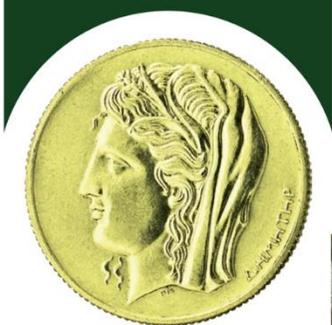


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ABSTRACTS



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## Dimitrios Zaganiaris' botanical collections in the Thessaloniki Aristotle University (TAU) Herbarium

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Dimitrios Zaganiaris (1901-1940) served as Associate Professor of Systematic Botany and Phytogeography in the University of Thessaloniki during the period 1936-1940. He published about nine floristic works during the 30s among which are the "Flora of Mani" and his most memorable work "Herbarium Macedonicum", both awarded by the Academy of Athens. Not much is known about his life, but part of his life story is told by his specimens. Zaganiaris was a keen and tireless collector and it seems that he was the founder of what is known today as the TAU Herbarium. He collected numerous specimens from different areas of Greece and apart from his own collections he also enriched the herbarium with specimens of other herbaria. Unfortunately, many of his specimens were destroyed during the World War II and a great part of the material substantiating his publications was lost. The remnants of his collections are held, to the best of our knowledge, only in TAU, but they were, to-date, largely inaccessible. In light of modern developments in the field of museum collections, we have started to digitise TAU specimens, aiming for the mobilisation and sharing of the collections. To this end, around 3,500 of Zaganiaris' specimens organized into four collection groups were retrieved: (a) "Herbarium D. Zaganiaris" (b) "Herbarium Universitae Thessalonicae" (c) "Herbarium Laconicum" and (d) "D. Zaganiaris. Herbarium Macedonicum". There is also another group of specimens with draft labels having his characteristic signature. The information on the specimens' labels shed light on his botanical travels. Zaganiaris travelled almost all over Greece and his collections cover the floristic regions of North East and North Central Greece, Northern and Southern Pindos, East Central Greece, Sterea Ellas, Peloponnisos, the North and the West Aegean Islands, Kiklades, Kriti and the Ionian Islands. To-date the indexing and cataloguing of his collections is almost completed, while the nomenclature update annotation and imaging are ongoing. By the end of this project, valuable information on the Greek phytodiversity will have been revealed.