

VIJESTI

Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the journal *Acta Botanica Croatica* (1925–2025)

NENAD JASPRICA^{1*}, MIRTA TKALEC², ZRINKA LJUBEŠIĆ²

¹ University of Dubrovnik, Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, Kneza Damjana Jude 12, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia

² University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology, Horvatovac 102a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

***Autor za dopisivanje / corresponding author:** nenad.jasprica@unidu.hr

A brief history of *Acta Botanica Croatica*

The journal *Acta Botanica Croatica* (which operated under the name *Acta Botanica instituti botanici regalis universitatis Zagrebensis* from its founding until 1957) was established in 1925 by Professor Vale Vouk. Throughout its century-long journey, the journal has not only chronicled the evolution of botanical science but has also contributed significantly to its advancement. It has played a key role in deepening scientific understanding of the flora of karstic and arid regions, particularly in southern Europe, and has served as an important platform for discussions on emerging topics in plant ecology, taxonomy, physiology, and molecular biology.

By consistently upholding rigorous peer-review standards and embracing technological innovations in scholarly publishing, the journal has remained at the forefront of scientific communication. The success of *Acta Botanica Croatica* is attributed to its authors, reviewers, and – perhaps most importantly – the dedication and expertise of its editors.

An objective, scientifically grounded assessment of the journal's value cannot, of course, be offered by those who create it (the current editors and collaborators), as they are naturally too emotionally invested in it, even though they are most familiar

with the conditions under which the journal is produced. Therefore, such evaluations should be entrusted to those who use the journal, especially to experts who assess its bibliographic, bibliometric, and scientometric value.

Overviews of the journal's development have been published by Ilijanić (1985, 1992), Viličić and Sirotić (2016), and others.

How we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the journal

The plan for celebrating the journal's centenary was adopted at the annual Editorial Board meeting held on 19th November 2024. At that time, an Honorary Committee was established, consisting of Mirko Planinić (Dean of the Faculty of Science), Sandra Radić Brkanac (Head of the Department of Biology), and former Editors-in-Chief Ljudevit Ilijanić, Damir Viličić, and Branka Salopek Sondi. In addition, an Organizing Committee was formed, including Editors-in-Chief Mirta Tkalec and Nenad Jasprica, Sunčica Bosak (Head of the Division of Botany), Mateja Jagić, Sandra Vitko, and Zrinka Ljubešić, who serves as the chair of the committee. The members of the Organizing Committee were tasked with preparing a detailed plan of activities to be carried out in autumn 2025.



Figure 1. The history of the journal *Acta Botanica Croatica* and its editorial work was presented to symposium participants during the Evening Programme of the 8th Croatian Botanical Symposium, held 3–6 September 2025 at the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences, University of Osijek, Osijek (A–C). Editors-in-Chief (from left to right): Nenad Jasprica (2019–2025), Branka Salopek Sondi (2014–2018), Damir Viličić (1998–2013), and Zrinka Ljubešić (from 2025 onwards) (D).

Slika 1. Povijest časopisa *Acta Botanica Croatica* i njegov urednički rad prikazani su sudionicima simpozija tijekom Večernjeg programa 8. Hrvatskog botaničkog simpozija, održanog od 3. do 6. rujna 2025. na Fakultetu agrobiotehničkih znanosti, Sveučilište u Osijeku, Osijek (A–C). Glavni urednici (s lijeva na desno): Nenad Jasprica (2019.–2025.), Branka Salopek Sondi (2014.–2018.), Damir Viličić (1998.–2013.) i Zrinka Ljubešić (od 2025.) (D).

The Editorial Board of *Acta Botanica Croatica* marked the 100th anniversary of the journal's publication through several events held in the autumn of 2025.

Marking the jubilee at the 8th Croatian Botanical Symposium in Osijek

As part of the programme of the 8th Croatian Botanical Symposium, held from 3 to 6 September 2025 in Osijek, the poster presentation Centennial celebration of the journal *Acta Botanica Croatica*

(Tkalec et al. 2025) was featured in the poster section (Fig. 1). Within the Evening Programme, titled Promotion of Croatian scientific journals, Nenad Jasprica delivered a presentation, The 100th anniversary of *Acta Botanica Croatica*, in Croatian.

Central celebration at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

The central celebration of the 100th anniversary of *Acta Botanica Croatica* was held at the Faculty of

Science, University of Zagreb (Horvatovac 102a), on 25 September 2025. The ceremony was preceded by a live broadcast on Croatian National Television (HTV). A filming crew and HTV journalist Krešimir Volarević visited the Faculty of Science and conducted interviews with Nenad Jasprica and former Editor-in-Chief Branka Salopek Sondi.

The celebration consisted of two parts. The first part was ceremonial, while the second included a panel discussion (Fig. 2). Around 60 participants attended the central celebration at the Faculty of Science.



Figure 2. The first part of the central celebration at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, was ceremonial and was led by the Editors-in-Chief, Nenad Jasprica and Mirta Tkalec (A–B). The second part of the programme featured a panel discussion entitled *The role of scientific journals in the development of botany and strategies for enhancing their visibility and influence* (C–D). The panel included active participation of the Editors-in-Chief of European botanical journals, from left to right: Gianmaria Bonari (Italy), Zoltán Botta-Dukát (Hungary), Urban Šilc (Slovenia), Marko Sabovljević (Serbia/Slovakia), and Nenad Jasprica (Croatia). The panel was moderated by Aleksandra Uhernik Đurđek.

Slika 2. Prvi dio središnje proslave na Prirodoslovno-matematičkom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu bio je svečani, a vodili su ga glavni urednici, Nenad Jasprica i Mirta Tkalec (A–B). Drugi dio programa obuhvaćao je panel-raspravu pod nazivom „Uloga znanstvenih časopisa u razvoju botanike i strategije za povećanje njihove vidljivosti i utjecaja“ (C–D). U panelu su aktivno sudjelovali glavni urednici europskih botaničkih časopisa, s lijeva na desno: Gianmaria Bonari (Italija), Zoltán Botta-Dukát (Mađarska), Urban Šilc (Slovenija), Marko Sabovljević (Srbija/Slovačka) i Nenad Jasprica (Hrvatska). Panel je moderirala Aleksandra Uhernik Đurđek.

The programme was led by the Editors-in-Chief, Nenad Jasprica and Mirta Tkalec. Nenad Jasprica welcomed all attendees, with special greetings extended to the invited guests: the Head of the Department of Biology of the Faculty of Science – Sandra Radić Brkanac; the Dean of the Faculty of Science – Ivančica Ternjej; the Vice-Rector for Innovation, Technology Transfer and Cooperation

with Economic Sector – Tomislav Josip Mlinarić; representatives of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZU), Academicians Mirko Orlić, Goran Durn, and Nikola Ljubešić; as well as Amalija Babić, Head of the Department for the Scientific System and Technological Development at the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Republic of Croatia (Fig. 3).



Figure 3. The hosts of the ceremony, Head of the Department of Biology Sandra Radić Brkanac (A) and Dean of the Faculty of Science Ivančica Ternjej (B), addressed the audience. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to three institutions: the University of Zagreb, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZU), and the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Republic of Croatia. On behalf of these institutions, acknowledgements were given by Vice-Rector of the University of Zagreb, Tomislav Josip Mlinarić (C), Academician Mirko Orlić (D), and Head of the Department for the Scientific System and Technological Development at the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, Amalija Babić (E). Former Editor-in-Chief Branka Salopek Sondi expressed her thanks on behalf of all the awardees – the Editors-in-Chief and members of the Editorial Board (F).

Slika 3. Domaćini svečanosti, pročelnica Biološkog odsjeka Sandra Radić Brkanac (A) i dekanica Prirodoslovno-matematičkog fakulteta Ivančica Ternjej (B), obratili su se publici. Zahvalnice su dodijeljene trima institucijama: Sveučilištu u Zagrebu, Hrvatskoj akademiji znanosti i umjetnosti (HAZU) te Ministarstvu znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih Republike Hrvatske. U ime tih institucija, priznanja su uručili prorektor Sveučilišta u Zagrebu Tomislav Josip Mlinarić (C), akademik Mirko Orlić (D) i voditeljica Sektora za znanstveni sustav i tehnološki razvoj pri Ministarstvu znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih, Amalija Babić (E). Bivša glavna urednica Branka Salopek Sondi zahvalila se u ime svih dobitnika priznanja – glavnih urednika i članova Uredničkog odbora (F).

Afterwards, the hosts of the ceremony, Sandra Radić Brkanac and Dean Ivančica Ternjej, addressed the audience. This was followed by a short presentation held by Nenad Jasprica on the history of the journal and its role in the development of botanical science, both nationally and globally.

On this occasion, *Acta Botanica Croatica* 84(2) 2025 was presented, specially prepared as a jubilee issue (Fig. 4). Across 168 pages, the issue contains four review articles, eight research articles, and two short communications. It opens with a Foreword by the Editors-in-Chief (Jasprica & Tkalec 2025).

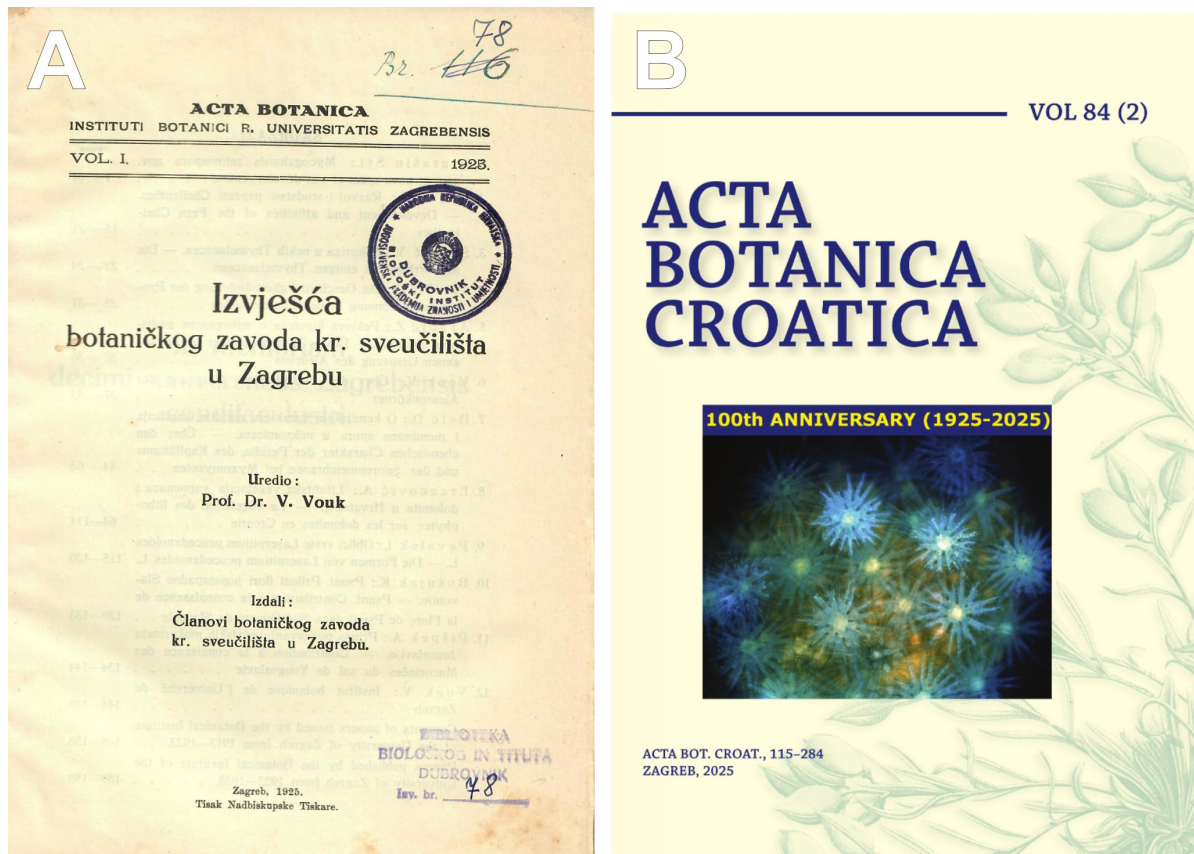


Figure 4. The first volume of *Acta Botanica Croatica* from 1925 (A), and for this occasion, a specially prepared jubilee issue 84(2) 2025 of the journal was presented during the central ceremony (B).

Slika 4. Prvi svezak časopisa *Acta Botanica Croatica* iz 1925. (A), a povodom ove prigode tijekom središnje svečanosti predstavljen je posebno pripremljeni jubilejski broj 84(2) 2025. časopisa (B).

At their annual meeting on 19 November 2024, the members of the Editorial and Advisory Boards of the journal decided that, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary, certificates of appreciation would be awarded to distinguished individuals, institutions, and organisations.

Certificates of Appreciation for valuable contributions to the work of the Editorial Board and to the development of scientific publishing in the field of

botany were awarded to former Editors-in-Chief: Ljudevit Ilijanić, Damir Viličić, Branka Salopek, and Nenad Jasprica. The certificate for Ljudevit Ilijanić was accepted by his son-in-law, Stanko Uršić. Furthermore, for their valuable contribution to the editorial work and to the development of botanical scholarly publishing, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to members of the Editorial Board, recognising their dedication,

commitment, and time devoted to editorial duties. The recipients were former Technical Editors-in-Chief Mirta Tkalec and Nataša Bauer, current Technical Editor-in-Chief Petra Peharec Štefanić, Quality Assurance Editor Željka Vidaković-Cifrek, and long-standing language editor Graham McMaster. Former Editor-in-Chief Branka Salopek addressed the audience and expressed thanks on behalf of all the awardees (Fig. 3).

For their significant contribution to scientific publishing in the field of botany, Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to the companies Denona (Zagreb) and Laser Plus (Zagreb).

Finally, special appreciation was extended to three institutions that have provided financial and overall continuous support, ensuring both the quality and continuity of the journal's publication: the University of Zagreb, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZU), and the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Republic of Croatia. The awards were accepted on behalf of these institutions, followed by short addresses from Vice-Rector of the University of Zagreb, Tomislav Josip Mlinarić, Academician Mirko Orlić, and Head of the Department for the Scientific System and Technological Development at the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, Amalija Babić (Fig. 3).

The second part of the ceremony consisted of a panel discussion entitled *The role of scientific journals in the development of botany and strategies for enhancing their visibility and influence*. The panel featured active participation of the Editors-in-Chief of the following journals: Zoltán Botta-Dukát (*Acta Botanica Hungarica*, Hungary), Gianmaria Bonari (*Vegetation Ecology and Diversity*, Italy), Urban Šilc (*Hacquetia*, Slovenia), Marko Sabovljević (*Comprehensive Plant Biology*, Serbia), and Nenad Jasprica (*Acta Botanica Croatica*, Croatia). The panel was moderated by Aleksandra Uhernik Đurđek, certified incentive specialist (CIS) and certified Croatian meetings and events professional

(CCMEP). The idea behind the panel was straightforward: to share experiences from editorial practice, to compare the challenges we all face, and to consider ways to increase the visibility and impact of our journals in the future. In addition to discussing common issues faced by journals and their editorial boards (e.g., visibility and citations, the importance of the impact factor in editorial work, etc.), the panel highlighted major challenges – reviewer delays, manuscript quality, and competition from large publishers – as well as possible solutions: special issues, stronger collaboration, and preserving a clear identity for each journal.

After the successful conclusion of the panel discussion, a reception for all participants was held in the faculty atrium.

Presentation of the journal at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Division of Botany (Department of Biology) of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

Editor-in-Chief Mirta Tkalec briefly presented the history and the centennial celebration of the journal during the ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the Division of Botany, Department of Biology, of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, held on 24 October 2025 in the Exhibition Pavilion of the Botanical Garden in Zagreb (Fig. 5).

Round table at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the scientific journal *Acta Botanica Croatica*, the Department for Natural Sciences and the Department for Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZU), together with the Faculty of Science of the University of Zagreb, organized a round table on scientific publishing in the Republic of Croatia, entitled *The importance of Croatian national scientific journals and their evaluation within national criteria* (Fig. 6).



Figure 5. During the ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the Division of Botany at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb (A), Editor-in-Chief Mirta Tkalec delivered a brief presentation on the history and centennial celebration of *Acta Botanica Croatica* (B).

Slika 5. Tijekom svečanosti obilježavanja 150. obljetnice Zavoda za botaniku Biološkog odsjeka, Prirodoslovno-matematičkog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu (A), glavna urednica Mirta Tkalec održala je kratku prezentaciju o povijesti i stogodišnjoj proslavi časopisa *Acta Botanica Croatica* (B).

The round table, held on 6 November 2025 at the premises of HAZU, was initiated and coordinated by Zrinka Ljubešić and opened with several short presentations delivered by Mirko Orlić, Ana Marušić, Zvezdana Bencetić Klaić, Ivana Matijević, Hrvoje Buljan, and Damir Viličić. These presentations addressed key topics in scholarly publishing – from publication models, ethical challenges, and national scientific promotion criteria to bibliometric analyses of the productivity of Croatian authors and the strengthening of national scientific journals in the early 21st century. Collectively, they provided an overview of the situation, challenges, and trends

in Croatian scientific output and publishing during the period from 2014 to 2023.

Following the discussion, HAZU adopted a set of conclusions (available in Croatian at <https://www.info.hazu.hr/2025/11/zakljucci-okruglog-stola-vaznost-hrvatskih-nacionalnih-znanstvenih-casopisa-i-njihovo-vrednovanje-unutar-nacionalnih-uvjeta/>), the implementation of which would strengthen the independence and stability of national journals and increase their visibility and recognition within the international scientific community.



Figure 6. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the scientific journal *Acta Botanica Croatica*, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, organized a round table on scientific publishing in the Republic of Croatia, entitled *The importance of Croatian national scientific journals and their evaluation within national criteria* (A). Chairs and moderators of the round table, from left to right: Zrinka Ljubešić, Ivančica Ternjej, Goran Durn, and Vida Demarin, with the lecturer Mirko Orlić standing (B).

Slika 6. Povodom 100. obljetnice znanstvenog časopisa *Acta Botanica Croatica*, Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti te Prirodoslovno-matematički fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu organizirali su okrugli stol o znanstvenom publiciranju u Republici Hrvatskoj pod nazivom “Važnost hrvatskih nacionalnih znanstvenih časopisa i njihovo vrednovanje unutar nacionalnih uvjeta” (A). Predsjednici i moderatori okruglog stola, s lijeva na desno: Zrinka Ljubešić, Ivančica Ternjej, Goran Durn i Vida Demarin, dok stoji predavač Mirko Orlić (B).

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