

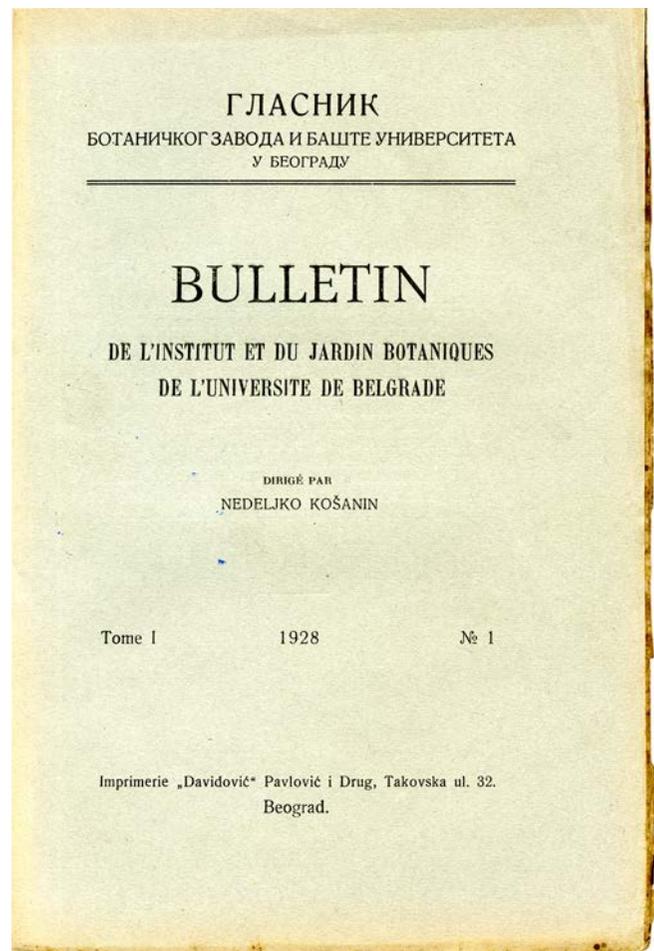


Editor's Note

Botanica Serbica: Remembering the beginnings

It is now a full 90 years since the time when the Serbian botanical community first came out with a scientific botanical journal of its own: *BULLETIN de l'Institut et du jardin botanique de l'Université de Belgrade*/ГЛАСНИК Ботаничког завода и баште Универзитета у Београду, which began its life in 1928. In the years that followed, the destiny of this scientific journal was to be determined by historical circumstances, both general and local, which at times would break the continuity of its publication. But as the ideas and wishes which inspired its coming into existence always remained alive, the thread would be picked up where it was broken, and the botanical journal would reappear, changed insofar as necessary to keep pace with the ever-evolving knowledge in botany. The tradition of perseverance in publishing was thus established. *Botanica Serbica* is the heir and successor of this tradition.

The initiator, driving force, and first editor-in-chief of the *BULLETIN* was the academician Nedeljko Košanin, professor at the Institute of Botany of Belgrade University. Professor Košanin, himself an excellent botanist and a person of strong intellectual faculties, tirelessly advocated the regular publication of the *BULLETIN*, well aware to what extent and in what manner a scientific journal could contribute to the development of research work and to the recognition of creative individuals from countries which were insufficiently known in the world of science. By establishment of the botanical journal, Serbia's botanists were given the opportunity to present the results of their research to the European and international scientific community. The very first volumes contained the research results of some renowned European botanists, such as W. Becker, F. Gessner, G. Beck-Managetta, K. Maly, K. Ronniger, R. Picbauer,





B. Fott, S. Murbeck, and others. The papers were printed in German, French, and English. Owing to the research results of Serbian and foreign scientists published in the *BULLETIN*, many hitherto unknown facts and botanical novelties concerning the highly interesting flora and vegetation of the Balkan Peninsula were brought to light for the first time.

After the premature death of Professor Košanin in 1934, the editorship passed to Dr. Ljubiša Glišić, professor at the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden. He maintained the already recognisable style and prestigious reputation of the journal, while striving to keep up its regular publication. However, in the deteriorating general conditions and with dwindling financial resources, the journal's publication had to cease, its last issue appearing in 1937. From that time and throughout the 20th century, regular publication of this botanical journal and even its very survival depended on general historical developments in the state in which it had been established. The first and longest interruption in its publication, which lasted from 1937 to 1959, was caused not only by World War II, but also by the lack of financial resources in both the pre-war and the post-war years. In the aftermath of World War II, it took time to restore scientific activities, research institu-

tions, and scientific journals. Fortunately, the tradition established in 1928 with Košanin's *BULLETIN* and the value the journal had in developing scientific thought were not lost on the young university teachers of that time. With a desire to promote botanical research and disseminate new knowledge, they restored the journal, and the first edition of the new series was published in 1959 as a continuation of the old *BULLETIN*. This time the Serbian Cyrillic title *ГЛАСНИК Ботаничког завода и баште Универзитета у Београду* appeared as the main title, while the "old" original name in French (*BULLETIN de l'Institut et du jardin botanique de l'Université de Belgrade*) was shifted to the top of the front cover.

The new editor-in-chief was Dr. Milorad M. Janković, at the time assistant professor at Belgrade University. With his retirement in 1994, Dr. Branka Stevanović, professor of the Faculty of Biology of Belgrade University, was elected the new editor-in-chief. Like the pre-war volumes, the new journal was published by the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden of Belgrade University. In the several decades which followed its reappearance, the journal was published more or less regularly until the year 2000.

Editors and editorial boards changed over time, seeking to maintain the general concept and high standards set ever since the journal was established by Professor Košanin. The contents of the journal were adjusted to new scientific interests, broadening its thematic framework to include the research results achieved in modern botanical disciplines. Along with scientific and review papers, the volumes contained short communications, book reviews, reports on botanical congresses, etc. Since it first appeared, the journal was mainly published once a year. However, its regular publication was always hampered by financial difficulties. In the pre-war period, the perseverance of Professor Košanin and donations of university benefactors of the time made regular publication possible. After World War II and until the end of the 20th century, there were times when publishing of the journal went on without any financial difficulties, primarily with funds of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden and financial assistance of the Faculty of Biology. These relatively favourable financial circumstances were often followed by periods when funds were scarce, and volumes would be published covering two successive years. Thus, between 1928 and 1998, 37 volumes were published, presenting 479 papers written by 342 authors from Serbia and the former Yugoslavia, as well as from different countries of Europe and the world. The last volume published in the year 2000 presented a historical overview of the first 70 years of the journal's life, together with a bibliography of works published between 1928 and 1998. In the period which followed the turn of the century, this scientific journal again shared the fate of the state in which it had been established. The general recession, social and political instability, and financial difficulties brought about the second interruption in publication of the journal, between 2000 and 2009.



primarily from Europe, but also from Asia and America. Furthermore, five special issues, devoted to the life and work anniversaries of professors of the Faculty of Biology were published, including papers from the scientific fields in which they were active (i.e., plant physiological ecology, plant physiology, microbiology, algology, ecology, and phytogeography).

It is fair to say that the 90-year history of the Serbian botanical journal is the story of its revivals. This capacity for regeneration in turn stems from the perseverance and enthusiasm of all members of the scientific community of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden “Jevremovac” of the University of Belgrade.

The enthusiasm and devotion of the young generation of botanists at the editorial desk of *Botanica Serbica* leaves me with the firm belief that the future of this journal will be marked by further success and more jubilees to celebrate.

Branka STEVANOVIĆ, Editor-in-Chief

In 2009, the opportunity once more presented itself to pick up the broken thread and carry on the tradition: new generations of researchers, new scientific results, and general improvement in the allocation of institutional financial assistance encouraged us and made possible the restoration of the oldest botanical journal in Serbia. This time, however, the new edition of the botanical journal that was to continue the “old” *BULLETIN/GLASNIK* was published in 2009 under the name *Botanica Serbica*, reflecting the historical reality.

From the beginning, the journal *Botanica Serbica* has been a high-quality botanical journal with modern design printed in English with abstracts in Serbian. *Botanica Serbica* is an open-access and peer-reviewed journal publishing works from all spheres of botany, as well as the biology of fungi and microorganisms. As the official journal of the Institute of Botany and “Jevremovac” Botanical Garden, it is financed by the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden and the Faculty of Biology of Belgrade University, and co-financed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The success achieved by our journal is reflected in the fact that in the period between 2009 and 2018 the journal was published regularly twice a year, in both electronic and printed forms. By 2018, 20 volumes were printed, presenting 245 papers by authors from Serbia and 36 other countries,

