



Botanica SERBICA

This issue, published in the year 2024, coincides with the 150th anniversary of the birth of the academic Nedeljko Košanin and the 90th anniversary of his death. Thus, it is dedicated to Nedeljko Košanin, a giant in the field of science and pioneer of new trends in botany in Serbia in the 20th century.

Although he came from a poor family, the academic Košanin joined the ranks of progressive Serbian intellectuals early on, leaving an indelible mark on the scientific and social life of Serbia at the time. Despite all the challenges he faced throughout his life and his numerous duties and responsibilities, he carried out scientific research both in the laboratory and in the field in an impressive manner, leaving behind original scientific works of “lasting value”. He demonstrated his versatile nature in various roles: as a researcher in the volatile regions of the Ottoman Empire, as an officer in the Balkan wars, a visionary, a professor at the Great School, the director of the Botanical Gardens and as dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade.

From a scientific point of view, he particularly distinguished himself in the field of phytogeography, studying vegetation and certain plant species simultaneously from floristic, taxonomic, ecological and horological viewpoints. He devoted special particular attention to the ecological and physiological characteristics of endemic plant species, earning him recognition as the founder of the plant eco-physiology in Serbia.

A scholar and an eminent expert on various aspects of the plant world, Nedeljko Košanin was aware of the importance of disseminating the research results of Serbian scientists. He founded the *Gazette of the Botanical Institute and Garden of the University of Belgrade*, which he edited until his death in 1934. The first issue appeared in 1928, making it one of the two oldest journals published by the University of Belgrade. The early issues also featured an additional title in French - *Bulletin de l'Institut du jardin botaniques de l'Université de Belgrade*, and the scientific articles were written in French, English, Russian or German. For small, war-torn Serbia, the journal provided the opportunity to showcase its botanical achievements to the world. Local botanists, including Košanin himself as well as other prominent botanists of that time (e.g. G. Beck-Manageta, K. Mali, R. Pitzbauer, R. Lloyd Preger, S. Murbeck, K. Röniger, L. Derganc), published their research findings in this journal, thereby elevating both the significance of the journal and Serbian botanical achievements internationally.

With the development of botanical publishing, Nedeljko Košanin also established the exchange of the newly founded journal with over 90 other botanical editions from 25 countries around the world, significantly improved the working conditions in Serbia (access to modern science) and the promotion of the botanists who followed in his footsteps. After his death in 1934, the management of *Glasnik* was taken over by the deputy editor Ljubiša Glišić. The regular publication of the journal was interrupted by the onset of the war and economic hardship, but this tradition resumed in 1959 with the publication of the *Gazette of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden of the University of Belgrade* under the direction of Milorad Janković, who served as editor-in-chief until 1993. From then until 2018, *Glasnik* was headed by Branka Stevanović, who was then succeeded by Marko Sabovljević, the current editor. In 2009, the journal was upgraded and renamed *Botanica Serbica*, an international journal for plant sciences, thus continuing the tradition established by Nedeljko Košanin. Since 1959, 48 volumes have been published and it is referenced in more than 20 worldwide index databases. Since 2019 it has had a numerical index of scientific influence ranking among the 250 most influential journals in plant sciences worldwide.

