

# **XVII OPTIMA MEETING**

## **Palermo-Erice (Italy), 19-23 September 2023**

### **SYMPOSIUM 12**

#### **Alien plants and their impact in Mediterranean area. Welcome or not?**

Organizers: Olja Vasić and Francesco Maria Raimondo

Number of oral presentations 7

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the very first moment, almost everyone would answer: no, they are not welcome at all.

But is it really always and in all cases so, is it black or white?

Here we are not talking about foreign species that have long been grown on controlled surfaces and make up a significant part of human nutrition. We are talking about species that come and spread beyond the control or will of man.

How to answer the question from the Symposium title when talking about black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) for example? It is true that this American tree in Serbia for example is invasive, and it is the third most abundant in the forests after the native *Fagus* and *Quercus* species. But, the black locust is a rich and excellent forage for bees that produce delicious and medicinal honey, which has a significant economic value. Black locust bound the movable sand in Deliblato Sands and saved the surrounding settlements from being covered with sand.

The question in the Symposium title is worth considering, although for the most alien species the answer will be: no, they are not welcome at all.

So, let see what we can do to lessen the negative impact of the foreign plants in the Mediterranean, or, to use some of them.

### **SUBJECT MATTER**

Direct or indirect influence of terrestrial and aquatic plants of foreign origin in the Mediterranean area. Their impact on the diversity and structure of flora and vegetation in the new area, as well as on habitat changes in the new environment. Is it possible, and how, to suppress and limit their further unwanted spread, and is it possible to use the good features of some of foreign species.

### **TOPICS**

#### **THE MOST VULNERABLE MEDITERRANEAN AREAS IN TERMS OF ALIEN SPECIES**

- ✿ places and ways of penetration,
- ✿ most vulnerable hot spots,
- ✿ conditions allowing the penetration and further spread,
- ✿ most dangerous species,
- ✿ ways to prevent the spread of species and managing of their negative impact.

#### NEW AND RECENTLY DISCOVERED FOREIGN SPECIES

- ✿ place and size of the area, and dynamics of the spreading,
- ✿ ways and conditions of entering and expansion in new area,
- ✿ forecast of the extent and speed of further expansion, and the impact on the indigenous flora and vegetation.

#### ALREADY KNOWN FOREIGN SPECIES

- ✿ actual and assessed future impact on native flora and vegetation,
- ✿ direct or indirect impact on the environment,
- ✿ types and degree of danger for the natural development of flora and vegetation in terms of diversity and maintenance of natural competition,
- ✿ invasive or potentially invasive species in the Mediterranean and why (e.g. their biological, ecological and horological characteristics, favorable conditions, natural or man-made, in the Mediterranean),
- ✿ management of the risks of endangering indigenous flora and vegetation,
- ✿ positive experiences of strategies and measures to prevent or limit further expansion into the Mediterranean,
- ✿ whether it is possible to use foreign species for a specific purpose under strictly controlled conditions.

### CALL FOR PROPOSAL OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS

The organizers of the Symposium now welcome any preliminary proposals for oral presentations.

**The form of proposal:** title of presentation, name(s) of the author(s), institution(s), explanation of the presentation content (no more than one page), e-mail contact address.

**Dead line:** end of April 2023.

**The proposals should be send** to Olja Vasić (e-mail: [oljav27@gmail.com](mailto:oljav27@gmail.com)).

Dear colleagues and friends,

The XVII OPTIMA Meeting will be held from 19 to 23 September 2023 in Italy, on two locations: Palermo (20) and Erice (21–23).

The Meeting program includes also Symposium no.12 (Erice, Sept. 23 morning), which will be dedicated to the alien plants and their impact in Mediterranean countries.

Organisers of the Symposium are Olja Vasić (Beograd, Serbia) and Francesco Maria Raimondo (Palermo, Italy).

Symposium program includes maximum 7 invited speakers.

The time allocated to each speaker is 25 minutes for communication and 5 minutes for discussion.

**Symposium organisers would welcome and much appreciate the early preliminary registration of the speakers.**

The decision on the invited speakers will be done upon the significance of the subject and correspondence to the Symposium aim, but in the case of two or more similar themes/subjects, the priority will have the earlier arrived.

The proposal have to include: presentation title, name(s) of the author(s), institution(s), short explanation of the presentation content (no more than half a page), e-mail contact address (**see attached document**).

Please bear in mind that this will not be the official abstract, which the invited speakers will be asked to send later to the XVII OPTIMA Meeting organisers according to precise instructions regarding the form and deadline, suitable to be included in the Meeting Book of abstracts.

**Dead line for sending preliminary proposal: end of April 2023.**

**The proposals should be send to** Olja Vasić (e-mail: oljav27@gmail.com).

XVII OPTIMA Meeting Organizing committee can offer to non-Sicilian speakers exemption from congress registration and overnight stays in Erice.

In expecting your proposals,

On behalf of prof. Raimondo and mine I am sending

The best regards

Olja Vasić



## Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area

Chemin de l'Impératrice 1 – CH-1292 Chambésy, SWITZERLAND

Secretariat: *Herbarium Mediterraneum*, Via Lincoln, 4 – I-90133 Palermo, ITALY – Tel. (+39) 09123891209 – E-mail: [secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)

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### **XVII OPTIMA Meeting**

**20-24 September 2023**

**OPTIMA (Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area)**

**First Circular**

**Dear Colleagues,**

We invite you to join us in Palermo and Erice in September 2023. Be assured that we will organise the Meeting in full compliance with its successful tradition, meaning that it will be both pleasant and scientifically rewarding. Come and take back with you an unforgettable memory. Sicily with its unequalled natural and cultural riches and traditional hospitality is awaiting you.

***Gianniantonio Domina, Francesco M. Raimondo and Werner Greuter***

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YOU CAN CONTACT US AT

[secr@optima-bot.org](mailto:secr@optima-bot.org)



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### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Comprises 12 Symposia with invited speakers, including 3 Cryptogamic Symposia, one Plenary Lecture and one E-Poster Session with offered presentations, not necessarily correlated with one of the Symposium topics.

### LOCATION AND DATES:

The XVII OPTIMA Meeting will take place in Palermo and Erice, Sicily. The preliminary programme is as follows:

**19 September (Palermo):** Non-public meetings of the OPTIMA Commissions.

**20 September (Palermo):** Non-public meetings of the International Board and Executive Council.

**20 September (Palermo):** Scientific programme.

**21-23 September (Erice):** Scientific programme.

**24 September:** Post-Meeting excursion [Natural Reserve Isole dello Stagnone di Marsala, Mothia and Isola Grande].

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:

English and French

### REGISTRATION FEE

| No. | Category                               | Payment in Euros |      |            |
|-----|--|------------------|------|------------|
|     |  | Regular          | Late | On-Meeting |
| 1   | Regular OPTIMA Members                 | 200              | 300  | 350        |
| 2   | Non-members                            | 300              | 350  | 400        |
| 3   | Accompanying persons                   | 100              | 200  | 200        |
| 4   | Students (provided with certification) | 100              | 200  | 250        |

#### Registration fee covers

**Full (1-2):** Digital book of abstracts, programme, other printed meeting documents; welcome reception, bus transfers (Palermo-Erice A/R), reception, break refreshments.

**Accompanying persons (3):** Programme, other printed meeting documents; welcome reception, bus transfers (Palermo-Erice A/R), reception, break refreshments.

**Students (4):** Digital book of abstracts, programme, other printed meeting documents; welcome reception, bus transfers (Palermo-Erice A/R), reception, break refreshments.



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The **conference dinner** and **post meeting excursion**, if desired, will be charged in addition with a contribution of 25 euros each.

**Regular registration rates** apply to payments made prior to **30 May 2023**. After that date, **late registration rates** will apply. Details of payment will be announced in the second circular.

**Proceedings:** Publication of scientific contributions will be subject to fast-line peer review and will be effected online in the electronic edition of the journal *Flora Mediterranea*. Each contribution will be published individually as soon as it is ready, with its own DOI.

### DEADLINES:

**30 May 2023:** Payment of (regular) registration fee

**15 July 2023:** Reception of abstracts

**Cancellation** with full refund will be possible before **15 July 2023**.

### *Preliminary Program*

**Tuesday 19 September** [Palermo]

**10h00-18h** – Meetings of the Scientific commissions of OPTIMA

**Wednesday 20 September** [Palermo]

**9h00** – Meeting of the Executive Council (restricted)

**9h00** – Welcoming of the participants and registration.

**10h00** – Meeting of the International Board (restricted)

**11h30** – Opening Ceremony followed by the Plenary conference

**14h30** – **Symposium 1** – Mediterranean refugia: importance for plant conservation

Chairs: **F. Médail** (Marseille, France), **M. Fennane** (Rabat, Morocco)

**14h30** – **Symposium 2** – Fungi and lichens on Mediterranean forest habitat.

Chairs: **G. Venturella** (Palermo, Italy), **S. Ravera** (Palermo, Italy)

**16h30** – **Symposium 3** – Taxonomy, ecology and conservation of Mediterranean bryophytes.

Chairs: **M. Ros** (Murcia, Spain), **P. Campisi** (Palermo, Italy)

**18h30** – Bus transfer to Erice.

**Thursday 21 September** [Erice]

**9h00** – **Symposium 4** – Biosystematics in the Mediterranean area 1.

Chairs: **K. Marhold** (Bratislava, Slovak Republic), **C. Oberprieler** (Regensburg, Germany), **L. Peruzzi** (Pisa, Italy), **P. Bareka** (Athens, Greece)

**9h00** – **Symposium 5** – Taxonomy, ecology and conservation of Mediterranean marine and freshwater algae.



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Chairs: **A. M. Mannino** (Palermo, Italy), **C. Rodriguez-Prieto** (Girona, Spain), **M. Cantonati** (Bologna, Italy)

**14h30 – Symposium 6 – Biosystematics in the Mediterranean area 2.**

Chairs: **K. Marhold** (Bratislava, Slovak Republic), **C. Oberprieler** (Regensburg, Germany), **L. Peruzzi** (Pisa, Italy), **P. Bareka** (Athens, Greece)

**14h30 – Symposium 7 – Ecosystems restoration and species conservation.**

Chairs: **J. M. Iriondo** (Madrid, Spain), **P. Marino** (Palermo, Italy)

**Friday 22 September [Erice]**

**9h00 – Symposium 8 – Herbaria and the understanding of Mediterranean plant diversity: past, present and future.**

Chairs: **M. Carine** (London, U.K.), **G. Domina** (Palermo, Italy)

**9h00 – Symposium 9 – Useful plants in the Mediterranean Countries.**

Chairs: **K. H. C. Başer** (Nicosia, Cyprus), **G. Malfa** (Catania, Italy), **E. Kožuharova** (Sofia, Bulgaria)

**11h00 – Symposium 10 – Health Benefits of Wild Mediterranean Plants.**

Chairs: **K. H. C. Başer** (Nicosia, Cyprus), **R. Acquaviva** (Catania, Italy), **V. Spadaro** (Palermo, Italy)

**14h30 – Poster Session**

**16h30 – Roundtable – Plant diversity and restoration of the historic garden «Giardino del Balio» (Erice) and presentation of the project for its restoration [financed by the Italian Ministry of Culture with funds from the PNRR].**

**Chair: S. Rossini-Oliva** (Sevilla, Spain)

**20h00 – Congress Dinner [Trapani]**

**Saturday 23 September [Erice]**

**9h00 – Symposium 11 – Crop Wild Relatives in the Mediterranean countries.**

Chairs: **B. Valdès** (Sevilla, Spain), **A. Giovino** (Palermo, Italy), **M. Rejdali** (Tema, Morocco)

**9h00 – Symposium 12 – Invasive plants and their impact in Mediterranean countries.**

Chairs: **O. Vasic** (Belgrade, Serbia), **F.M. Raimondo** (Palermo, Italy)

**15h00 – Closing Ceremony and General meeting of OPTIMA.**

**18h00 – Bus transfer to Palermo.**

**Monday 24 September [Erice]**

**8h00 – Post-Meeting excursion [Natural Reserve Isole dello Stagnone di Marsala: Mithia and Isola Grande]**

**17h00 – Bus transfer to Palermo.**



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### Palermo & Erice, 20-24 September 2023

The symposia organizers are inviting the speakers in these days to form the final programme.

Consult the preliminary program to see the list of symposia. The titles of the oral contributions proposed by you will be sent to the organizers to be examined.

Hurry up so you don't miss out!

### PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM

AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.OPTIMA-BOT.ORG/MEETINGS/17/XVII REGISTRATION.HTML](https://www.optima-bot.org/meetings/17/xvii_registration.html)