

## *of the European Dry Grassland Group*



*In most parts of Europe, winter this year has been unusually long and harsh. We will therefore enjoy spring all the more, and look forward to the upcoming spring events. In this Bulletin you can find an overview of our planned future activities and events. First, the election period of EDGG chairs is going to end soon and a new election is in preparation. The registration for the European Dry Grassland Meeting in Zamosc is closed and the detailed program of the meeting is in preparation. The work on several Special Features/Issues and in higher-ranked journals continues and we hope that many interesting grassland papers will appear soon.*

*We hope you enjoy reading this Bulletin and wish you a pleasant spring time!*

*Editors*

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*Carlina vulgaris, Dummersdorfer Ufer nature reserve, Germany. Photo: Jürgen Dengler*

*April 2013*

*EDGG homepage: [www.edgg.org](http://www.edgg.org)*

# European Dry Grassland Group

The European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) is a network of dry grassland researchers and conservationists in Europe. EDGG is a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS). EDGG is also supported by the Floristisch-soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft.

## The basic aims of the EDGG are:

♣ To compile and to distribute information on research and conservation in dry grasslands beyond national borders;

♣ to stimulate active cooperation among dry grassland scientists (exchanging data, common data standards, joint projects).

To achieve its aims, EDGG provides seven media for the exchange of information between dry grassland researchers and conservationists:

♣ **the Bulletin of the EDGG** (published quarterly);

♣ **the EDGG homepage** ([www.edgg.org](http://www.edgg.org));

♣ e-mails via our **mailing list** on urgent issues;

♣ **the European Dry Grassland Meetings** - organized annually at different locations throughout Europe;

♣ **EDGG research expeditions** to sample baseline data of underrepresented regions of Europe;

♣ **EDGG vegetation databases**;

♣ **Special Features** on dry grassland-related topics in various peer-reviewed journals.

**The EDGG covers all aspects related to dry grasslands, in particular:** plants - animals - fungi - microbia - soils - taxonomy - phylogeography - ecophysiology - population biology - species' interactions - vegetation ecology - syntaxonomy - landscape ecology - biodiversity - land use history - agriculture - nature conservation - restoration - environmental legislation - environmental education.

Anyone can join the EDGG without any fee or other obligation. To become a member of the European Dry Grassland Group or its subordinate units, please, send an e-mail to Jürgen Dengler, including your name and complete address, and specify any of the groups you wish to join. More detailed information can be found at: [http://www.edgg.org/about\\_us.htm](http://www.edgg.org/about_us.htm).

## EDGG Subgroups

EDGG members are automatically assigned to the Regional Subgroup of the region in which they reside. If you additionally wish to join other Subgroups or the new Grassland Conservation and Restoration Subgroup, just send an e-mail to the Membership Administrator ([juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de)).

**Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen** (Germany) (contact: Thomas Becker - [beckerth@uni-trier.de](mailto:beckerth@uni-trier.de)), Ute Jandt - [jandt@botanik.uni-halle.de](mailto:jandt@botanik.uni-halle.de) : 220 members

**Working Group on Dry Grasslands in the Nordic and Baltic Region** (contact: Jürgen Dengler - [dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de)): 100 members

**South-East European Dry Grasslands (SEEDGG)** (contact: Iva Apostolova - [iva@bio.bas.bg](mailto:iva@bio.bas.bg)): 256 members

**Mediterranean Dry Grasslands (Med-DG)** (contact: Michael Vrahnakis - [mvrahnak@teilar.gr](mailto:mvrahnak@teilar.gr)): 297 members

**Topical Subgroup Grassland Conservation and Restoration** (contact: Péter Török - [molinia@gmail.com](mailto:molinia@gmail.com)): 60 members

## EDGG Executive Committee and responsibilities of its members

**Jürgen Dengler:** Membership Administrator, Representative to the IAVS, Coordinator for Special Features, Coordinator for EDGG Expeditions, Book Review Editor, Deputy Contact Officer to other organisations. [juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de)

**Monika Janišová:** Editor-in-Chief of the Bulletin of the EDGG, Deputy Meetings Coordinator, Deputy-Representative to the IAVS. [monika.janisova@gmail.com](mailto:monika.janisova@gmail.com)

**Solvita Rūsiņa:** Editor-in-Chief of the EDGG homepage (incl. other electronic media). [rusina@lu.lv](mailto:rusina@lu.lv)

**Péter Török:** Contact Officer to other organisations, Deputy-Secretary-General, Deputy-Officer of the Special Policy Committee. [molinia@gmail.com](mailto:molinia@gmail.com)

**Stephen Venn:** Secretary-General, Deputy-Editor-in-Chief of the EDGG homepage (incl. other electronic media). [stephen.venn@helsinki.fi](mailto:stephen.venn@helsinki.fi)

**Michael Vrahnakis:** Meetings Coordinator, Officer of the Special Policy Committee. [mvrahnak@teilar.gr](mailto:mvrahnak@teilar.gr)

## 10<sup>th</sup> European Dry Grassland Meeting 2013 in Poland

The 10th EDGG meeting is approaching. As mentioned on the conference website ([http://www.edgg.org/edgg\\_meeting\\_2013.html](http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting_2013.html)) it will start with a 3-day pre-conference excursion (from 24 to 26 of May) devoted to dry grasslands of Koelerio-Corynephoretea in central and eastern Poland. Participants will travel from place to place by coach. The excursion will end in Zamość – the venue of the meeting. During two days of oral and poster sessions (27th-28th of May), participants will have also the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful and old, renaissance town. The third and the last part of the meeting will be the 3-day (29th-31th of May) post-conference excursion through xerothermic grasslands of south-east Poland. As in the case of pre-conference excursion, participants will travel from place to place by coach and return to the hotel in Zamość every evening.

The registration (and abstract submission) is already closed. A total of 133 participants from 25 countries are registered. We would like to thank all participants for the abstracts they submitted. The Scientific Committee will soon decide upon the scientific programme of the conference.

As in the case of previous EDGG meetings, we will produce a Dry Grassland Special Feature in *Tuexenia*, where selected conference contributions can be published. The second dry grassland special feature will appear in *Hacquetia* (mainly for Mediterranean topics and zoological papers). More information about publication

possibilities will appear on conference website soon.

As in previous EDGMs, special prizes will be awarded to young scientists (less than 35 years old) whose work is judged to be the most interesting during oral and poster sessions.

For participants without oral contribution the preliminary fees are:

60 euro – conference fee

35 euro – accommodation costs

100 euro – pre-conference excursion

The rest of conference costs (meals, post symposium excursions, grassland party etc.) will be covered from LIFE+ project “Conservation and restoration of xerothermic grasslands in Poland - theory and practice”.

We kindly remind you that no fees will be charged for oral contributors. Reduced fees will be also provided for students (including Ph.D. students) and participants from low-income countries.

There will be possibility to pay the conference fees by bank transfer and credit card/debit card. The possibility of payment will be open soon on the conference website ([http://www.edgg.org/edgg\\_meeting\\_2013.html](http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting_2013.html)). So we kindly suggest you to visit our website frequently. There will be no possibility for paying in cash!

*Katarzyna Baranska and EDGM Organizing Committee*



*Natura 2000 site Żurawce. Photo: P. Chmielewski*

## EDGG Special Issues/Special Features

The presently five EDGG-edited Special Issues/Special Features (SIs/SFs) are developing extremely well so that we anticipate that the one in *Tuexenia* will be published in summer 2013, those in *Biodiversity and Conservation*, *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* and *Hacquetia* in autumn or winter 2013 and the Virtual Special Feature in *Applied Vegetation Science*, which extends over a longer period, will start with first articles in the second half of this year. First articles in these SIs/SFs have already been accepted and partly being published open access online:

### ***Biodiversity and Conservation* (Special Issue on grassland diversity)**

Filz, K.J., Engler, J.O., Stoffels, J., Weitzel, M., Schmitt, T. (in press): Missing the target? A critical view on butterfly conservation efforts on calcareous grasslands in south-western Germany. – *Biodivers. Conserv.* DOI: 10.1007/s10531-012-0413-0. [kfilz@yahoo.de]

Weiss, N., Zucchi, H., Hochkirch, A. (in press): The effects of grassland management and aspect on Orthoptera diversity and abundance: site conditions are as important as management. – *Biodivers. Conserv.* DOI: 10.1007/s10531-012-0398-8. [hochkirch@uni-trier.de]

Wiezik, M., Svitok, M., Wieziková, A., Dovčiak, M. (in press): Shrub encroachment alters composition and diversity of ant communities in abandoned grasslands of western Carpathians. – *Biodivers. Conserv.* DOI: 10.1007/s10531-013-0446-z. [wiezik@post.sk]

### ***Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* (Special Issue on grassland diversity)**

Reitalu, T., Helm, A., Pärtel, M., Bengtsson, K., Gerhold, P., Rosén, E., Takkis, K., Znamenskiy, S., Prentice, H.C. (in press): Determinants of fine-scale plant diversity in dry calcareous grasslands within the Baltic Sea region. – *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.* DOI: 10.1016/j.agee.2012.11.005. [triin.reitalu@mail.ee]

### ***Applied Vegetation Science* (Virtual Special Feature on grassland classification)**

Dengler, J., Bergmeier, E., Willner, W., Chytrý, M. (in press): Towards a consistent classification of European grasslands. – *Appl. Veg. Sci.* 16(3) [juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de]

Eliáš, P. jr., Sopotlieva, D., Dítě, D., Hájková, P., Apostolova, I., Senko, D., Melečková, Z., Hájek, M. (in press): Vegetation diversity of salt-rich grasslands in Southeast Europe. – *Appl. Veg. Sci.* DOI: 10.1111/avsc.12017. [hajek@sci.muni.cz]

### ***Tuexenia* (Special Feature on temperate dry grasslands)**

Kasari, L., Gazol, A., Kalwij, J.M., Helm, A. (in press): Low shrub cover in alvar grasslands increases small-scale diversity by promoting the occurrence of generalist species. – *Tuexenia* 33 [lkasari@ut.ee]

Janišová, M., Ujházy, K., Uhliarová, E. (in press): Phytosociology and ecology of *Avenula adsurgens* subsp. *adsurgens* in Carpathian grasslands. – *Tuexenia* 33 [monika.janisova@gmail.com]

We believe that these articles will be interesting for many of you. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to read and cite them. If you don't have access to the respective journals, just contact the corresponding authors (e-mail addresses are given above). From now on, we will present the new papers in EDGG-edited SIs/SFs continuously in the *Bulletin*.



*Mantis religiosa*. Photo: P. Chmielewski

## Help our partner journal *Tuexenia* to get a good first impact factor!

*Tuexenia* is the partner journal of EDGG (and its predecessor AG Trockenrasen) since 2004 and has published annual Dry Grassland Special Features since 2005. In 2011, *Tuexenia* was accepted by the Web of Science to be included in its data base, which means that it will get its first impact factor in 2013 (to be published in summer 2014). As we are continuing to produce Dry Grassland Special Features in *Tuexenia*, EDGG is highly interested in contributing to a good first impact factor.

Actually, it is very easy: What counts are the citations of *Tuexenia* articles of the years 2011 and 2013 that are published in any Web of Science publications (including those in *Tuexenia*) in this year (2013). As *Tuexenia* has published 31 articles in the two volumes, only 31 citations (i.e. on average one per article) would be enough to get a first impact factor of 1.0! We believe that there are so many good articles that this should be easily achievable.

Therefore, we would like to invite you to check the dry grassland-related articles from *Tuexenia* 2011 and 2012 (mostly from our Special Features, but also a few from outside), whether they are not worth referencing in your publications. All *Tuexenia* articles are open access – for the dry grassland articles you get the download links below, while the articles on other habitats are available from [http://www.tuexenia.de/index.php?id=14&no\\_cache=1](http://www.tuexenia.de/index.php?id=14&no_cache=1)

Articles in the Dry Grassland SF's of *Tuexenia* 32 and 31:

Galvánek, D., Becker, T., Dengler, J. (2012): Biodiversity, syntaxonomy, and management – Editorial to the 7th Dry Grassland Special Feature (with a bibliometrical evaluation of the series). – *Tuexenia* 32: 233–243.

Keetner-Oostra, R., Aptroot, A., Jungerius, P.D., Sýkora, K.V. (2012): Vegetation succession and habitat restoration in Dutch lichen-rich inland drift sands. – *Tuexenia* 32: 245–268.

Jeschke, M. (2012): Cryptogams in calcareous grassland restoration: perspectives for artificial vs. natural colonization. – *Tuexenia* 32: 269–279.

Becker, T., Schmiede, C., Bergmeier, E., Dengler, J., Nowak, B. (2012): Nutrient-poor grasslands on siliceous soil in the lower Aar valley (Middle Hesse, Germany) – neglected vegetation types in the intersection range of four classes. – *Tuexenia* 32: 281–318 + 1 table.

Dengler, J., Becker, T., Ruprecht, E., Szabó, A., Becker, U., Beldean, M., Bita-Nicolae, C., Dolnik, C., Goia, I., Peyrat, J., Sutcliffe, L.M.E., Turtureanu, P.D., Ugurlu, E. (2012): *Festuco-Brometea* communities of

the Transylvanian Plateau (Romania) – a preliminary overview on syntaxonomy, ecology, and biodiversity. – *Tuexenia* 32: 319–359 + 2 tables, Göttingen.

Janišová, M., Wellstein, C., Willner, W., Dengler, J. (2011): Succession, restoration, and management of dry grasslands – Special Feature with contributions from the 7th European Dry Grassland Meeting 2010 in Smolenice. – *Tuexenia* 31: 227–234.

Škodová, I., Devánová, K., Senko, D. (2011): Subxerophilous and mesophilous grasslands of the Biele Karpaty Mts. (White Carpathian Mts.) in Slovakia. – *Tuexenia* 31: 235–269 + 6 tables.

Willner, W. (2011): Unambiguous assignment of relevés to vegetation units: the example of the *Festuco-Brometea* and *Trifolio-Geranietea sanguinei*. – *Tuexenia* 31: 271–282 + 1 table.

Petřík, P., Černý, T., Boublík, K. (2011): Impact of hooved game and weather on the vegetation of endangered dry grasslands in the Křivoklátsko Biosphere Reserve (Czech Republic). – *Tuexenia* 31: 283–299.

Wieżik, M., Wieżiková, A., Svitok, M. (2011): Vegetation structure, ecological stability, and low-disturbance regime of abandoned dry grasslands support specific ant assemblages in Central Slovakia. – *Tuexenia* 31: 301–315.

Other articles in *Tuexenia* 32 and 31 that deal with dry grasslands (German articles outside the SF's all have English summaries and figure + table captions)

Hammes, V., Remy, D., Kratochwil, A. (2012): Untersuchungen zur längerfristigen Etablierung von *Corynephorus canescens*-Populationen in einem großflächigen Restitutionsgebiet einer Auenlandschaft Nordwestdeutschlands. – *Tuexenia* 32: 119–140.

Rosenthal, G., Schrautzer, J., Eichberg, C. (2012): Low-intensity grazing with domestic herbivores: A tool for maintaining and restoring plant diversity in temperate Europe. – *Tuexenia* 32: 167–205.

Ruthsatz, B., Boertmann, D. (2011): Saftlinge (*Hygrocybe*) als Indikatoren alter magerer Wiesen im Großraum Trier. – *Tuexenia* 31: 153–171.

Becker, T., Andres, C., Dierschke, H. (2011): Junge und alte Steppenrasen im NSG “Bedraer Lehde- Großer Eller” im Kyffhäusergebirge. – *Tuexenia* 31: 173–210.

Jansen, F., Dengler, J., Glöckler, F., Chytrý, M., Ewald, J., Oldeland, J., Schaminée, J.H.J. (2011): Die mitteleuropäischen Datenbanken im Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD). – *Tuexenia* 31: 351–367.

## Membership development

Since the last Bulletin, the membership of EDGG significantly increased – mainly due to the registered participants of the European Dry Grassland Meeting this year who according to our Bylaws automatically become member. Further we extracted from the IAVS membership database those IAVS members who had clicked there to become also EDGG members, something that is unfortunately not automatically communicated to us. The strongest recent increase occurred in Poland (with more than doubling of membership figures), while also strong increases could be observed for Ukraine, Hungary and Russia. During recent months we could also welcome the very first members from China, South Korea, India and Colombia. All in all, we are now 950 EDGG members, based in 57 different countries on all continents.

## Phytosociological Nomenclature Commission (PNC)

For a long time, the Phytosociological Nomenclature Commission (PNC) was an informal group of syntaxonomists, loosely connected to IAVS. This informal group has so far prepared three editions of the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature (ICPN), the last one more than a decade ago (Weber et al. 2010). Since then, the PNC has been largely inactive.

Therefore, the IAVS Council last year in Mokpo decided to re-establish the PNC as a formal IAVS Working Group (like EDGG or EVS) and asked a team around Jean-Paul Theurillat to prepare Bylaws for this new Working Group. Presently an initial group of about 30 founding members of the PNC are voting in an electronic ballot on the draft of these Bylaws. Once the ballot is complete on 10 March, all IAVS members interested in phytosociology can join the PNC.

Membership is free and as a member you have a lot of influence on how the Nomenclature Code develops in the future (e.g. whether it becomes more user-friendly) or which tools the PNC will provide for phytosociologists worldwide (e.g. online database of newly described syntaxa, nomenclatural helpdesk etc.). Most importantly, all members of the PNC this spring will elect the PNC Steering Committee for the next four years (this group of people will mainly do the nomenclatural work) and they have to approve all changes in the ICPN.

Therefore, membership in the PNC is not only meant for “hardcore” specialists in phytosociological nomenclature, but for all IAVS members dealing with phytosociological names/classifications in their work.

If you are an IAVS member and wish to influence the future fate of the phytosociological nomenclature, ask the present ad-hoc secretary of the PNC Jean-Paul Theurillat (Jean-Paul.Theurillat@unige.ch) for membership (joining is possible from 11 March onwards).

Weber, H.E., Moravec, J., Theurillat, J.-P. (2000): International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature. 3rd edition. – J. Veg. Sci. 11: 739–768.



*Cypripedium calceolus*. Photo: P. Chmielewski

## Jürgen Dengler moved to Bayreuth

EDGG Executive Committee member Jürgen Dengler has moved from the University of Hamburg to the University of Bayreuth, where he will coordinate the research project SIGNAL (see the Forum section) during the next three years. The new contact details of Jürgen are:

Disturbance Ecology  
Bayreuth Center of Ecology and Environmental Research  
University of Bayreuth  
Universitätsstr. 30  
95447 Bayreuth  
Phone: +49(0)921-55-2360

E-mail: [juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de)

URL: [http://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/stoerungsoekologie/de/mitarbeiter/mitarbeiter\\_detail.php?id\\_obj=113627](http://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/stoerungsoekologie/de/mitarbeiter/mitarbeiter_detail.php?id_obj=113627)

# Elections for the Executive Committee of the EDGG

## *Call for nominations*

Dear fellow members of the EDGG,

The two-year term of the current Executive Committee of the EDGG is approaching the end, and therefore we ask you all to respond to this opportunity to influence the way the organization is run. If you feel that you could bring something new to the committee in terms of visions for the development of the organization, new skills or expertise or simply wish to be more involved and share some of the responsibilities, then we encourage you to consider standing in the forthcoming election. The workload is not great, and of course it becomes further reduced every time we welcome a new chair to the committee. In particular, we would like to increase the number of representatives of taxa that are currently underrepresented in the committee, though we are also glad to receive nominations from members in general. In keeping with the bylaws of the EDGG, the committee comprises 5-7 members, and at its current strength of six chairs (Jürgen, Monika, Solvita, Mike, Péter and Steve), there is room for one more than at present, even if the current chairs stand for election and become elected.

**The deadline for nominations is midnight c.e.t. 12th April 2013** by which time nominations should be submitted to the EDGG Secretary General, preferably by e-mail or alternatively by post or fax. So please feel encouraged to submit your nominations of potential candidates for election to the Executive Committee of the EDGG. Please note that it is also permitted, and even encouraged, to submit self-nominations. Nominations should include a short biosketch of 100-150 words, including current affiliations/positions, research activities and relevant interests, any previous activities in the EDGG, as well as plans/visions on what you would like to do if elected (responsibilities, new EDGG activities). The nomination should also include the consent of the candidate to take up the post if elected and preferably also include a recent photograph. For comparison, you can refer to the biosketches of the current chairs on our web page: [http://www.edgg.org/about\\_us.htm](http://www.edgg.org/about_us.htm). Please send the material to the Secretary General ([stephen.venn@helsinki.fi](mailto:stephen.venn@helsinki.fi)) Stephen Venn, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, P.O. Box. 65 (Viikinkaari 2a), 00014 University of Helsinki, FINLAND, fax +358 (0)9 19158462) before the deadline of 12th April.

**The election period will extend for four weeks, from 15th April-13th May 2013, and the results will be announced at the General Assembly of the EDGG, to be held in Zamość, Poland on 28th May 2013.** Elected candidates will be informed immediately after the closure of the election, to permit arrangements for them to participate in the GA. The election will be conducted by means of an electronic ballot. The link to the ballot form and information on how to participate will be provided via the EDGG web site at <http://www.edgg.org/>.

The procedure for the elections is described by our Bylaws. Please note that the term of duty of the EC will commence immediately after the election and continue until the General Assembly at our conference in 2015.

*The Executive Committee of the EDGG*



# News from our members

*With this new section we offer to those EDGG members who recently finished a BSc., MSc., PhD or Habilitation thesis on a dry grassland-related topic the option to announce this fact together with short indication of (research) interests and, if you like, future plans. If you belong to this group, please send the information together with a photo to monika.janisova@gmail.com.*



**Kiril Vassilev** received his PhD.

On 7 March 2013, Kiril Vassilev, received his PhD for his thesis on “Grassland vegetation on calcareous terrains west of Sofia”. Kiril has been a very active EDGG member for many years, and has attended many of our events and co-organised the 3rd EDGG Research Expedition 2011 in Bulgaria. Congratulations from the EDGG Executive Committee!

Kiril’s interests: I am interested in investigation of grassland vegetation on the Balkans and would like to cooperate with other phytocoenologists from the region. In recent months, I have been leading a team of more than 20 scientists interested in dry grasslands on the Balkans. The result of this work will be a review of this vegetation type on the Balkan Peninsula.

Contact:

Kiril Vassilev

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research

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<http://phytoecology.biodiversity.bg/en/index.php>



**Anna Kuzemko** is now Dr. habil.

Following her defence on 21 May 2012, Anna Kuzemko on 1 March 2013 finally received her Habilitation degree and is now “Doctor of Biological Sciences”. The title of her thesis is “Meadow vegetation of the Forest and Forest-Steppe zones of the plain part of Ukraine: structure and anthropogenic transformation”. Anna has been a very active EDGG member for many year, attending many of our events and organised both the 2nd EDGG Research Expedition 2010 in Central Podilia and the 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting 2011 in Uman’, Ukraine. Congratulations from the EDGG Executive Committee!

Anna’s interests: the application of modern statistical methods and software for the study of the structure and function of plant communities, including dry grasslands; participation in the project on classification of vegetation, the creation of international databases, the study of fundamental problems of phytosociology, protection of vegetation and rare plants in situ and ex situ.

Contact:

Anna Kuzemko, PhD

scientific Secretary

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# Forum

*The Forum section offers the possibility to our members to post small requests or initiate discussions that might be interesting to other members as well.*

## **SIGNAL – European gradients of resilience in the face of climate extremes**

The new BiodivERsA project “SIGNAL”, initiated and coordinated by EDGG member Prof. Dr. Anke Jentsch, University of Bayreuth, just started on 1 March 2013. This international research project analyses how climate change, land-use change and biotic invasions influence biodiversity and ecosystem services of European grasslands and how, vice versa, various components of biodiversity (species diversity, intraspecific diversity, functional diversity) might make these grasslands resilient against such pressures. The project funded by the ERA-Net and running for the next three years involves partners (including many EDGG members) from nine countries along a climatic gradient (Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, Israel). The questions are addressed in standardised field experiments in typical semi-natural grasslands of all

countries and in a subsequent mesocosm experiment, which will also involve most of the partners. These data then will be combined with literature review, meta-analyses of other experiments, evaluation of vegetation-plot databases and GIS techniques to extrapolate the findings to the semi-natural grasslands of Europe. Involvement of stakeholders, i.e. informing farmers, conservation NGOs, conservation administrations and policy makers about the implications of the findings will play a key role too, and here cooperation with EDGG and its members is highly welcome. The kick-off Workshop of SIGNAL took place in mid-March in the Rabenstein Castle in the Franconian Jura, Bavaria, Germany, with a visit of the research sites of the University of Bayreuth. While a late winter spell delayed the arrival of many of the foreign participants, the workshop then was very productive and the partners are now ready to install their experiments, some of which will start soon.

Homepage: <http://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/signal/index.php?lang=en>

*Jürgen Dengler ([juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de))*



# Recent publications of our members

With this section, the contents of which will also be made available via our homepage, we want to facilitate an overview of **dry grassland-related publications** throughout Europe and to improve their accessibility. You are invited to send lists of such papers from the last three years following the style below to [monika.janisova@gmail.com](mailto:monika.janisova@gmail.com) and [rusina@lu.lv](mailto:rusina@lu.lv). We will include your e-mail address so that readers can request a pdf. For authors who own full copy-right, we can also post a pdf on the EDGG homepage. As we plan to publish a book about the European dry grasslands at some point in the future, under the auspices of the EDGG, we would appreciate if you could send a pdf (or offprint) of each of your dry grassland publications to [juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:juergen.dengler@uni-bayreuth.de).

Bruchmann, I., Hobohm, C. (2010): Halting the loss of biodiversity: Endemic vascular plants in grasslands of Europe. *Grassl. Sci. Eur.* 15: 776–778.

Bruchmann, I., Hobohm, C. (2011): Des plantes endémiques dans les milieux prairiaux d'Europe. *Fourages* 208: 253–259.

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*Pulsatilla grandis* (left) and *Adonis vernalis* (right) in the Zádielská tiesňava Valley, Slovakia. Photo: M. Janišová



# Forthcoming events

## 22nd Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey

9–11 April 2013, Rome, Italy

[http://www.scienzadellavegetazione.it/22th\\_workshopEVS2013/](http://www.scienzadellavegetazione.it/22th_workshopEVS2013/)

Deadline for abstracts: 31 December 2012

## Mountain hay meadows – economic, social and environmental value

23–24 May 2013, Romania

Contact: [barbara.knowles@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbara.knowles@yahoo.co.uk)

<http://www.mountainhaymeadows.eu/conference.php>

## 10th European Dry Grassland Meeting (EDGM)

*When theory meets practice: conservation and restoration of grasslands*

24–31 May 2013, Zamość, Poland

Registration is open at [http://www.edgg.org/edgg\\_meeting\\_2013.html](http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting_2013.html)

## Jahrestagung der Floristisch-soziologischen Arbeitsgemeinschaft (FlorSoz)

14–17 June 2013, Freiburg (Breisg.), Germany

<http://www.tuexenia.de/>

## 56th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)

*Vegetation patterns and their underlying processes*

26–30 June 2013, Tartu, Estonia

<http://iavs2013.ut.ee/>

Deadline for abstracts: 15 March 2013

## 6th EDGG Research Expedition to the Altai Mts.

21 July - 1 August 2013, Republic of Khakasia in

south-central Siberia, Russian Federation

Coordinators: Nikolai Ermakov ([brunnera@mail.ru](mailto:brunnera@mail.ru))

and Jürgen Dengler ([juergen.dengler@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:juergen.dengler@uni-hamburg.de))

## 11th INTECOL Congress (and 100th anniversary of the British Ecological Society, BES)

*Into the next 100 years – Advancing ecology and making it count*

18–23 August 2013, London, United Kingdom

<http://www.intecol2013.org/>

## 22nd International Grassland Congress

*Revitalising grasslands to sustain our communities*

15–19 September 2013, Sydney, Australia

<http://www.igc2013.com/pages/registration.php>

## Open Landscapes 2013

*Ecology, Management and Nature Conservation*

29 September - 3 October, Hildesheim, Germany

Contact: Jasmin Mantilla Contreras:

[mantilla@open-landscapes2013.de](mailto:mantilla@open-landscapes2013.de)

Online registration and abstract submission is open!



*Asphodelus albus* and *Paeonia officinalis* in pastures of Vremščica, Slovenia. Photo: M. Janišová



*Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Eurasian Bullfinch). Photo: J. Dengler

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