

Introduction

The 11th International Conference “Synanthropization of Flora and Vegetation”, held at the Faculty of Biology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, is a continuation of the meeting series of botanists, mostly, from the regions of Central and Eastern Europe, who investigate the contemporary transformations of plant cover. This conference takes place 20 years after the inaugural conference, which, in 1994, was organized jointly by botanists from Hungary and Slovakia in the towns of Sátorajláújhely (Hungarian Republic) and Vinička (Slovakia). The subsequent conferences were held regularly, every two years, in: (2) Tokaj (Hungarian Republic), 1996; (3) Zemplínska Širava (Slovakia), 1998; (4) Kraków (Poland), 2000; (5) Uzhgorod & Kostryno (Ukraine), 2002; (6) Danišovce (Slovakia), 2004; (7) Tarczal (Hungarian Republic), 2006; (8) Katowice (Poland), 2008; (9) Kamyanets Podilskiy & Boyany (Ukraine), 2010 and (10) Danišovce (Slovakia), 2012. The present conference title was proposed during the 10th conference in Danišovce. Previously, the participants of meetings debated under the title “Anthropization and Environment of Rural Settlements. Flora and Vegetation”.

One of main roots of this conference idea dates back to the turn of the 1960s and 1970s, when, so called ‘synanthropic symposia’ were organized, mainly on the initiative of Professor Janusz B. Faliński. Being aware of this fact and remembering that this year, the 10th anniversary of His death passes, we dedicate to this outstanding botanist – a creator of the theory of synanthropization – a plenary session. Three oral papers prepared specially for this occasion will be presented by the professors, who were particularly closely connected with Prof. Faliński and His Geobotanical Station in Białowieża.

The subject matter of this year conference concentrates on the issues that are essential for understanding the phenomenon of synanthropization. They will be presented during 28 oral papers and are grouped within five paper sessions: (1) anthropogenic transformations of flora, (2) anthropogenic transformations of vegetation, (3) plant variability and microevolution in human-influenced ecosystems, (4) process and mechanisms of plant invasion, (5) short talks about various aspects of synanthropization. These paper sessions will be supplemented with a poster session, in which 83 topics will be presented, including, the results of studies on species threatened with extinction.

Following the tradition of previous meetings of this cycle, the selected phenomena and processes that are part of synanthropization of plant cover, will be discussed directly in the field, in the course of a botanical field trip. This time, the trip route will lead to the Toruń-Eberswald Proglacial Stream Valley, which was of key importance for the postglacial natural history of Central Europe and, at present, is a place of extremely interesting transformations of plant cover, resulting from increasing anthropopression.

On behalf of the organizers of this 11th International Conference, I wish to thank all of our participants and, particularly, our honourable patrons and sponsors.

Prof. Dr. Bogdan Jackowiak
Chairman of the Scientific Committee