

## EDITORIAL

The Bílé Karpaty Mts. [White Carpathians] lying on the border of the Czech Republic and Slovakia has traditionally been known among biologists as a region which has an outstandingly species-rich flora and is particularly famous for large areas of semi-natural grasslands which belong to the most diverse plant communities in Europe. For its great values for nature conservation, the Bílé Karpaty was accorded the status of a Protected Landscape Area in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve within the Man and Biosphere programme. The invertebrate fauna of the region has been, however, largely overlooked (with a few noteworthy exceptions, e.g. butterflies and moths) until quite recently.

This special issue of the journal *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* brings together data gathered in the last 15 years by entomologists from several institutions on the fauna of a number of insect groups, terrestrial and aquatic, in the form of annotated lists of species occurring in the Czech part of the Bílé Karpaty Mts. They clearly show that the invertebrate fauna of the region is remarkably diverse as well. We hope that, in addition to characterising the regional insect fauna and improving knowledge on the distribution of many individual insect species in the Czech Republic and central Europe, this volume will also bring some necessary basic information for the challenging needs of modern nature conservation management to consider the habitats under protection from a wide, biological perspective.

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