



VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION AND SURVEY

Newsletter No. 2, July 2020

Dear Editors and Editorial Board members of *Vegetation Classification and Survey*,
Dear reviewers and authors of *Vegetation Classification and Survey*,
Dear colleagues,

We are glad to announce that the first six articles of *Vegetation Classification and Survey* together with an inaugural editorial have been published on 4 May 2020, and meanwhile two further papers went online. In this Newsletter, we would like to provide you with important news concerning the development of our journal. We count on your continued support, which VCS, as any new journal, particularly needs during the first few years until it is included in the Web of Science and the Scopus databases.

Best regards, Abende der Woche & Wochenende: privat

- **Abwickeln Mail von Globetrotter**
- **Überweisung Delinat**
- **Bestellen :**
 - Computer-Kamera für mich
 - Maus
 - Waage
 - Tablet
- **Briefeingang**
- **AB: Geburtstagstelefonate abhören& beantworten**
- **Datensicherung:**
 - Fotos
 - Daten
- **Zoom Iwona**

Abende der Woche & Wochenende: Wissenschaft

- **Abstract Klassifikationsartikel Armenien**
- **Akkumulierter Maileingang**
 - EVA-Call
 - Uta Böhme/Unteres Odertal
 - Sigrid Suchrow
 - BR Schorfheide-Chorin
- **Sonstige Mails:**
 - Feedback Jürg Stöcklin
 - Absage Progr. Bot.
 - neue EVA-Anfrage
 - UBT-Maileingang
- **GrassPlot:**
 - Anfragen Idoia & Datenaufbereitung
 - Minutes von Statistischen Diskussionen
 - Arbeitsplan Jinghui
 - Website
- **FlorApp: Bestimmung Fragaria korrigieren**

- **Wissenschaft:**
 - Foto für Enrique Valencia
 - Revision Keller et al. fertig
 - Rundmail Miro's paper
 - EVCC-Proposal bewerten
 - VCS-Newsletter
 - Tuexenia: Cancellieri-Übersetzung
 - GrassPlot-Website
 - IAVS-Membership Committee: Arbeitsaufnahme & Report
 - IAVS-Reports für EDGG & VCS
- **Wissenschaft mit Iwona:**
 - Antwort Progr. Bot.
 - Dateneingabe FW Armenia
 - Dateneingabe FW Switzerland
 - z-value-Paper
 - Minutes Methods Discussion GrassPlot projects
 - Didactical video

Jürgen Dengler, Idoia Biurrun, Florian Jansen & Wolfgang Willner
(Chief Editors)

Table of contents

First articles	2
Editorial team	3
Website, Author Guidelines and journal blog	3
Call for Special Collection on "Classification of grasslands and other open vegetation types in the Palaeartic"	4
Call for papers and Special Collections.....	5
Editorial meetings and contact to the Chief Editors	6

First articles

The first nine articles are published and freely available on the [journal website](#). They cover a wide array of geographic regions and methodological approaches. Therefore, we hope that many of you find them useful and cite them where appropriate:

Jansen F, Biurrun I, Dengler J, Willner W (2020) **Vegetation classification goes open access**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/53445>

Tang CQ, Shen L-Q, Han PB, Huang DS, Li S, Li YF, Song K, Zhang ZY, Yin LY, ... Xu, HM (2020) **Forest characteristics, population structure and growth trends of *Pinus yunnanensis* in Tianchi National Nature Reserve of Yunnan, southwestern China**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 7–20. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/37980>

Abutaha M, Elkhoully A, Jürgens N, Oldeland J (2020) **Plant communities and their environmental drivers on an arid mountain, Gebel Elba, Egypt**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 21–36. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/38644>

Hunter JT, Hunter, VH (2020) **Montane mire vegetation of the New England Tablelands Bioregion of Eastern Australia**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 37–51. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/48765>

- Zervas D, Tsiripidis I, Bergmeier E, Tsiaoussi V (2020) **A phytosociological survey of aquatic vegetation in the main freshwater lakes of Greece**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 53–75. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/48377>
- Attorre F, Cambria VE, Agrillo E, Alessi N, Alfò M, De Sanctis M, Malatesta L, Sitzia T, Guarino R, ... Fanelli G (2020) **Finite Mixture Model based classification of a complex vegetation system using a large dataset**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 77–86. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/48518>
- Zeballos S, Giorgis M, Cabido M, Acosta A, Iglesias MR, Cantero J (2020) **The southern extreme of seasonally dry subtropical forests in South America: Vegetation types and a call for conservation**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 87–102. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/38013>
- Fungomeli M, Githitho A, Frascaroli F, Chidzinga S, Cianciaruso M, Chiarucci, A (2020) **A new vegetation-plot database for the coastal forests of Kenya**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 103–109. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/47180>
- Hunter JT (2020) **Grasslands on coastal headlands in New South Wales, south eastern Australia**. *Vegetation Classification and Survey* 1: 111–122. <https://doi.org/10.3897/VCS/2020/48228>

According to Pensoft's online statistics, the articles are frequently viewed and downloaded, with Abutaha et al. (2020) currently being the most attractive paper.

Keep in mind that all articles are gold open access and thus you are allowed and encouraged to share and post them where ever you like.

Editorial team

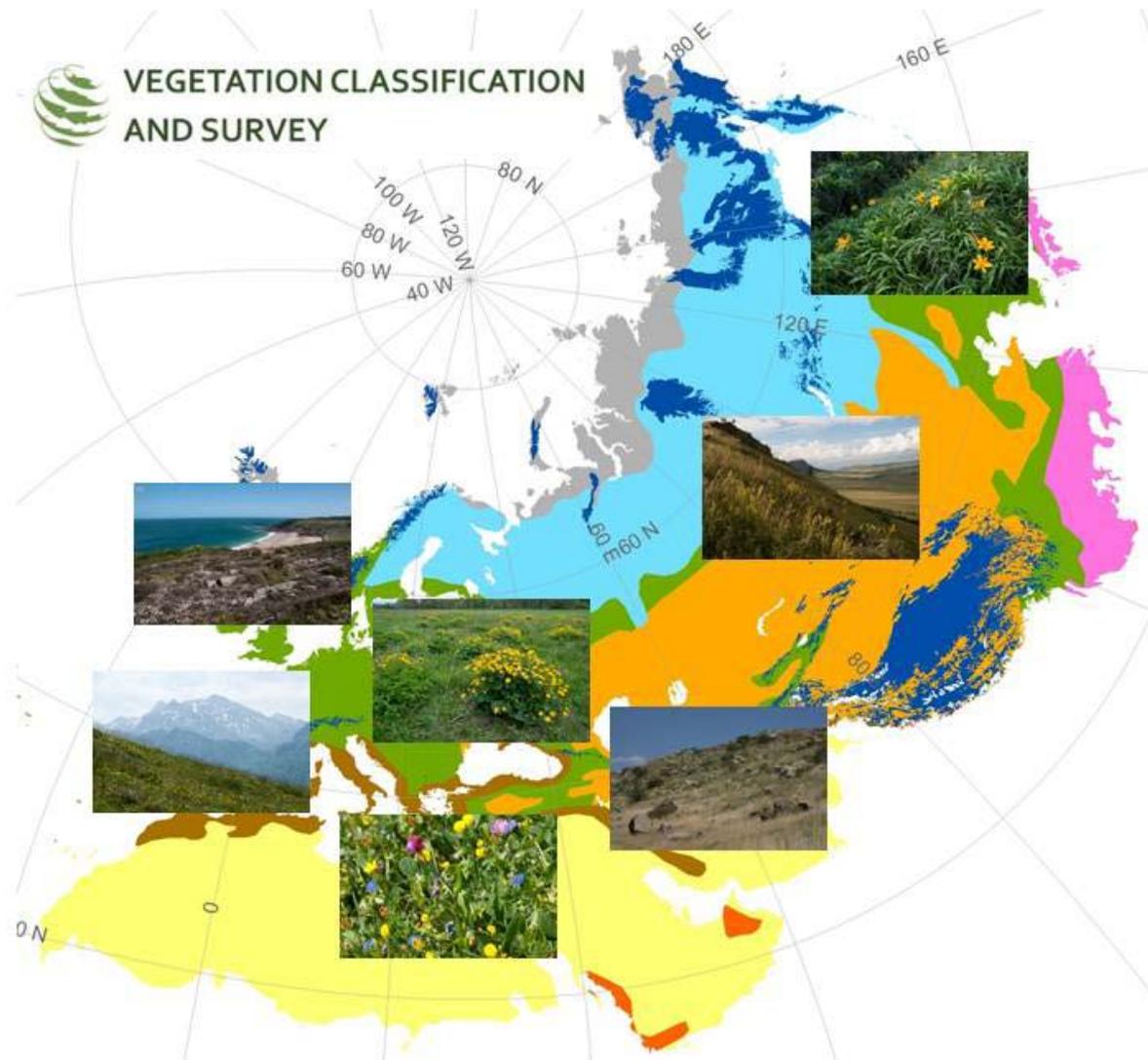
After some further additions, our Editorial Team now consists of 61 persons: four Chief Editors, nine Associate Editors, eight Linguistic Editors and 43 Editorial Board members. They come from six continents and 25 countries, with a female fraction of 36%. Therefore, the diversity in our team is significantly higher than in most other international journals. The responsibilities among the Chief Editors are rotating, with currently **Wolfgang Willner** serving as Receiving Editor and being responsible for all communication with the publisher and **Jürgen Dengler** communicating with IAVS and its subgroups as well as the editorial team and coordinating outreach and advertisement. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us.

Website, Author Guidelines and journal blog

You find VCS at: <https://vcs.pensoft.net/>. We have updated many details in the website, the manuscript management system and in the Author Guidelines since the last Newsletter. If you come across points that deserve further improvement, just contact us.

VCS is collaborating with the **IAVS journal blog**, which now covers all three IAVS journals, JVS, AVS and VCS. Several of our authors used the attractive opportunity to “advertise” their papers there, and the blogs are also retweeted by Pensoft to reach additional audience. If you are interested to receive the latest news about VCS and the other two IAVS journals, you can easily subscribe to the blog at: <https://vegsciblog.org/>

Call for Special Collection on “Classification of grasslands and other open vegetation types in the Palaeartic”



Editors

Idoia Biurrun (ES), Jürgen Dengler (CH), Monika Janišová (SK) & Arkadiusz Nowak (PL)

Outline

Palaeartic grasslands in the broad sense comprise a large diversity of vegetation types, many of them of high conservation concern. Sound classification systems of Palaeartic grasslands and other open habitats are needed as reference systems for conservation and research. On the one hand, large national and continental vegetation-plot databases in combination with new classification methods allow developing plot-based classification systems that are consistent over large spatial extents, thus overcoming the idiosyncrasies of the multitude of previous regional classification systems. On the other hand, there are still many regions in the Palaeartic with diverse grassland vegetation that lack any plot-based classification system.

For this Special Collection **in collaboration with the IAVS Working Group Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG; www.edgg.org)**, we invite classification papers dealing with Palaeartic grasslands *sensu lato*, i.e. any natural and semi-natural vegetation type that is dominated by graminoids, forbs, dwarf shrubs, bryophytes or lichens. This Special Collection

builds on two previous Special Features organised by some of the current editors in other IAVS-associated journals (Dengler et al. 2013; Janišová et al. 2016) and thus aim at reflecting the advancement in knowledge since then. While we particularly appreciate broad-scale syntheses of grassland types over larger areas, we also accept regional studies from understudied regions. Methodological and conceptual studies as well as nomenclatural revisions of syntaxa are also possible. While the focus of the Special Collection is on plot-based classification, we are open to consider Forum papers that elaborate on higher level typologies, such as biomes, sub-biomes, formations or degrees of naturalness. Particularly appreciated are studies that demonstrate how sound grassland typologies can serve as useful tools in conservation, e.g. in red-list assessments.

Procedure and deadlines

- **Until 31 July 2020 (extended deadline):** Send your proposal (preliminary title, authors, preliminary abstract, expected submission time) to juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de.
- **Between 31 July and 10 August 2020** the Special Collection Editors will evaluate the proposed contributions regularly and invite or decline them (i.e. those who submit earlier can also expect an earlier decision).
- **Until 31 December 2020:** Submission of invited contributions (exceptionally, later submissions might still be included in the Special Collection, but keep in mind that for submissions from 1 January 2021 onwards higher APCs apply)
- **Submitted articles** undergo a regular peer-review with one of the four editors as Subject Editor.
- **After acceptance**, each article will be published without delay.
- **Approx. mid-2021:** Together with the last article, the Special Collection Editors will publish an Editorial that puts the included articles into context.

References

- Dengler J, Bergmeier E, Willner W, Chytrý M (2013) Towards a consistent classification of European grasslands. *Applied Vegetation Science* 16: 518–520.
- Janišová M, Dengler J, Willner W (2016) Classification of Palaeartic grasslands. *Phytocoenologia* 46: 233–239.

We look forward to your proposals!

Call for papers and Special Collections

We would like to encourage you to **submit your papers in the fields of vegetation classification and ecoinformatics to VCS**. Please also advertise the new journal among your colleagues who might not have heard of it before. **Submissions during the next few months would be particularly valuable** as VCS needs to demonstrate a constant flow of publications (> 20 papers per year). With a submission in the near future you can substantially support the successful development of VCS and facilitate its inclusion into the Web of Science and Scopus databases at the earliest possible point of time. If you submit before end of this year, you would benefit from the **significantly reduced APCs** (article processing charges, see <https://vcs.pensoft.net/about#Article-Processing-Charges>) as you pay only 55% of the final APCs.

If you are owner or custodian of a vegetation-plot database, we would like to inform you that VCS is now the official partner of the **Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD; <https://www.givd.info/>)**. Accordingly, the **Ecoinformatics Collection of VCS** is the only place where you can publish standardised **Long Database Reports (LDRs) and Short Database Reports (SDRs)** with the official GIVD Fact Sheet. Publication in *Phytocoenologia* is no longer possible. Database Reports are attractive tools (a) to make your valuable collection of vegetation-plot data visible and (b) to “collect citations” that count in Web of Science or Scopus whenever data from your database are used. In *Phytocoenologia*, during the past five years numerous such Database Reports have been published and many of the have been cited quite frequently. In VCS we made this format even more attractive as we allow now also updates of previously published database reports (in *Phytocoenologia*, *Ecology & Evolution* or elsewhere) to be submitted, removed length limitations for LDRs and lowered the thresholds for database size significantly. We now accept:

- **Long Database Reports** for databases from Europe (including Turkey, Cyprus and the Caucasus countries) and the United States with at least 3,000 plots and from elsewhere with at least 1,000 plots.
- **Short Database Reports** for databases from Europe (including Turkey, Cyprus and the Caucasus countries) and the United States with at least 500 plots and from elsewhere with at least 200 plots.

We also would be glad to hear your suggestions for a **Special Collection**. A Special Collection (called special feature in other journals) can be on a certain region, broad vegetation type, methodological approach or combination thereof (see example above). It should comprise at least four papers plus an Editorial (which is free of APCs), but also much larger Special Collections are possible. Any group of two and more vegetation ecologists can propose a Special Collection to the Chief Editors, provided at least one of the proposed Special Collection Editors is a Chief or Associate Editor of VCS. We believe that Special Collections are a particularly attractive option for IAVS Working Groups and Regional Sections to make their topics more visible, but also initiatives unrelated to IAVS subgroups are welcome, e.g. outcomes from sessions on conferences. Publications in Special Collections are particularly attractive as papers included in Special Collections on average receive more citations than similar papers published individually.

Editorial meetings and contact to the Chief Editors

After the cancellation of all conferences of IAVS and its subgroups in 2020, we hope to be able to meet many of you at the IAVS Symposium 2021, where we plan an editorial meeting. Meanwhile, all Chief Editors are available for any questions and suggestions concerning the journal.