

Preface

Ecological research is gaining more and more importance in the twenty-first century. The demand for existing, integrated knowledge is also increasing so that results could be utilised by the European Union and other organisations, like the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) convened by UNEP. It is mainly the result of many years of preparation by the Institute of Ecology and Botany of HAS that the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy convention became part of the official expert's meetings of the Hungarian EU presidency.

The Institute of Ecology and Botany (IEB HAS) as one of the leading institutions of ecological research concerning the Pannonian Biogeographical Region, started to improve its research profile in 2011. In order to strengthen the Danube research, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences appointed a former department of IEB HAS into an independent Danube Research Institute. The remaining institution with a mainly plant ecological profile pursued a development strategy of four directions. These are the following:

- functional ecological research based on experiments and modelling ;
- study of ecosystem services in the Pannonian Biogeographical Region; study of ecological impacts of climate change;
- linking supra- and infra-individual research through the development of plant chemical and soil microbiological laboratory;
- organisation of existing ecological data into a knowledge base accessible for the international e-infrastructure.

The goal of publishing these current selection of our results is to demonstrate the latest research topics of IEB HAS for a broader professional and interested audience. In this third booklet of our series mainly (but not exclusively) the results of our young scientists, PhD students or postdocs are included. The booklet series serves environmental education and awareness raising by publishing scientific papers in a more comprehensive and short language.

We hope that this booklet facilitates the dissemination of knowledge on the research and development directions of IEB HAS for the participants of the European Platform of Biodiversity Research Strategy conference and other interested stakeholders in order to improve the understanding of the ecological background of sustainable ecosystems services.

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dr. Katalin Mázsa, editor

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Organisation structure of IEB HAS and connections between divisions, including the main databases:

