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Foreword

With the 16th IPE a long tradition of international field trips continued. The concept of the IPE (Internationale Pflanzengeographische Exkursionen - International Phytogeographical Excursions) was founded in 1908 by A.G. Tansley, Oxford, and E. Rübél, Zürich.

The original idea of the excursions was to bring many specialists in vegetation science from all countries together, to give them an opportunity to visit one particular region, investigate there their specific specialities, and compare vegetation or vegetation properties with those in their home country.

The impact of these endeavours for the development of vegetation science in Europe was enormous. While in the decades before information of interesting aspects of the vegetation in foreign countries was available through descriptions from single investigators, these same facts were now demonstrated in nature to groups of scientists which critically studied the material afterwards and often found interesting relations or explanations for anomalies, rare species occurrence, peculiar life forms, etc.

On several occasions the IPE was conducted with the intent to support and/or stimulate regional research in vegetation science. At the beginning of this century it must, indeed, have had a great impact on any academic community when a large group of experts arrived by train or ship to study the native vegetation jointly with the resident students and scientists.

In most cases the excursions were followed by a published report. This in itself was a stimulating activity.

The following lists compile the international phytogeographic excursions and the respective publications. The first two excursions have been organized by Prof. A.G. Tansley, the following ones through the Geobotanical Institute Rübél in Zürich which is now part of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETH).

No.	Year	Country of region visited	Organizer
1.	1911 1.8.- 6.9.	England, Scotland, Eire	A.G. Tansley
2.	1913	USA: New York-Chicago-San Francisco-Tucson-New York	H.C. Cowles, F.E. Clement
3.	1923 18.7.-13.8.	Alps of Switzerland	H. Brockmann, E. Rübél, C. Schröter
4.	1925 2.7.-24.8.	Scandinavia: Sweden and Norway	E. Du Rietz
5.	1928 2.7.- 9.8.	Czechoslovakia, Poland	K. Domin, W. Szafer
6.	1931 1.7.-27.7.	Romania	A. Borza
7.	1924 20.7.- 6.8.	Central Italy	G. Negri, R. Corti
8.	1936 30.3.-21.4.	Marocco, Western Algeria	R. Maire, L. Emberger
9.	1949 8.7.-25.7.	Ireland	J. Doyle, R.L. Prager, D.A. Webb
10.	1953 24.6.-23.7.	Spain	S. Rivas Goday, E. Fernandez-Galiano
11.	1956 3.7.- 7.8.	Eastern Alps	A. Chiarugi, R. Corti, H. Gams, H. Wagner, G. Wendelberger
12.	1958 1.7.- 5.8.	Czechoslovakia	J. Dostal, A. Zlatnik, J. Futak, J. Smarda
13.	1961 13.7.- 5.8.	Finland, Northern Norway	A. Kalela, R. Nordhagen
14.	1966 4.7.-28.7.	Western Alps	P. Ozenda, H. Wagner
15.	1971 4.7.-23.7.	Greece	K. Mitrakos, Sp. Dafis, P. Kritopoulos
16.	1978 1.8.-22.8.	SE United States	H. Lieth, R.K. Peet

Publications

- | No. of IPE | Editors |
|------------|---|
| 1. | TANSLEY, A.G., 1913: The International Phytogeographical Excursion in the British Isles. A record and some notes by various phytogeographers who took part in the excursion. From: <i>The New Phytologist</i> 10, 11, 136 pp. |
| 2. | TANSLEY, A.G., 1915: The International Phytogeographic Excursion in America. From: <i>The New Phytologist</i> , 12, 13, 52 pp. Für die Angabe weiterer Publikationen siehe Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübél, Zürich, 1, 16-17. |
| 3. | RÜBEL, E., 1924: Ergebnisse der Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch die Schweizeralpen 1923. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübél, Zürich, 1, 361 pp. |

No. of
IPE Editors

4. RÜBEL, E., 1927: Ergebnisse der Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Schweden und Norwegen 1925. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 4, 259 pp.
5. RÜBEL, E., 1930: Ergebnisse der Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch die Tschechoslowakei und Polen 1928. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 6, 328 S.
6. RÜBEL, E., 1933: Ergebnisse der Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Rumänien 1931. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 10, 192 pp.
7. RÜBEL, E., 1935: Ergebnisse der Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Mittelitalien 1934. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 12, 239 S.
8. RÜBEL, E. und LÜDI, W., 1939: Ergebnisse der Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Marokko und Westalgerien 1936. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 14, 258 pp. (out of print).
9. LÜDI, W., 1952: Die Pflanzenwelt Irlands. (The Flora and Vegetation of Ireland). Ergebnisse der 9. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Irland 1949. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 25, 421 pp. and 1 map.
10. LÜDI, W., 1956: Die Pflanzenwelt Spaniens. Ergebnisse der 10. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Spanien 1953. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 31, 298 pp.
TÜXEN, R. und OBERDORFER, E., 1958: Die Pflanzenwelt Spaniens. Ergebnisse der 10. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Spanien 1953. II. Eurosibirische Phanerogamen-Gesellschaften Spaniens mit Ausblicken auf die Alpine- und die Mediterran-Region dieses Landes. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 32, 328 pp.
11. LÜDI, W., 1959: Ergebnisse der Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch die Ostalpen 1956. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 35, 143 pp.
12. LÜDI, W., 1961: Die Pflanzenwelt der Tschechoslowakei. Ergebnisse der 12. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch die Tschechoslowakei 1958. Veröff. Geobot. Institut Rübel, Zürich, 36, 169 pp.
13. LÜDI, W., 1963: Bericht über die 13. IPE. Ber. Geobot. Inst. ETH, Stiftung Rübel, Zürich, 34, 13-44.
14. OZENDA, P. und LANDOLT, E., 1970: Zur Vegetation und Flora der Westalpen. (Contribution à l'étude phytogéographique des Alpes occidentales). Ergebnisse der 14. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch die Westalpen. Veröff. Geobot. Inst. ETH, Stiftung Rübel, Zürich, 43, 203 pp. and 5 tables.
15. DAFIS, Sp. und LANDOLT, E., 1975: Zur Vegetation und Flora von Griechenland. Ergebnisse der 15. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Griechenland 1971. Veröff. Geobot. Inst. ETH, Stiftung Rübel, Zürich, 55, 237 pp.
DAFIS, Sp. und LANDOLT E., 1976: Zur Vegetation und Flora von Griechenland. Ergebnisse der 15. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Griechenland 1971. Veröff. Geobot. Inst. ETH, Stiftung Rübel, Zürich, 56, 242 pp. and 7 tables.

With the original concept of IPE's in mind the 16th IPE through the SE United States, especially the Carolinas, was organized. The Flora of the Carolinas is well known. Many details and interesting problems uncovered await special studies. These problems may be ecological, phytogeographical, genetical, or morphological. The vegetation history of this region is as interesting as the existence of numerous disjuncts. The richness of tree and moss species of the Smoky Mountain area is unique in the world as well as the morphology of the venus fly trap, *Dionaea muscipula* Ellis.

It was therefore no wonder that many scientists were attracted by the charm of this region. If the political difficulties of the present time and the numerous paralleling events had not kept the number of the participants down, the event might have gone out of hand. Under the prevailing circumstances the group remained at a size where constant discussions among each other and with the local guides were always possible. The stimulation of these discussions can easily be seen in the two volumes comprising the scientific report of the 16th IPE.

For the organizers of the excursion and the editors of the report volumes the project became a gratifying experience. The vegetation of the Carolinas contains such grandesse in general and such outstanding peculiarities in numerous places that this fieldtrip, attempting a cross section through the highlights of the vegetation became an overwhelming experience in itself. Editing the two volumes became something special in so far as several colleagues unexpectedly contributed substantial papers. These facts altogether make the 16th IPE somewhat of a landmark for the development of vegetation science in the Carolinas.

The cooperating colleagues are mentioned either in the list of participants and/or in the travellog or they are represented in one of the two volumes with a paper. Organizers and editors thank all contributors for their effort.

The editors thank also all persons who lent logistic support to the field trip and to this publication. We need to thank especially the UNC extension division, Mr. W. Heriford, executive director and Mr. Bob Wagoner, responsible for the organizational details of the 16th IPE. For financial

contributions to the general expenses we thank the officials of the University of North Carolina, the University of Osnabrück, the Rübél Foundation, and the US Academy of Sciences.

We also thank for their hospitality during the excursion the following persons or groups: Dr. R.K. and Dr. Mary Peet of Durham, N.C., the N.C. Botanical Garden, Dr. R.C. Bell, director of Chapel Hill, N.C., the staff of the Department of Biology, WCU, Cullowhee, N.C., Dr. and Mrs. L. Olive in Highlands, N.C., The Wyerhäuser Co., North Carolina Operations. Their hospitality and the discussions with them are well remembered and several contributions to the two volumes originated during the meetings with them.

We need to thank especially our secretarial staff in Osnabrück and Zürich for the diligent work on publications. In Osnabrück Mrs. Mc Callum, Mrs. O'Rourke, and Mrs. Schnitzler were responsible for editing, typing or retyping manuscripts. In Zürich deserves our special gratitude Mrs. A. Honegger who typed all pages ready for the camera.

Finally we thank all participants for their contributions. We all realize that collective efforts like the 16th IPE are greatly needed to stimulate new research in vegetation science to solve international ecological problems, and to create new friendship across political borders.

Osnabrück and Zürich

August 1979

H. Lieth

E. Landolt