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*Prof. Almo Farina,
Department of Basic Sciences and Foundations
The University of Urbino,
Campus Scientifico - Sogesta, 61029 Urbino, Italy
e-mail: almo.farina@uniurb.it
Tel +39-0722-304301
Fax +39-0722-304275*

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CONTENTS

INDEX

Anthropogenic influences on the condition of *Pinus pinea* L. and *Quercus robur* L. in Pineta san Vitale (Ravenna, Italy) pag. 5-12
Britta Uhl, Mirko Wölfling

Predatory mites *Neoseiulus californicus* and *Phytoseiulus persimilis* chose plants with domatia pag. 13-20
Cécile Bresch, Gauthier Ruiz, Christine Poncet and Pia Parolin

. . .

Special Issue: Understanding Mediterranean Landscapes

Guest editor: Hakan Alphan

Editorial: Hakan Alphan

Application of landscape and soundscape ecology to the Mediterranean region pag. 21-27
Almo Farina

Assessing the ecological integrity of landscapes in Cyprus pag. 29-35
I.N. Vogiatzakis, P. Manolaki, M. Zomeni, V. Trigkas, A. Papatheodoulou, O. Christou, K. Michael and M. Victora

Aviatorilor Boulevard - Qualitative Tree Assessment pag. 37-45
Diana Lavinia Culescu, Claudia Fabian and Dorel Hoza

Decision-Support tools for assessing land degradation and realising sustainable land management, Study Case of El Mkhachbiya Catchment, Northwest of Tunisia pag. 47-56
Donia Jendoubi, Ahlem Gara, Gudrun Schwilch, Hanspeter Liniger, Hans Hurni, Mohamed Ouessar, Mohamed Moussa and Hedi Hamrouni

Ecology of the Past - Late Bronze and Iron Age Landscapes, People and Climate Change in Philistia (the Southern Coastal Plain and Shephelah), Israel pag. 57-75
Linda Olsvig-Whittaker, Aren M. Maeir, Ehud Weiss, Suembikya Frumin, Oren Ackermann and Liora Kolska Horwitz

Fragmentation and Connectivity Assessment in Mediterranean Coastal Landscapes: The Cases of Urla and Seferihisar IZMIR pag. 77-84
Çigdem Coskun Hepcan and Serif Hepcan

*Front: Typical Mediterranean Vegetation. Fire pine, (*Pinus brutia*) forest and high Macchia. Taşucu town and its surroundings (Turkey).*

Back: Built-up features (residential buildings, industries and port facilities) exist in a complex mosaic with other natural (wetlands) and cultural cover types (agricultural fields).

EDITORIAL

Mediterranean ecosystems are spatially diverse and temporally dynamic systems that are subject to excessive human interference. Diversity of the Mediterranean landscapes lead to complex landscape management issues that decision makers should deal with. It also attracts scientists to use new tools and employ new techniques to understand these landscapes. For these and many other reasons Landscape Research Society (PAD) in Turkey decided to hold a Landscape Ecology Congress with a main topic “Understanding Mediterranean Landscapes: Human vs. Nature”. The Congress took place in Antalya, Turkey, in October 2014 with 85 participants from all over the Mediterranean basin. Few contributions from outside the Mediterranean basin were also present during the event. IALE, IALE Europe and Society for Conservation Biology supported the event.

In response to call for papers, we received over 90 submissions from 17 countries. 62 papers were accepted and they were presented during the Congress. During the post-congress period scientific committee selected 8 papers for possible publication in JME. Finally, 6 papers were selected for publication in this special issue. Cases from Turkey, Italy, Tunisia Israel, Cyprus, and Romania were selected to represent a wider geographical coverage and diversity.

Many colleagues contributed to the success of this issue. I take this opportunity to thank all authors for their submissions. I am indebted to reviewers for their valuable time and effort to review papers in a timely fashion. Last, but not least, I am also indebted to Professor Almo Farina for providing this opportunity.

Prof. Dr. Hakan Alphan
Çukurova Üniversitesi Peyzaj Mimarlığı Bölümü
Department of Landscape Architecture
01330, Balcali, Adana, Türkiye

