

Editorial

Thirty years in the service of botany

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Abstract

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A brief overview of the thirty-year history of the scientific journal *Botanica* (published as *Botanica Lithuanica* in 1995–2017) is presented. From 2024 onwards, the journal will be published four times a year, and the fully processed articles will be immediately available online on the journal's website.

Keywords: history, journal, publishing.

Thirty years ago, in December 1995, the first volume of the journal *Botanica Lithuanica*, now called *Botanica*, was published. As we celebrate the journal's jubilee, it is important to reflect on our successful navigation through the many obstacles and challenges over the decades and to take pride in our achievements. We must also remember and honour those who contributed their enthusiasm, energy and time to the creation of the journal.

The idea of publishing a scientific journal dedicated to disseminating botanical knowledge was conceived by a group of young and enthusiastic researchers working at the then Institute of Botany. The members of the first Editorial Team were Dr Gražina Adamonytė (Secretary), Dr Zigmantas Gudžinskas (Executive Editor), Dr Ernestas Kutorga, Dr Jurga Motiejūnaitė and Dr Algimantas Paškevičius. Later, Dr Albinas Gričius joined the editorial team. Dr Antanas Matelis was also part of the founding group and became a member of the editorial board. Notably, Dr Jurga Motiejūnaitė continues to actively contribute to the journal as a member of the Editorial Board.

The establishment of a scientific journal was strongly supported by the then Director of the Insti-

tute of Botany, Dr Romas Pakalnis (1941–2020), who became the journal's first Editor-in-Chief. He served in this role until 2012. The initiative was further endorsed by the broader community of the Institute of Botany, as well as botanists from Vilnius University and the now-defunct Vilnius Pedagogical University. An agreement to publish the journal was signed on 7 November 1995 (Pakalnis, 1995).

The quality of the language in the articles of the first issues, then a multilingual journal, was ensured by Ms Sigutė Janušonienė (Lithuanian), Ms Julija Miklušienė (English), Ms Violeta Ptašekienė (English) and Ms Lina Šmeliova (Russian). It is gratifying to note that Ms Violeta Ptašekienė continues to improve the quality of English in the articles published in the journal.

Many thanks are owed to the Editorial Board and the Editorial Team, which was renewed in 2022. Gratitude also goes to the technical editors, the administration and the staff of the Nature Research Centre, who contribute to the production of *Botanica* and whose diligent work often goes unnoticed. I take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on the journal's anniversary and look forward to continued

fruitful collaboration in pursuing the goals of disseminating botanical knowledge and achievements!

Over three decades, the journal has undergone many changes. The editorial team, the Editorial Board, and the technical staff have changed multiple times (Gudžinskas, 2022). It would be difficult to name all the people who contributed to the journal with their dedicated work and spirit. Acknowledging all the reviewers, without whose honest efforts the publication of the journal would have been unimaginable, is equally challenging. Even more so, it would be difficult to mention all the authors who have published their research in the journal. Without their contribution, belief, and trust in the journal, its existence would have been impossible. I extend my sincere gratitude to all the authors who have submitted articles to this journal over the past thirty years and patiently collaborated with the editors until their articles were published.

Several objective and subjective factors, not always logical or justifiable, have led to changes in the journal's name. As of 2018, *Botanica Lithuanica*, which existed for twenty-three years, was renamed *Botanica*. The journal's publisher has also changed several times. From 1995 to 2009, *Botanica* was published by the Institute of Botany, which merged with

other research institutions in 2010 to form the Nature Research Centre. Later, the journal was published by *Versita*, *De Gruyter* and *Sciendo*. Since 2021, *Botanica* has once again been published by the Nature Research Centre.

The journal's vision, goals and objectives, as defined in the previous editorial (Gudžinskas, 2022), remain unchanged. We will continue to raise the journal's scientific standards, enhance its technical quality, and accelerate the publication of articles. We hope these efforts will increase the visibility and citation rates of the published works. Starting in 2024, we have resumed publishing four issues per volume and are striving to make fully prepared articles available online as quickly as possible.

Once again, I invite all potential authors to submit high-quality research articles to *Botanica* and use this platform to share your research findings, discoveries, and knowledge in botany and related sciences with the global scientific community.

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