

## 12<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on Pyrenean and Cantabrian Botany in Girona (Catalonia, Spain)

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On 3, 4 and 5 July 2019, the 12<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on Pyrenean and Cantabrian Botany was held in Girona, at the Cultural Centre of the Provincial Council of Girona (Catalonia, Spain). This cross-border scientific meeting gathered together 52 experts in different botany-related disciplines: floristic studies, taxonomy (plants, lichens and fungi), geobotany, plant ecology, bioinformatics, climate change, ecosystem services, conservation, environmental management, outreach and citizen science, and so on.

The LAGP-Flora and Vegetation research group at the University of Girona's Environment Institute (IMA) organized this congress for the first time in Girona. During the inauguration ceremony presided over by Lluís Vilar Sais (chairman of the organizing and scientific committees) and Carolina Martí Llambrich (IMA director), the importance of the meeting for the city and the university was stressed, as it offered an opportunity to consolidate and create new links within the cross-border space of the Pyrenees.

The colloquium included a keynote address by Albert Pèlach and Marc Sánchez, entitled "El papel de la geografía histórica ambiental en la conservación del paisaje de la alta montaña. Algunos ejemplos del Pirineo y de Cantabria" (The role of environmental historical geography in the conservation of high mountain landscapes. Examples from the Pyrenees and Cantabria), and 31 talks and posters were presented on Wednesday and Friday (Figure 1). On Wednesday evening, the

colloquium was complemented with a guided historical and cultural visit to the city of Girona.

On Thursday, a botanical fieldtrip to the eastern Catalan Pyrenees was laid on (Figure 2). The outing took in the headwaters of La Muga river, in the border counties of Alt Empordà and Alt Vallespir. The area visited was the north-easternmost part of the Pyrenean range, where the axial Pyrenees are just a few kilometres from the coast, right in the area of transition from Mediterranean to mountainous landscapes. Several plant communities were observed in the course of the trip, which are outlined in the outing guide (Vilar et al. 2020) published in the Colloquium Minutes (Bou & Vilar 2020). The trip was rounded off with sightseeing and a cultural visit to the village of Arles (Vallespir), taking in the historical centre and Santa Maria Abbey.

The organizers would like to thank the scientific committee comprising Lluís Vilar Sais (University of Girona), Josep Vigo i Bonada (University of Barcelona), Llorenç Sáez Gonyalons (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Josep M. Ninot Sugrañes (University of Barcelona), Carme Casas Arcarons (University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia), and Joan Pedrol Solanes (University of Lleida) for all their hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the meeting for their enthusiastic participation, and we hope that our scientific meeting proved fruitful. Thank you very much for coming!

### Bibliography from the Colloquium

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Figure 1. Images from the colloquium (a) during the keynote address by Albert Pèlachs and Marc Sànchez, and (b) of a talk. Photograph: J. Bou.



Figure 2. Participants on the botanical fieldtrip to the eastern Catalan Pyrenees: (a) fields of Costoja, Vallespir, (b-c) Puig del Casso, Albanyà, Alt Empordà. Photographs: a, E. Carrillo; b-c, X. Font.