



Dear Colleagues, Passionate researchers.

in my, albeit brief, experience as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Annali di Botanica* I wanted to make an active contribution to its development by trying to bring to light important elements that have characterized the journal from the beginning.

It should not surprise you that I am a physical chemist, because several characteristics of *Annali di Botanica* can be traced back to the systemic vision that characterizes this discipline, which make it a reference not only for the study of ecosystems, but also for issues relating to solutions “nature based”, widely cited in terms of conservation, planning and restoration of territories in a sustainable way as also underline by the strategies to reach different Sustainable Goals of the UN Agenda 2030.

Thus, together with the Editorial Committee, I wanted to give, already with the 2023 issue and now with this one which collects the 2024 articles, a multi-dimensional vision of this reality already “distilled” by the subtitle of the magazine “Coenology and plant ecology”: defining “new trajectories” with respect to which to collect contributions from the various authors.

In fact, as in many articles appeared on *Annali di Botanica* during its prestigious history it is reported, starting from the description of the communities by the method of the phytosociology, we can capture the essence of the meaning of the “interaction” between plants and territories: in my vision, to construct multidimensional landscapes that cannot exclude humans.

So, “the effects of landscape plants on public Health; Historical use of medicinal plants and future potential: from phytotherapy to phytochemicals”; “Relevance of public active participation to address the complexity of science-based issues, such as biodiversity loss” (All titles of articles in 2024 issue) became very interesting subjects to construct a new approach to the study of the Nature from the point of view of *Annali di Botanica*.

As well shown in the past also in this journal by the articles of Prof. Sandro Pignatti (the Professor was in the editorial board from 1983, then he was co-editor with Prof. G. Mazzolani and from 1990 to 2007 his role was Managing Editor) and his research group, it is necessary “a thermodynamic approach to interpret the ecosystem Complexity”.

In these terms he developed his scientific route on the path of Elya Prigogine, the physical chemist noted for

his work on dissipative structures, complex systems, and irreversibility. Nobel Prize in Chemistry in the 1977.

To use Pignatti’s words of absolute modernity, written in 1997 in *Annali di botanica* (*Annali di Botanica*, Vol. 55, 1997):

“When the association is described only by floristic data, it appears as a chaotic system. New methods for vegetation analysis are described, based on the complementarity of floristic and gynecological data. The use of the fingerprint approach to express ecological factors is discussed.”

So, to green up *Annali di Botanica*, that dates back to 1884 when Pietro Romualdo Pirotta, Professor in Botany at the University of Rome, founded the Journal under the name “*Annuario del Regio Istituto Botanico di Roma*” (Volumes I-X, 1885-1901), which was later changed in 1902 to *Annali di Botanica* [*Ann. Bot.(Roma)*] we chose to celebrate in this issue the contribution of professor Sandro Pignatti, presenting the work of Tiziana Babusci and the past director of the Department Milena Altamura to concentrate and to catalogue the major part of his passionate career of research in the library of the department of Environmental Biology of Sapienza University of Rome, where he has worked. Tiziana is the Librarian of the beautifully space dedicate to the books in the jewel designed by the genius of Architect Giuseppe Capponi in The Institute of Botany and Pharmaceutical chemistry building built with futuristic solutions in fact of “natural” energy use in the period 1932-1935 into University campus “Citta universitaria di Roma”.

The traces on which we develop our paths are based on our history, which is intertwined with that of the places in which we live and plants are always witnesses of this. For this reason, we also opened the Journal to the dimension of time with the article from the last issue by the prof. Nigro “The plants of Jericho. The earliest cultivars between symbiosis and domestication”.

Starting from the researches of prof. Pignatti, his work was developed for many years into the laboratories at Botanical Garden of Rome, buttonhole of the Department of Environmental Biology of Sapienza University of Rome, and introducing an article about “Phytochemical analysis on the leaves of *teucrium capitatum* l. subsp. *capitatum* collected in the Botanical Garden of Rome”.

Prior to my time as editor-in-chief, Prof. Fausto Manes was editor-in-chief of the journal for many years. He did a commendable job, leading the journal to acquire its first impact factor and thus gain international prominence. He went through difficult years for the scientific publishing

sector and handed over to me a well-kept and healthy journal, for which I thank him from the bottom of my heart. I pass the baton to prof. Fabio Attorre, author with his colleagues of the article in this issue, Director of the Botanical Garden of Rome, as next Editorial-in-chief of the *Annali di Botanica*, thanking Dr. Clelia Palanza, Assistant editor, who with her precious work ensures continuity in “the care” and the creation of the journal.

Cesare Manetti