



Organizing Committee "BioSystematics Berlin 2011", Freie Universität Berlin, Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum, Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8, 14195 Berlin, Germany, Phone: ++49 (0)30 838 50 383, Fax: ++ 49 (3)0 841 729 52, E-mail: berlin2011@bgbm.org, Web: www.biosyst-berlin-2011.de

SYMPOSIUM

Plant Diversity in the Euro-Mediterranean Area

Guilhem Mansion, Panayotis Dimopoulos

The Euro-Mediterranean Area (Euro-Med) is exceptionally species-rich with some 25,000 native plant species, including 13,000 endemics. Such high diversity could result from a particular combination of extrinsic events or key opportunities (e.g. climatic changes), and more intrinsic events or key innovations (e.g. morphological changes), overall shaping one of the most fascinating biological hotspots on Earth. However, it remains largely unclear whether the biological diversity in the Euro-Med is mainly environmental- or lineage- dependent.

In this symposium we will try to infer the underlying evolutionary processes that might have triggered the origin and expansion of the current Euro-Med flora, taking into account the potential role of (i) abiotic factors (tectonic movements, climate change, environmental disturbances, etc.), (ii) biotic traits (dispersal capacity, ecological preferences, competition, etc.), and (iii) recent human influence. Particular case studies or reviews on the following topics are welcome:

Evolutionary studies

- Extent and role of polyploidy and reticulation processes
- Type of endemism
- Identification of key innovations

Biogeographical studies

- Floristic accounts and regional comparisons
- Role of Earth-driven patterns (vicariance and / or geodispersal) vs. long distance dispersal
- Phylogeography

Ecological studies

- Plant / animal interactions
- Ecological characteristics (soil diversity, fire frequency, climatic variation, etc.)
- Vegetation ecology

Fate of the Euro-Med Flora

- Impact of climate change
- Alien invasiveness
- Human pressure