

4th. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
"EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY"

ROME, March, 31 - April, 2, 1995

PROGRAMME

Friday, 31 March:

9.00 - 1. Welcome and introduction

PIGNATTI S. (Roma) - A new spirit in phytosociology

10.00 - 2. Vegetation of Europe

MUCINA L. (Wien) - Introduction - Progress report on the book "Vegetation of Europe"

SCHAMINÉE J. (Wageningen) - Shallow seas and brackish waters: *Zosteretea*, *Ruppietea*

MUCINA L. (Wien) - European survey of *Asplenetia trichomanis*

PIETSCH W. (Dresden) - Plant communities of *Littorelletea*

GERDOL R. (Ferrara) - Syntaxonomy of *Scheuchzerietalia palustris* communities in Northern Italy

ZUIDHOFF A. (Wageningen) - *Cynosurion cristati* in European context

CARNI A. and MUCINA L. - Trampled plant communities rich in C4 species in Europe.

PETRICCIONE B., PIGNATTI E. and S. (Roma) - Arctic-alpine and montane grasslands: *Seslerietea*, *Festuco-Seslerietea*, *Carici-Kobresietea*

BIONDI E., BRACCO F. and NOLA P. (Ancona) - Syntaxonomy of *Brometalia erecti* in Italian Peninsula

14.30 - 3. European Data Networks:

HENNEKENS S. and SCHAMINÉE J. (Wageningen) - Update on installation of TURBOVEG

BRISSE H. (Marseille) - Banque de donnée phytosociologiques en France

RODWELL J. (Lancaster) - UK Data Network / prospects for funding a European programme

VAN DER MAAREL E. (Uppsala) - European Ecological Flora

Saturday, 1 April:

9.00 - 4. Progress with national programmes:

RODWELL J. (Lancaster) - Introduction and overview based on the questionnaire

RIVAS MARTINEZ S. and LOIDI J. (Madrid/Bilbao) - Activities in Spain

KLOETZLI F. (Zürich) - Revision of the forest communities in Switzerland

VAN DER MAAREL E. (Uppsala) - Possibilities to incorporate Scandinavia

VALACHOVIC M. (Wien / Bratislava) - Progress in national project "Plant communities of Slovakia"

FONT CASTELL X. and NINOT-SUGRANES J.-M. (Barcelona) - A regional project for the inventorying floristic and phytosociologic data in Catalonia

FEOLI E. (Trieste) - The project "ARCVeg": a data base for Italian vegetation

DAEHLER W. (Bern) - The vegetation database of Berne, concept and prototype

SELISKAR A. (Ljubljana) - The project "Vegetation of Slovenia" - state and plans

MORAVEC J. (Praha) - Progress of the work on the grant "European Vegetation Survey - Czech Republic" and further perspectives

CAMARDA I. and SATTA V. (Sassari) - A database for the vegetation of Sardinia

DIEKMANN M. (Uppsala) - Deciduous forest vegetation in Scandinavia

DIMOPOULOS P. (Patras) - Present status of the phytosociological research in the Greek mountains, syntaxonomy and future perspectives

SYKORA K. V. (Wageningen) - Plant communities of the Greek coast

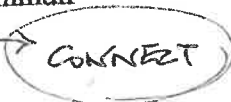
PAPASTERGIADOU E. (Thessaloniki) - Plant communities of the Greek wetlands

14.30 - 5. New Possibilities and challenges

BOHN U. (Bonn) - Use of floristic mapping (Atlas Florae Europaeae) for the all-European vegetation classification

KLOETZLI F. (Zürich) - Systematics for the scientist or the practitioner?
Chaotic shifts in grasslands & forests

BRISSE H. (Marseille) - Traitement de relevés n' ayant aucune espèces en commun

LAWESSON J. (Ronde, DK) - Possibilities of using remote sensing and GIS ^{National Environmental Research Institute} 

THEURILLAT J.-P. and MORAVEC J. (Genève / Pruhonice) - Eight years (1987-1994) of "Index of new names" and "Index of names typified": an overview

PIGNATTI S. (Roma) - The Tabellarium in Rome

Sunday, 2 April

6. Excursion: forest vegetation in environs of Rome

Departure at 8.00 a.m. near Orto Botanico - return at 6.00 p.m.

Monday morning, 3 April:

9.30 am **7. Meeting of the Working Group Council (open for other participants)**

(email addresses)

4rd INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

"EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY"

ROME, March, 31- April, 2, 1995

GENERAL INFORMATION

In 1992, 1993 and 1994 Workshops of the Working Group "European Vegetation Survey" took place in Rome; several general meetings during the Symposia of IAVS, the last in Bailleul at Sept. 23, 1994, and meetings of the Advising Committee also contributed to the development of a coordinated program. The general points will be summarized here, as information preparatory for the 4th workshop in Rome, 31/3 - 2/4, 1995.

Some facts can be pointed out: Europe is today mainly explored as to vegetation composition and phytosociological data are available for most countries; there is a large number of scientists active in many universities and other centers of research all over the continent and a large number of unpublished information is available. Adequate methods for the treatment of vegetation data, in particular for data banking and management of large data sets are also available and the generalized use of computers gives the possibility of standardization. In addition, a synthesis is not only possible, but also badly needed, as a basis for biomass and biodiversity research, nature conservation, landscape planning and monitoring global changes.

It may probably appear too optimistic to consider the whole continent as completely explored, and there are surely major gaps, but a general outlook is presently possible, and its results will be a powerful factor to stimulate investigations in lesser known regions. On the other hand, there are countries, mainly in Central Europe, which are so intensively investigated, as to suffer from an excess of data and the difficulty of a complete management. This may produce consequences in producing formalistic controversies and over-emphasizing of local aspects.

Despite of this ripening in knowledge a general survey is still lacking and information remains dispersed into thousands of specialized publications, often with difficult access. Different languages are used and incongruences at the national and regional level are frequent. As a consequence, the technical community often constructs its own reference systems (with waste of resources, increasing difference of languages and questionable results) or refuses to implement vegetational information in environmental management. The example of CORINE needs no comments.

It is complained that a general regression of phytosociology is occurring and appointments in universities and research institutions, funding and facilities became more and more difficult. The

ward treatment consisting of books and data banks here proposed makes the existing knowledge available for a larger public of users and will be convincing as to the validity of the phytosociological experience. At the moment the main goal is in the space of possibilities, but an action producing results in a short time is necessary; otherwise, in the future, the situation will worsen.

These reflexions are the basis of a proposal to start two projects, different but parallel:

I) A book with the title **VEGETATION OF EUROPE**, providing a general overview of the vegetation classes of the continent, arranged under major biotope headings, to be concluded in a reasonably short time, e. g. 18 months. Editors will be: Dierschke, Doyle, Géhu, Mucina, Pignatti, Rivas Martinez, Rodwell and Schaminé. Mucina as general coordinator will give further information in the second circular.

II) **EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY**, is a more long-term proposal but is making progress in a number of ways. Already, some countries are completing national programmes based on original relevés (The Netherlands, United Kingdom) or mainly on synoptic tables and literature (Austria, Germany). Other countries are now following (e. g. Spain, France, Slovakia, the Czech Republic). A start has also been made with computerized national databases with original relevés (The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Poland, Russia, France). In other cases the data are being synthesised in a tabellarium, which could be extended internationally (Italy, Germany). There is also growing compatibility of software (TURBOVEG, already installed or interfaced with native software in: The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain and soon in France, Slovenia, Slovakia, Austria). A questionnaire is providing overview of all these activities and a basis for further coordination.

In our previous meetings, we discussed opportunities for finding adequate funding for these projects. Already, two proposals have been made to the European Union, but without success: apparently Brussels does not yet realise the importance of our work. We are still searching for funds but, for the moment, the projects are conceived as low-cost and sometimes regional activities, given authority and enthusiasm from the centre. It would be true to say that the Rome meetings represent a new spirit in vegetation science and a determination to overcome differences of approach to secure a future for the vegetation of Europe.