This year, for a whole week in September, Rijeka was the centre of botany of the Balkans. Natural History Museum Rijeka, Croatian Botanical Society and Botanical Society of Slovenia, together with University of Rijeka, organized a central gathering of the botanists researching the diversity of plant life of the Balkan Peninsula.

The Congress brought together around 200 participants from 19 European countries, presenting and discussing recent progress on various botanical topics. The Congress Book of Abstracts, available at the www.prirodoslovni.com/6bbc website, comprises over 200 presentations by more than 500 scientists, covering the areas of plant anatomy and morphology, taxonomy, floristics, alien and invasive plants researches, phylogeography and phylogeny, conservation issues, vegetation and
ecology, traditional uses of plants and ethnobotanical studies, historical and archaebotanical researches and other botanical disciplines, all contributing to better understanding of beautiful, vibrant, rich and mysterious plant life of the Balkans.

During five work days of the Congress, the participants had a pleasure to attend four invited lectures, 50 oral and 160 poster presentations as well as two round tables. Botanists had the opportunity to join two mid-congress expert guided excursions to the Northern Velebit National park and the island of Krk (Croatia), as well as the post-congress excursion to the Mt Snežnik (Slovenia).

The Congress provided an excellent opportunity to hear and discuss the latest research results, to share experiences and to develop new and strengthen the existing contacts between colleagues from different countries.

Željka Modrić Surina, President of the Organizing Committee