

Foreword

Microorganisms are an important element of every ecosystem. They perform important processes in both natural ecosystems and those created and controlled by man. In the latter, i.e. anthropogenic ecosystems, they perform important processes ensuring a secure life and biotechnological progress of societies. The 28th issue of *Ecological Questions* is devoted to this group of organisms and, more specifically, the ecology of bacteria and fungi and their biotechnological processes.

The new issue of our journal contains 8 papers. One paper is related to aquatic ecosystems and seven papers relate to the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems. The former relates to watercourses in the natural forest landscape – the Białowieża Forest. Three out of the seven papers, based on the observations conducted in terrestrial ecosystems, relate to soil bacteria and substrates used as a fertilizer in their agricultural processes. The other four are related to characteristics and the role of certain types of bacteria in technological processes, mainly those performed during secondary production, processing of animal products, food storage and production of cosmetics.

The first seven articles included in the 28th issue of *Ecological Questions* were prepared by Polish microbiologists, biotechnologists and soil scientists. The last paper is authored by ecologists from India, presenting the results of research on the possibility of converting the biomass of allergenic plants into compost using earthworms.

As always, we hope that the results of the presented research will be a good reference point for many readers in the discussion and in making space and time comparisons.

Editorial Board