

# First European symposium “Research, conservation and management of biodiversity of European seashores/RCMBES”: Editors Foreword

*Dimitar R. Peev<sup>1</sup>, Georg Gärtner<sup>2</sup>, Maya P. Stoyneva-Gärtner<sup>3</sup>, Nataliya V. Popova<sup>1</sup> & Elena E. Georgieva<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Acad. G. Bonchev Street, Block 23, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria; dpeev@bio.bas.bg

<sup>2</sup> Innsbruck University, Institute of Botany, Sternwartestrasse 15, A-6020, Innsbruck, Austria; georg.gaertner@uibk.ac.at

<sup>3</sup> Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Biology, Department of Botany, 8 Dragan Tsankov Blvd., 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria; mstoyneva@uni-sofia.bg

<sup>4</sup> OPIMOS, Kliment Ohridski Blvd., Minproekt Building, 5th floor, 1756 Sofia, Bulgaria; eli1307@abv.bg

This special supplemental volume of Acta Zoologica Bulgarica collects 28 invited papers chosen from the 65 scientific reports (5 plenary lectures, 26 oral presentations and 34 posters) presented at the First European symposium “Research, conservation and management of biodiversity of European seashores/RCMBES”, held from 8 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Primorsko, Bulgaria. The symposium was organized by OPIMOS and EKOPAN in cooperation with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Faculty of Biology of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and Primorsko Club Ltd.

The main idea which served as prelude to RCMBES, was to provide an opportunity to exchange important information in the field of the nature conservation of species and habitats from the coastal regions, which represent broad ecotones between land and water. Practically there is no biologist, who does not recognize their fundamental importance for the research, conservation and management of the biodiversity, especially in once pristine and exceptionally beautiful natural places which now have to survive strong anthropogenic pressure. Therefore, it was not surprising that, in addition to the scientists, who studied the organisms and natural habitats along the seashores and their adjacent regions in Europe, the symposium was attended by scholars who worked far away from the European borders, on the land-freshwater ecotones related with reservoirs and

even in the more distant mountain or arable regions. This unexpected broadness firstly caused a little bit confusion among the organizers, but then, during the sessions, was recognized by us and all participants as one of the greatest achievements of the Primorsko meeting. It led to the building of many mental bridges and helped to find inspiration for further research and cooperation. During the scientific sessions, the field trip along the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast and Strandzha Mt, and the Symposium Round Table it became clear that the scientific and nature conservational problems which have to be solved by scholars from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Romania, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates are quite similar and require common strategies.

With these considerations in mind, we decided to keep the different research aspects, presented at RCMBES, in the structure of the present volume. Accordingly, it starts with the paper on modern geomorphological terminology (ZHELEZOV 2018) and then the papers are ordered in a regional aspect – from the Mediterranean European coasts (DOMINA et al. 2018, ASENOV 2018) through the Black and Caspian seas (MICHEV et al. 2018, DIMITROVA et al. 2018, DESCY et al. 2018, GÄRTNER et al. 2018, BANCHEVA & DELCHEVA 2018, PAVLOVA et al. 2018, TASHEV et al. 2018a, b, VITKOVA et al. 2018, KOZHUHAROVA 2018, NIKOLOVA et al. 2018, GEORGIEVA et al. 2018,

PASHEVA et al. 2018, BOEV 2018, AGAFONOVA 2018, STRAT et al. 2018, STRAT & HOLOBIUC 2018, DIMEEVA et al. 2018, NOVIKOVA & VOLKOVA 2018) to the shores of the Far East (KUZMINA 2018), and ends with the studies in more distant from the shores regions (NESTEROVA et al. 2018, HOLOBIUC et al. 2018, NIKOLOVA et al. 2018, ANEVA et al. 2018a, b). Inside the regions, the organization of the papers logically follows the descending order from general biodiversity assessment to different taxonomic units from large groups to separate species.

The realization of the volume has been strongly supported by the enthusiastic involvement of the anonymous reviewers who agreed to work not only absolutely voluntarily, but also in the fastest possible way in the hot summer of 2017 to help us to “sift” the contributions and to improve the quality of the whole series of papers presented for this special issue. This introductory article is the best place to express our gratitude to all of them.

The editorial work on the volume was done by us as a part and a continuation of our work in the Organizing Committee of the symposium, but we wish to thank its other members starting with the Academic NIKOLA SABOTINOV, long-standing Chairman of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Dr STEFAN PEYKOV from EKOPAN.

Moreover, we wish to thank the sponsors of the RCMBES symposium, whose financial support had sustained the realization of the meeting and partially of this volume as well: Mrs. Tsv. BORISLAVOVA – Chair of the Bulgarian-American Credit Bank and the Foundation „Credo bonum“,

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We wish also to acknowledge the friendly collegial encouragement given by the Editor-in-Chief of Acta Zoologica Bulgarica, Prof. BOYKO GEORGIEV, who believed in this project from the beginning and agreed in issuing of the proceedings in this special supplement.

Last, but not least, we consider it particularly relevant to mention that the importance of the RCMBES symposium was reflected by its high public awareness with many visits of local people and non-governmental organizations during the scientific sessions and their active participation in the discussions, as well as by its broad coverage in local, regional and national Bulgarian media with more than 70 issues.

During the closure ceremony, the Doyen of the Symposium, the prominent Bulgarian scientist, frankly well-known as the “Father of Bulgarian ornithology” and as one of the founders of the network of Bulgarian protected areas, Assoc. prof. TANYO MICHEV, delivered the symbolical scientific relay to the youngest participant – the Ukrainian PhD student SOFIA SADOGURSKA. And we find this as the best symbolical end of both first RCMBES symposium and of this brief Foreword.

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