

Editorial

Eleven years ago the preparation to launch a new journal devoted to forest genetics and tree breeding started. None of us, Editor-in-Chief and Assistant Editor, were sure that the journal we were preparing for publishing will be accepted in the scientific community. There were several reasons for this uncertainty. The publication of journal was going to be carried out outside the large publishing houses and in an institution which was far from being famous as those well established institutions with a long tradition in forest genetics and tree breeding.

Soon after publication of the first issues we got a positive acceptance by the scientific community including the authors, reviewers and of course the subscribers. The success, already during the first years of its publication has exceeded our expectations.

With the publication of the last issue of the tenth volume we close the first decade of the history. Within the first ten volumes (4 issues each) were published in total 299 original papers and short communications, 69 book reviews, 18 conference reports and 3 personalia.

At the very beginning we put a message in the journal's cradle. It will publish original papers aimed at recent advances in forest genetics in broad sense including molecular and biochemical genetics, cytogenetics, population genetics, evolution genetics and ecological genetics and conservation of genetic resources. Although tree species have been the main subject of investigation in the field of forest genetics and breeding, the genetic studies of forest organisms (other plants, animals, including microorganisms) and breeding of forest plants are not excluded. This message has been fulfilled to a great extent. Over the last ten years the journal has attracted authors who published the papers from almost all the above mentioned branches of forest genetics, most of them, however, have been aimed at population genetics and applications in tree breeding.

This international scientific journal has been aimed at publication of recent advances in the fast developing field of forestry research. **Forest Genetics** will be an international medium in all fields of forest genetics and breeding of forest plants and we also intended to create a link between the "Western" and the "Eastern" forest genetic research. Unfortunately, we failed to fulfil the latter goal, which seems to be unreachable without a closer involvement of authors. The number of authors and co-authors who have published in *Forest Genetics* within the first ten years has been 573. For most of them it was a chance to publish their results in a new journal. We appreciate very much that some of the papers have drawn international attention, are well cited and helped increase the reputation of the journal. For other authors, especially the younger ones, the journal might have created the first opportunity to publish in an international journal. We have registered such attempts and are proud that these authors repeatedly selected our journal. By publication of the list of finished and defended PhD theses in the field of forest genetics and tree breeding we have indirectly created an information tool about the present status of the forest genetics research in the world.

For an international journal the worldwide coverage and distribution is an important goal. Within ten years we have managed to have subscribers in more than 50 countries in all five continents. It is, however, necessary to mention that the distribution of subscribers in all five continents is not equal. This probably is due to the position of forest genetics and tree breeding in developing countries. Nevertheless, a positive feature is that new subscribers appear annually on the subscriber list.

We wish to thank all authors, reviewers and members of the Editorial Board for their contribution to shape this journal during the first decade of its existence. Without their active involvement the journal would never survive and reach the present standard. We also wish to thank the publishing house Arbora Publishers spol. s r.o., Zvolen, and the printing house Typopress s.r.o., Liptovský Mikuláš, for the efforts to publish the journal. Last but not least thanks are also due to Robert Brož who made the cover design and recommended the layout of the journal.

What will be the target for the years to come? The publishers and the editors would wish to stabilize the journal on the international market with scientific information, to create opportunity for the authors for a rapid publication of their scientific achievements and on the other hand the continuous support of authors, board members, reviewers and also subscribers worldwide would be very much appreciated.

Ladislav Paule & Dušan Gömöry

I must confess that I was a bit uncertain at the outset whether or not Forest Genetics would be able to survive. However, it soon found its place as an important journal of research in a changing field of continuing significance. The reason must be the consistent quality of its contents, appeal to a diverse field of research workers, and ability to carry through the publication process from beginning to end within a reasonable period of time. The editor, the staff and the Editorial Board have done their job well. I wish Forest Genetics continued success in the future!

Howard Kriebel

*Honorary Member of IUFRO
IUFRO Division 2 Coordinator 1981–1990*

The number of journals devoted to forest genetics doubled a decade ago. This filled a need, and it has been well proven that the journal must get a future. Ladislav is to be congratulated to be the only active forest geneticist in the World who has created a journal for forest genetics. Perhaps it should be developed to a completely electronic journal and employ a secretary to remind reviewers once a month.

Dag Lindgren

*Editorial Board Member
Umeå, Sweden*

Why a new Journal in Forest Genetics? Is there really a niche in the jungle of scientific journals for Forest Genetics? These questions were repeatedly raised when Ladislav Paule announced his project to launch a new journal. I hesitated myself before joining the Editorial Board. Tens of successful publications have clearly shown that Forest Genetics was actually expected by the scientific community. At a time when new emerging fields as molecular genetics exploded, the new journal permitted also to continue to publish results in more traditional fields of forest genetics. And this made the journal so attractive. I thank the editor in chief and his coworkers for their obstinacy and efforts. As European countries merge to build the European Union, my hope for the future is that the two existing journals in Forest Genetics would merge in one single international journal, with an electronic and paper diffusion.

Antoine Kremer

*Editorial Board Member
Cestas, France*

Although there is a proliferation of scientific information published in new journals and in the emerging electronic forms, the value of a high quality journal such as Forest Genetics can not be over-stated. It has proved to be a well edited source of cutting edge material provided by some of the world's leading scientists in this important discipline. I congratulate the Editor, staff and publisher of this journal and wish them success and expansion in the future.

Professor Jeffery Burley

*immediate Past-President of IUFRO, Director-emeritus Oxford Forestry Institute
Oxford, United Kingdom*

Congratulations for the brilliant idea you had ten years ago to initiate a new journal covering genetics of forest trees. The high number of articles published so far shows that such a journal was needed. Of course, scientists publishing articles in *Forest Genetics* might be interested to know the selection rate and how it has evolved in ten years?

If my information is right, *Forest Genetics* have not been published always very regularly. Is this due to technical issues or to lack of good articles? A point which may also need your attention is the quality of English which is not always excellent. As you know, most authors are interested in the impact factor of a journal. How is it with *Forest Genetics*?

Another important issue which was raised by some of the scientists I work with is the reason why a special journal for genetics of forest trees was needed. Are genetics of forest trees so different from genetics of plants or animals or microorganisms? May I here answer on your behalf? I personally think that forest trees are so untamed compared to crop plants or animals, that, particularly in population genetics, they can be considered as an example of what nature does with limited anthropogenic disturbance.

Please continue to improve this very appreciated journal which opens its doors both to experimental results and to highly theoretical articles.

Eric Teissier du Cros

vice-president of IUFRO, Editorial Board Member

Avignon, France

In the wake of revolutionary new developments in the field of communication over the past decades, there has been a deluge of information which is increasingly difficult to administer, absorb and use. This exponential growth has made it more important than ever to selectively access the multitude of available sources of information. The scientific journal, *Forest Genetics*, has over the ten years of its existence established itself as a scientifically sound and credible point of reference for tree breeders all over the world. The journal has consistently kept high scientific standards, while at the same time ensuring a balanced coverage of topics ranging from the conservation of forest genetic resources, provenance research and selection and breeding, to population genetics, physiology, and the use of new biotechnological tools. The Editor and the Editorial Board can be congratulated for providing the scientific community with a high quality, reliable source of sound scientific know-how in the broad field of forest genetics.

Christel Palmberg – Lerche

Dr h.c. Agric. Forestry

Former Chief, Forest Resources Development Service, Forest Resources Division

Food and Agriculture Organization

Rome, Italy

Forest Genetics, born ten years ago in a competitive environment, exposed to sceptical reflections of the scientific community, growing up under father Laco's special care and the mother-like treatment by the whole team no surprise that it matured rapidly and successfully. Congratulations to Laco Paule and the colleagues in Zvolen who helped him to start and to raise "*Forest Genetics*".

For me it was and is a very nice experience to co-operate with Laco and to be aware the outstandingly good spirit behind which indeed is a major source for the successful consolidation of the journal. During many ups and downs in the past, Laco was the one to encourage people, to essentially help to bridge gaps and to proceed also in cases of extreme delay.

For the future I hope that two wishes will be fulfilled: inclusion of "Forest Genetics" in CC and an efficient speeding up of the review process and other commonly known sources of delay. Not easy but Laco will manage.

Gerhard Müller-Starck

Editorial Board Member

Cestas, France

Forest Genetics was established ten years ago – at a time when the subject started drawing attention in life sciences. The rapid advances in molecular genetics applied to forest trees and the increasing awareness of forest biological diversity at the global level were two major reasons associated with the increasing attention to forest genetics in the broadest sense. The journal has responded to the information needs and in the meantime established itself as a recognized, credible and useful reference for the professional audiences. It has done remarkably well with regard to its balanced coverage of the different fields of forest genetics, including tree breeding and genetic studies of different types of organisms associated with the forest ecosystem. The early 1990s were also characterized by a communication barrier between the “western” and “eastern” research, and Forest Genetics understood itself as a link between them. Owing to the tireless efforts of the Editorial Board and the Editor, it definitely accomplished this objective and became a truly global scientific journal. For the future years, I wish Forest Genetics many high-quality contributions and enthusiastic readers all over the world.

Jozef Turok

director of the European Office

International Plant Genetic Resources Institute

Rome, Italy

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