

Six years of publishing the journal *Biodiversity: Research and Conservation*

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1. Introduction

Six years have passed since the first issue of the quarterly *Biodiversity: Research and Conservation (BRC)* was published. The idea of calling this journal to life was born in the Department of Plant Taxonomy at the Faculty of Biology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. I presented it during the nationwide scientific conference entitled “*Taxonomy, Chorology and Ecology of Plants in Times of Threat to Biological Diversity*”, held in Poznań in December 2005. Over a short period of time, thanks to the support of leading representatives of the most important botanical centers in Poland, it has been possible to (i) work out the program concept of the journal, (ii) organize an international editorial board, and (iii) work out the editorial form of the journal, rules of preparation for publishing and procedures for reviewing and submission.

While approaching the publication of the 25th jubilee issue of the journal, it is worth summing up the effects of its publishing thus far and give some consideration to the directions of future development.

2. Mission of *BRC*

Mission of *BRC* is to publish original and review articles on biological diversity, with a particular emphasis on plants, fungi and lichens. The journal is open to publications devoted to the various aspects of biodiversity at the genetic, population, species and supraspecies levels. We pay special interest to works on historic and modern transformations of flora and vegetation that occur under human influence and, also, publications that show modern and successful methods of nature protection. Starting from an assumption that the efficient and responsible protection of biological diversity requires basic biological knowledge, four sec-

tions that group articles published in *BRC* were created: (i) Variability, taxonomy and phylogeny, (ii) Chorology, (iii) Ecology, and (iv) Nature conservation.

3. Organization of work

The seat of the Editors of *BRC* is in the Department of Plant Taxonomy at the Faculty of Biology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, while the publishing process is managed by the “Publishing House ‘Kontekst’”, located in Poznań. The journal comes out both in the printed and electronic form. The latter is accessible both at the journal’s own website (www.brc.amu.edu.pl) and Versita platform (<http://versita.com/brc>; since 2009). *BRC* is indexed by the Agro, CAB Abstracts and Global Health databases.

In the ranking of academic journals compiled by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland, *BRC* has been placed on the, so called, list B, with the score of 6 points. These points are considered during the categorization of scientific and research institutions in Poland.

In the printed form, the journal is distributed to 45 Polish libraries and 12 foreign institutions, all over the world. Authors receive a copy of the issue in which their article appears. The journal comes out in the A4 format, in colour. Authors are charged with partial costs of colour illustrations. The journal’s website attracts many visitors, with over 83 thousands entries registered thus far. The search for the publications published in *BRC* considerably increased since the journal has been placed on the Versita platform.

The journal’s Editorial Board, comprising 20 biologists from Austria, Germany, Poland, the Republic of South Africa, Russia, Slovakia, Switzerland, and Ukraine is responsible for the quality of publications. Recently, the Editorial Board has been joined by

Table 1. Names of reviewers, who contributed to the peer-review process of articles published in *BRC* in the years 2006-2011

Name	Name
Jadwiga Anioł-Kwiatkowska	Beata Messyasz
Krystyna Boratyńska	Zbigniew Mirek
Adam Boratyński	Marta Mizianty
Janina Borysiak	Rafał Mól
Andrzej Brzeg	Ryszard Ochyra
Emilia Brzosko	Ireneusz Odrzykoski
Katarzyna Buczkowska	Maria Olech
Lubomira Burchardt	Edward G. H. Oliver
Julian Chmiel	Halina Piękoś-Mirkowa
Jacek Dabert	Agnieszka Popiela
Zygmunt Dajdok	Wiesław Prus-Głowacki
Yakiv P. Didukh	Halina Ratyńska
Maria Drapikowska	Michał Ronikier
Zbigniew Dzwonko	Adam Rostański
Jerzy Fabiszewski	Krzysztof Rostański
Viera Feráková	Anna Rusińska
Ludwik Frey	Jan J. Rybczyński
Ewa Fudali	Myroslav V. Shevera
Ryszard Gołdyn	Krzysztof Spalik
Piotr Górski	Zofia Sotek
Krystyna Grodzińska	Barbara Sudnik-Wójcikowska
Wanda Gugnacka-Fiedor	Herbert Sukopp
Jacek Herbich	Kazimierz Szczepanek
Maria Herbichowa	Dariusz L. Szlachetko
Janusz Hereźniak	Józef Szmeja
Jan Holeksa	Barbara Tokarska-Guzik
Czesław Hołdyński	Lech Urbaniak
Bogdan Jackowiak	Stanisław Wika
Andrzej Joachimiak	Justyna Wiland-Szymańska
Adam Kaznowski	Rüdiger Wittig
Henryk Klama	Maria Wojterska
Małgorzata Klimko	Adam Zajac
Tadeusz Korniak	Maria Zajac
Ingo Kowarik	Tomasz Załuski
Jan Kozłowski	Kazimierz Zarzycki
Marek Kucharczyk	Bogdan Zemanek
Leszek Kucharski	Elżbieta Zenkteler
Małgorzata Latałowa	Stefan Zerbe
Karol Latowski	Jerzy Zieliński
Maria Lisiewska	Waldemar Żukowski
Bruce Maslin	

a specialist in statistics. All submissions are subject to a peer-review process by an international board of reviewers. Over 80 reviewers participated in the evaluation of manuscripts (Table 1) over the respective period. A proportion of works not accepted for publication is 10%. An experienced team of translators is responsible for linguistic verification of manuscripts.

4. Publication statistics

In total, 188 articles were published in *BRC* in the years 2006-2011, primarily, original works presenting study results for the first time. A list of contributing authors comprises 260 names, including 46 foreign authors. The majority of articles does not exceed 20 pages. However, it is worth emphasizing that 5 monographic works of considerable length were also published in *BRC*. In a few cases, the authors of extensive works

were offered the possibility of publishing appendixes to their articles on the journal's website.

723 key words were used for the description of articles. The division of articles into four thematic sections reveals that publications in the area of fundamental research outnumber works on the conservation of biodiversity (Table 2).

Table 2. Thematic structure of articles published in *BRC* in the years 2006-2011

Section	No of articles	Percentage
Variability, taxonomy and phylogeny	59	31.4
Chorology	47	25.0
Ecology	44	23.4
Nature conservation	32	17.0
Others	6	3.2
Total	188	100.0

Among the key words, most frequent were terms describing the object of research (taxon), a phenomenon or process studied, or a area of study (region), and, also a method (Table 3).

Table 3. Object of research, area of study, methods, phenomena and processes described in the works published in *BRC* in the years 2006-2011 – a comparison on the basis of key words

Groups of key words that define	No of appearance	Percentage
Object of research	482	47,7
Region	136	13,5
Methods	96	9,5
Phenomena and processes	278	27,5
Others	18	1,8

5. Vision of *BRC*

BRC wants to continue its mission of being a platform for the exchange of scientific ideas in the area of biological diversity. Despite limited organizational possibilities, we aim for the continuous increase in the quality of published articles. The journal is widely open to authors from all over the world, with a special invitation to botanists and ecologists from Central and Eastern Europe. In the scale of Europe, this region stands out for its great richness and good preservation condition of flora and vegetation. However, over the last two decades, the region has been undergoing fast and dynamic transformations. This process requires thorough monitoring and documenting. At the same time, it reveals new, not reported earlier, phenomena and mechanisms.

We encourage to submit articles and browse *BRC* – the journal that does not avoid presentation of fundamental study results, which are an important source of data for more general, theoretical works.