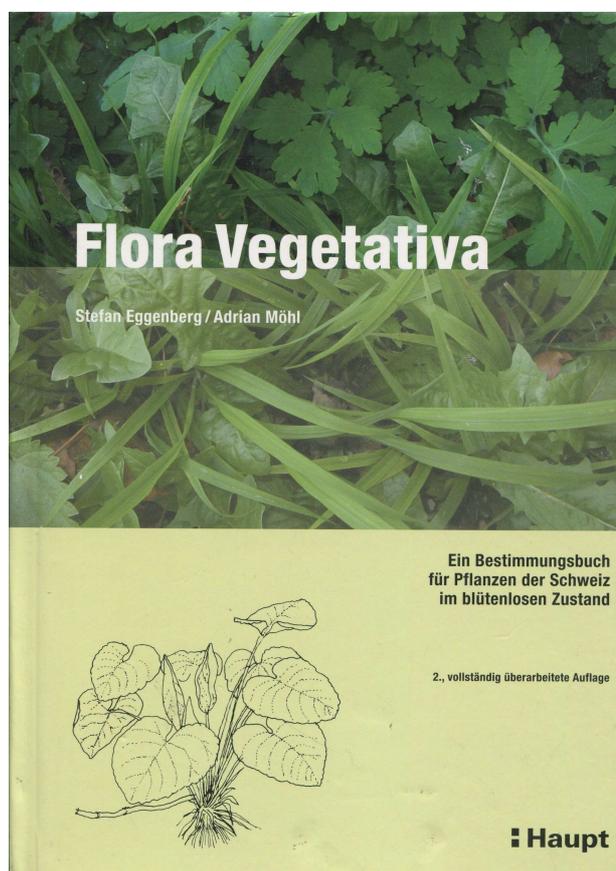
Eggenberg, S. & Möhl, A. (2009): Flora Vegetativa – Ein Bestimmungsbuch für Pflanzen der Schweiz im blütenlosen Zustand. – 2nd ed., 680 pp., Haupt Verlag., ISBN 978-3-258-07472-6. 44,00 €.

Jäger, E.J., Müller, F., Ritz, C.M., Welk, E. & Wesche, K. (2013) [Eds.]: Rothmaler Exkursionsflora von Deutschland. Gefäßpflanzen: Atlasband. – 12th ed., 822 pp., Springer Spektrum, Berlin. ISBN 978-3-8274-2050-3. 34.99 €.

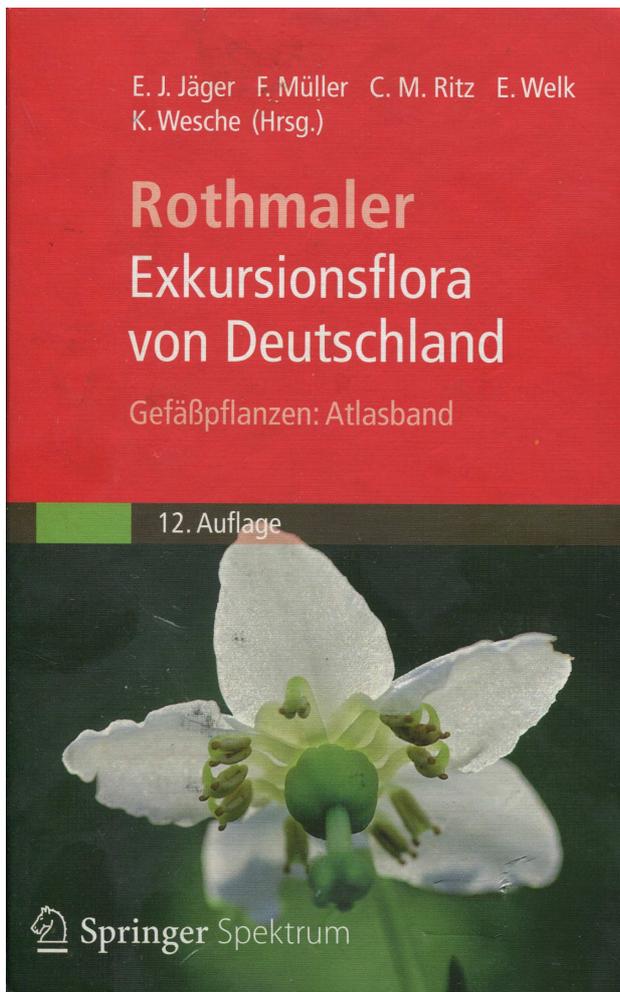
Every botanist knows that the most reliable way to determine plants are scientific floras with dichotomous keys of diagnostic characters. Still there is also place for picture books if they contain the complete flora of a region and are well prepared. They can be particularly advantageous for the determination of non-flowering individuals because without floral and/or fruit characters one usually does not reach a result in conventional floras. Here I review the relatively new editions of two similar such books from the German language realm.

The Rothmaler Atlasband appeared in many editions over the last decades and is meanwhile a well-known tool for field botanists far beyond Germany. It comprises all the more than 3000 wild-growing vascular plant species (or in some critical groups: aggregates) of that country. Each is presented by a quarter-page of line drawings, usually comprised by a habitus sketch and several details, such as flowers, fruits, or leaf bases. Each partial picture is accompanied with a scale and the important differential characters are highlighted by black arrows. The short text under each picture consists of German and scientific name, plant height, life form, flowering months and flower colour. Despite the former editions had already reached a high standard, the new editor team is aiming at continuous improvement. Thus, for the new edition, 217 species have been added or completely re-drawn and for further 60 species the drawings have been improved. Additions, mostly concern microspecies of taxa that formerly had only been shown at aggregate level as well as some recently expanding neophytes, while improvement of drawing often concerns the vegetative parts of the plants, which not always were very detailed and realistic in the past. One recently added species is, for example, *Poa humilis* from the *P. pratensis* agg., but here the most distinctive character, the hairs on the ligule, are unfortunately not shown.

The *Flora Vegetativa* is a rather new invention, but obviously was sold so well that only two years after the first edition a second, improved edition could be released. Similarly to the Rothmaler, the book comprises about 3,000 vascular plant taxa, which is the complete vascular flora of Switzerland except microspecies of some large apomictic groups. Also the arrangement of the black-and-



white drawing is the same, with typically four per page. In addition to scientific and vernacular name, growth height and life form, this book also provides a brief one-line description of altitudinal distribution, habitat and sociological preferences as well as a small but detailed map of the distribution in Switzerland. As this flora is exclusively focussing on vegetative characters, the inflorescences and fruits are normally not shown in the pictures, and flower colours and flowering periods not given in the text. In the drawings, characters of special diagnostic value or which cannot be shown in the drawings (like colours or shininess) are given in words, and species that look similar (even if from other genera or families) are cross-referenced. The book has a particular focus on differentiation of closely related taxa, and for such groups often comparative drawings, tabular or dichotomous keys are provided in addition to the individual species entries, differentiated by grey background. For example, six species of the *Arabis hirsuta* group and related taxa are shown in a half-page table with detail drawings of their leaf bases and four other differential characters in words. For families that pose particular challenges for determination at vegetative



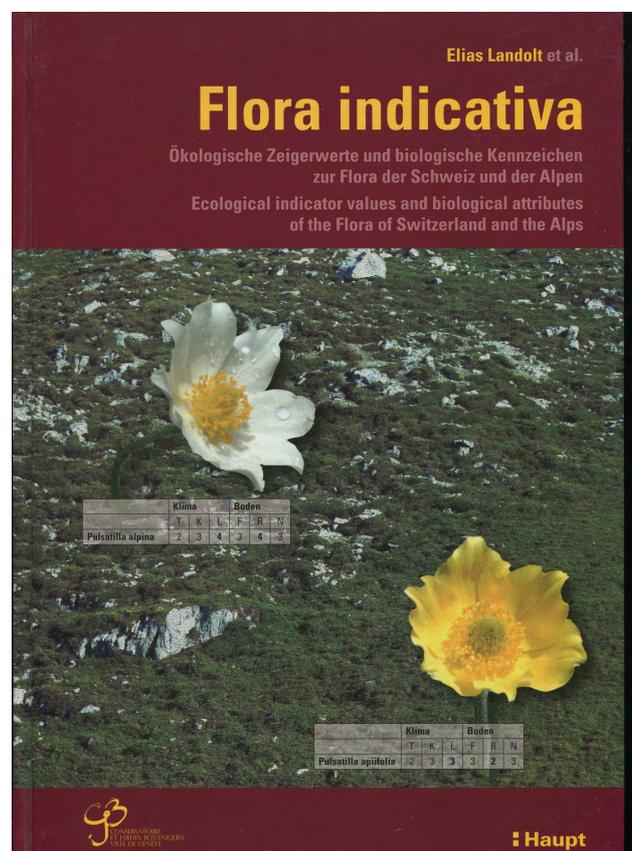
stage, like Poaceae and Cyperaceae, the authors also provided keys at family and genus level. One small disturbing point is the wrong handling of botanical taxonomy of subspecies: when there is more than one subspecies recognized, such as in *Bromus erectus*, the authors name the type subspecies incorrectly as “*Bromus erectus* s.str.” instead of *Bromus erectus* subsp. *erectus*.

In conclusion, both books are of high value for field botanists in general, and vegetation scientists and biodiversity researchers in particular, who need to determine also all the many non-flowering species in their plots. Since the books cover the complete floras of two countries in the centre of temperate Europe, they can be of huge help also in any other part of temperate Europe. The Rothmaler, which works completely without text here has a slight advantage for colleagues who do not understand German while *Flora Vegetativa* can also be used solely based on the pictures, but a basic knowledge of German allows to take advantage of the verbal additions. The arrangement of families, genera and species is taxonomic in the case of Rothmaler, which necessitates the use of the index from time to time to find a certain taxon but has the advantage that closely related (and thus often very similar) species are shown next to each other. By contrast the arrangement in *Flora Vegetativa* on each level is fully alphabetical (which makes the index superfluous except for synonyms), but has the big disadvantage that similar species are often shown pages apart, e.g. *Poa angustifolia* on top of page 662 and *P.*

pratensis at the bottom of page 665. On average, the drawings of the *Flora Vegetativa* might be a bit better and more detailed in the vegetative parts than that of the Rothmaler, and the Swiss flora also more frequently shows micro- and subspecies (but strangely *Poa humilis* is missing). On the other hand, the size and weight of the Rothmaler is more convenient for carrying it in the field (20×13 cm) compared to the *Flora Vegetativa* (25×18 cm). In the optimal case, one anyway should take both books plus a regular scientific flora of the study country.

Landolt, E., Bäumler, B., Erhardt, A., Hegg, O., Klötzli, F., Lämmler, W., Nobis, M., Rudmann-Maurer, K., Schweingruber, F.H., Theurillat, J.-P., Urmi, E., Vust, M. & Wohlgemuth, T. (2010): *Flora indicativa – Ökologische Zeiterwerte und biologische Kennzeichen zur Flora der Schweiz und der Alpen*. 2nd ed. – 378 pp., Haupt Verlag, Bern. ISBN 978-3-258-07461-0. 98.00 €.

Ecological indicator values (EIV's) were invented by Heinz Ellenberg to estimate the ecological conditions of sites based on the ecological preferences of the occurring plant species. They are widely and successfully applied in vegetation and restoration ecology (see review by Diekmann 2003). The original EIV's (last edition: Ellenberg et al. 1991) covered vascular plants from Germany (including a few from adjacent countries), but later the German EIV's were expanded to bryophytes and lichens, and scientists in several other European countries (UK, Italy, Hungary, Ukraine, Greece) developed similar EIV systems. One of the oldest implementation of the idea outside Germany are the *Ökologische Zeigerwerte* for the Swiss vascular flora by Landolt (1977).



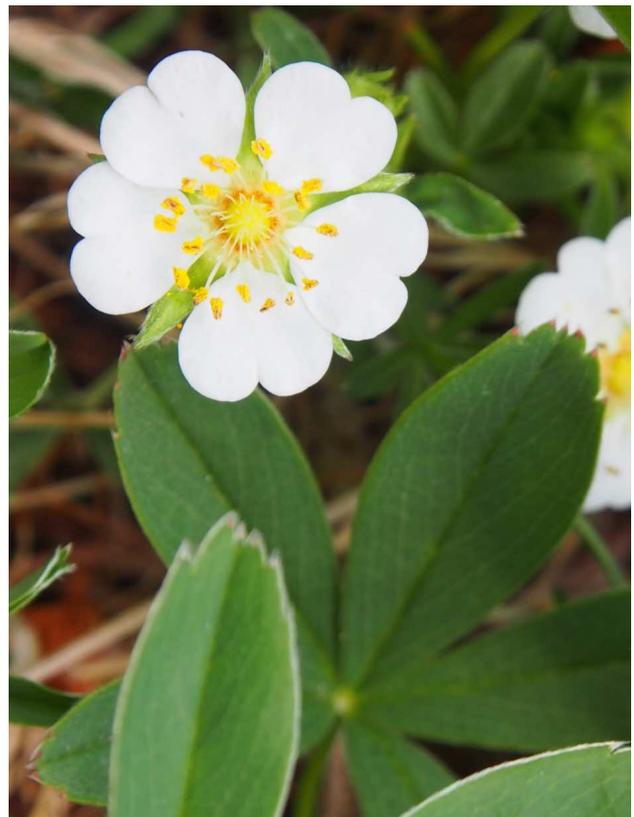
Thirty-three years later, Elias Landolt together with a larger author team produced an extensive update. It now covers not less than 5,500 “species” plus around 1,000 “aggregates”. This impressive number of 6,500 evaluated taxa results from the inclusion of (a) bryophytes and lichens as well as (b) additional microtaxa and (c) expansion of the geographic coverage beyond Switzerland so that now nearly the complete Alps are covered. The core part of the book are the three separate indicator value tables where for each species (in the lines) a huge set of parameters is tabulated (in the columns), covering the full width of a A4 double page in the case of the vascular plants. This starts with the “classical” parameters for climate (temperature, continentality, light) and soil (moisture, reaction, nutrients, salinity). While Ellenberg et al.’s (1991) scales range from 1 to 9, Landolt et al. (2010) use only 1 to 5, but in case of temperature and moisture with intermediate values like 2.5. Recommendable novelties in this system are: (i) each of these basic EIV’s comes not only with a “mean”, but also with a “variance” in a separate column (I = low variance; II = high variance; x = indifferent); (ii) there is a separate value for moisture variability (W); and there are new indicator values for (iii) heavy metal tolerance, (iv) humus, and (v) aeration. Next come five parameters of growth and life strategies (e.g. CSR types) and ten life history traits, including generative and vegetative dispersal, seed longevity and mowing tolerance. The final parameters refer to distribution, frequency, vulnerability and sociology. The indicator values for bryophytes and lichens are similar but not identical and far less numerous so that here the tables fit on single-page width. The book is complemented by an informative introductory text with the explanation of all parameters and some examples of their use (bilingual: German/English), extensive synonym indices and a download code for the electronic version of the Landolt EIV’s, which allows to implement them in various computer programs. There is only one point that disappoints me in this book and that is the way how E. Landolt as the author of the vascular plants part handles plant taxonomy. He raised all previous subspecies and varieties (including some varieties that in other floras are not even accepted at the varietal level) to species rank, without providing any convincing argument other than that the table could be formatted easier with only two ranks, aggregate and species. In consequence, E. Landolt “flooded” the taxonomic literature with about 100 new “species” names, most of which probably will not be recognised by any taxonomist outside Switzerland at species level, but which are formally valid and now bear “Landolt” as authority.

In conclusion, this is an extremely useful book that perfectly complements Ellenberg et al. (1991) and the other existing systems both through the additional parameters and through covering the complete alpine flora that is only marginally included in the other EIV systems. It remains to be hoped that in a not too far future the various national EIV systems are joined into a uniform European platform, including the possibility of regionalisation.

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Potentilla alba and *Viola riviniana* in Slatina Valley, Slovakia. Photo: M. Janišová

Forthcoming events

24th European Vegetation Survey Meeting

Topic 1: Typology and process as two complementary facets of vegetation survey and mapping
Topic 2: Vegetation in coastal and inland dunes and cliffs
4–8 May 2015, Rennes, France
<https://evs2015.univ-rennes1.fr/>

12th European Dry Grassland Meeting of the EDGG

From population biology to community ecology
22–27 May 2015, Mainz, Germany
<http://www.efnecp.org/news/news20140814.php>

8th EDGG Field Workshop

13–23 June 2014, Poland
Contact: zygmunt.kacki@uni.wroc.pl

58th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)

Understanding broad-scale vegetation patterns
19–24 July 2015, Brno, Czech Republic
With pre- and postsymposium software workshops and excursions
<http://www.iavs2015.cz/>

The 4th European Congress for Conservation Biology and 27th International Congress for Conservation Biology

Mission Biodiversity: Choosing new paths for conservation
3–6 August 2015, Montpellier, France
<http://www.iccb-eccb2015.org/ECCB>

45th Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GfÖ)

31 August - 4 September 2015, Göttingen, Germany
<http://www.gfoe.org/>

59th Symposium of the I. Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)

30 May–3 June, Pirenópolis 2016, Brazil

The European Carabidologists' Meeting XVII

20–25 September 2016, Croatia



Erophila verna, Germany. Photo: J. Dengler



The lichen *Psora decipiens*, Germany. Photo: J. Dengler

Invitation to an excursion



Field excursion to Armenia

1–7 July 2015

This one-week excursion to Armenia aims to bring Planta Europa network representatives together in one place for joint field trips, explorations and experience exchange in one of the botanically most attractive countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

Sign up for the excursion by sending an e-mail to Marat Shahbekyan, info@7springstour.am. Latest day to sign up is 31 of May 2015. For questions and/or more information please contact Anna Asatryan, crocus@post.com.



Adonis vernalis, Wychodź, Poland. Photo: Piotr Chmielewski

Bulletin of the EDGG, official organ of the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG)
ISSN 1868-2456

The Bulletin is published quarterly at the Biocentre Klein Flottbek, University of Hamburg, c/o Jürgen Dengler, Ohnhorststr. 18, 22609 Hamburg, Germany. It is sent to all members of the organisation (1049 members from 62 countries as of 24 April 2015) and together with all previous issues, it is also freely available at <http://www.edgg.org/publications.htm>. Bulletin 26 (2015) of the EDGG was published on 1 May 2015.

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Important dates: The deadline for Bulletin 27 is 30 August 2015

Bulletin 27 to appear: September 2015

Bulletin 28 to appear: December 2015