

FRIEDRICH EHRENDORFER – on the occasion of his 70th birthday



This volume of *Plant Systematics and Evolution* is dedicated to emer. o. Univ.-Prof. Dr FRIEDRICH EHRENDORFER, who will celebrate his 70th birthday on July 26th, 1997. It comprises a series of original articles by renowned botanists, who have been in collaboration and thus familiar with FRIEDRICH (“FRITZ”) EHRENDORFER for a long time, some of them even for decades. This series of articles should cover main activities in various fields of systematic botany, reflecting EHRENDORFER’s manifold interests in our – as has been frequently quoted by him – “scientia amabilis”: starting with contributions on classical botanical systematics, this issue contains also topics on applied aspects such as flower and pollen morphology or pollination biology, followed by more recently developed methods in systematics (cladistics, karyology,

ecophysiology, chemosystematics and allozyme techniques), to be finally concluded with the stimulating molecular systematics as the newest technique to date.

Professor EHRENDORFER has published many and significant scientific contributions to systematic botany, extending over more than four decades – nearly half a century. He has always been keen to apply the most modern methods within systematic botany. It was and is a fascinating experience to see and to realize that and how FRIEDRICH EHRENDORFER – if once inflamed and convinced by a new, promising method – mentally assimilates a new, often highly sophisticated method both in a short time and to a high degree. Even more significant is his ability to persuade friends, collaborators or students to adopt this new technique and to make fruitful use of it. The results of such a mutualism in research can be seen in his literature list and in the theses he had supervised.

With this issue, the authors of the present contributions, the staff of the Institute of Botany and the Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna, Springer Verlag

Wien, all colleagues and collaborators, and the editors of this volume, wish to express their appreciation for Professor EHRENDORFER's manifold and highly distinguished contributions to systematic botany (a more detailed survey in this respect is given by M. A. FISCHER in this volume).

Apart from his exceptional importance as a scientist, we should not forget his long-term and highly successful activities as an academic teacher, as co-author (for five editions) of the famous Strasburger's *Lehrbuch der Botanik für Hochschulen*, as Managing Editor of the international journal *Plant Systematics and Evolution*, as Director of our Botanical Garden (for exactly a quarter of a century) and – especially – as Head of our Institute of Botany (for two decades). During this period he managed to prevail upon the authorities to accept his plan for a complete reconstruction and enlargement of the institute building which could not any more fulfill the requirements of a modern scientific research institute. Altogether, the work of his life up to the present sets an enormous standard and will give incentives to future generations of botanists.

On behalf of the community of researchers in the wide field of botany and on behalf of all colleagues and friends we wish emer. o. Prof. FRIEDRICH EHRENDORFER many more years of good health and much success and satisfaction in his present and future research activities.

The Editors

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