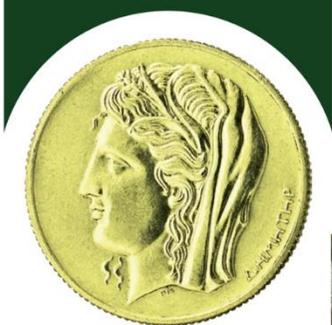


Under the Auspices of H.E.
the President of the Hellenic Republic
Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos

ABSTRACTS



XVI OPTIMA Meeting



Organized by:

OPTIMA (Organization
for the Phyto-Taxonomic
Investigation of the
Mediterranean Area)

Agricultural University
of Athens

2-5 October 2019
Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

Digging botanical history with digital tools: the Thessaloniki Aristotle University Herbarium case

Michalis Choreftakis^{1,3}, Spyros Gkelis², Effie Hanlidou³ & Regina Karousou^{3*}

¹ *Postgraduate Studies Program "Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Exploitation of Native Plants", School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR 541 24 Thessaloniki, Greece.*

² *Department of Botany, School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR 541 24, Thessaloniki, Greece.*

³ *Lab of Systematic Botany & Phytogeography, Department of Botany, School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR 541 24, Thessaloniki, Greece.*

*Corresponding author: karousou@bio.auth.gr

Small Herbaria sometimes hold a significant number of historical specimens, but few of them are digitized and even fewer are organized into a botanical collection software. As a result, the data is confined and not available to the broader scientific community. Thessaloniki Aristotle University (TAU) Herbarium is a relatively small Herbarium (approximately 50,000 specimens mainly from Greece) divided into two sections; modern and historical. In the latter, around 6,000 specimens, from the 19th century up to the first half of the 20th century, are kept. More than half of them belong to the collections of Dimitrios Zaganariis, dating from 1920 to 1940. During a previous work c. 3,000 of these specimens were nomenclatural updated and georeferenced and the data found in their labels were digitized. Moreover, the annotation and imaging of about 80 specimens has been completed. In the frame of the present work the above procedure is continued, targeting to the completion of Zaganariis' collections. However, the value of these specimens triggered the necessity of a collection management software into which their data would be stored and made available to the scientific community. Specify 6 is a biological collection management software that corresponded to that necessity. Thus, the software was adapted to fit the needs of the TAU Herbarium. Each specimen's unique barcode corresponds to an identical catalog number in the collection object sheet. Each specimen is given an accession number so that the duplicata are easily spotted. A field called "Project Name" was added so that specimens belonging to different collections (historical, modern etc.) can be distinguished. Furthermore, the software was adapted to the needs of the Greek flora, e.g. the 13 floristic regions of Greece were incorporated in the Geography tree of the software. The data can be imported into Specify 6 through a spreadsheet file, so a general spreadsheet format was created to accommodate the needs of TAU. This file can be filled up by any scientist that wishes to deposit specimens into the TAU Herbarium facilitating the data import process. So far, about 1,500 of Zaganariis' specimens are in the process of being imported into the Specify 6 software. Upon completion, the data of these specimens will be published into a GBIF-compatible format.