

## Foreword

The 27th issue of “Ecological Questions” contains 9 papers. Seven of them concern the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems, two papers relate to aquatic ecosystems. The first paper from the terrestrial group is devoted to the role of soil microbial communities in the important and currently frequently monitored process of mycorrhizal symbiosis, i.e. the dispersal of mycorrhizal vascular plants, including trees. Three other papers are devoted to ecology and economic use of many species of trees. They concern the effect of the horse-chestnut leaf miner and abiotic factors on *Aesculus hippocastanum* in the large urban area of Szczecin – a city located in north-western Poland, changes in the species composition of overstorey and understorey in regenerating forest communities of the manor park in Laskowice in Pomerania as well as over thirty species of trees used by local tribes for dwelling purposes in the Upper Eastern Himalayan region of India.

One of the papers relates to lichens, including mainly epiphytes developing on the bark of trees in Krajeńskie Lakeland, a region which until now has rarely been the area of lichenological research. Based on the analysis of rich lichen biota of this region and data literature, the author presented an interesting proposal for the classification of refugia in which the species of this group of organisms occur.

The two other papers dealing with the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems present spatio-temporal variability of vascular plant species – *Gladiolus imbricatus* in meadow and willow shrub communities near Kraków and the results of the analysis of the degradation stage of the selected fen peatland located in southern Poland. The development stage of this peatland was assessed in accordance with the general model, i.e. classification of peatland degeneration stages described in ecological literature.

The last two papers on aquatic ecosystems present the structure and functioning of benthic fauna in two very different aquatic ecosystems. One of these two papers discusses the structure of mesobenthos in a small oligotrophic acid lake, while the other – the structure of the same animal grouping in the Włocławek Reservoir on one of the largest Polish rivers, i.e. the Vistula.

We hope that the results of the presented research will be a good reference point for many readers when making comparisons in time and space.

Editorial Board