

Editorial for the 50th anniversary of Acta Palaeobotanica

The first volume of Acta Palaeobotanica was published in August 1960, initiated by the outstanding Polish palaeobotanist Professor Władysław Szafer who also served as the journal's first editor. Professor Szafer was followed as editor by Professor Andrzej Środoń from 1971 until 1986. In the beginning the journal was devoted to a wide range of problems related to fossil plants, including "classical" palaeobotany of pre-Quaternary times and Cenozoic palaeoecology/palynology. From this time until the present day the journal has evolved and underwent numerous modifications; some small changes to the cover, still in A5 format, began with the volume 30, and a new format in A4 and typography started in the volume 35. Another innovation was the implementation of supplements intended for monographic elaborations and published apart from the regular numbered volumes. The supplements have their own numeration and a special distinguishing cover. In addition to these format changes, the journal contents have also changed and now Acta Palaeobotanica recognized as an international journal that publishes original palaeobotanical, palaeoecological, palaeophytogeographical, palynological and archaeobotanical papers, in addition to monographs, comprehensive review and discussion articles and book reviews. The journal is open to contributors from all over the world. It is published regularly with one volume per year each comprising two numbered parts, printed in June (No. 1) and in December (No. 2). All manuscripts to be published in the journal are peer reviewed by at least two referees, and after acceptance of corrected manuscripts printing time is only approximately 6 months.

During the 50 years of Acta Palaeobotanica a total of 433 papers by 371 authors (156 from Poland and 215 from abroad) have been published. In six supplementary issues, four monographs, one part of a series, and a supplement publishing the "Proceedings of the Fifth European Palaeobotanical and Palynological Conference", a further 80 papers produced by 140 authors (20 from Poland and 120 from abroad) have been published. The last supplement (No. 6) was published in 2005. Later monographs and also special volumes dedicated to eminent European palaeobotanists are issued as ordinary numbered volumes of Acta Palaeobotanica but are distinguished by their special covers similar to the supplements.

In the early years of Acta Palaeobotanica most contributions came from Poland, later the number of contributions from abroad increased and over the past decade approximately 75% of contributions concern other European and non-European countries and areas, including Iran, Israel, Georgia, Canada, Australia, China, India, South America, USA, and also Antractica and Spitsbergen.

From the beginning the idea was to publish all papers in congress languages. In the years 1960 to 1990 (vol. 1 – 30) most papers were published in English and only few in Polish with English summary, and occasionally papers in either German and French. Beginning with the vol. 31 (1991) all papers are published in English, occasionally in the volumes 31/1, 2 (1992); 32/1 (1993); 33/1 (1994), and 34/1 (1995) in each volume only one paper was published in German.

Acta Palaeobotanica is now an open access journal and currently full text of articles in the PDF format are freely accessible from volume 44 No. 2 (2004) onwards under http://www.botany.pl/ibwyd/acta_paleo/act-p.htm

Beginning with volume 30 (1990), abstracts of all articles are available online in PDF format. The internet service also provides catalogues for volumes published since 1960 that are not presently available in PDF format. It is possible to subscribe to the printed version of journal on a prepaid basis, receiving a discount on forthcoming issues.

The journal is indexed in: AGRO-LIBREX Database, Biological Abstracts (Thomson Reuters™), BIOSIS Previews® (Thomson Reuters™), GeoRef, Index Copernicus, Polish Scientific Journals Contents (Life Sciences), SCOPUS (Elsevier), Thomson Reuters Master Journal List (Thomson Reuters™), GEOBASE™ Geographical & Geological Abstracts.

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Editor



Leon Stuchlik