



Advances in Plant Taxonomy and Systematics

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Lorenzo Peruzzi

Department of Biology, University
of Pisa, Via Derna 1, 56126 Pisa,
Italy

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Message from the Guest Editor

As a consequence of increasing systematic knowledge, the scientific names of plants often change. While since about 15 years ago family-level circumscriptions became stable, species are often recombined under different genera or synonymized with others. This is perceived by taxonomy users, either in the scientific community or in wider society, as a relevant and often not understood problem. In general, and still today, it is much easier to describe a new species than to definitely prove that it is not worthy of recognition on systematic grounds. This is resulting in worldwide taxonomic inflation, which is also causing inconsistencies in conservation biology. This problem could be superseded only by adopting extreme caution before describing new taxa and, above all, by adopting integrated approaches to taxonomy. Finally, another topic which is becoming more and more important, related to floristics, concerns the free availability of verified and reliable primary biodiversity data.

We propose in this Special Issue to highlight the state of the art of current taxonomic and systematic research as well as its fundamental contribution to plant science and biology in general.





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Biology Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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