Editors’ Award for 2015

Selecting the paper to assign the Editors’ Award is an annual challenge for the Chief Editors of *Applied Vegetation Science*, because of the growing number of high-quality papers and the variety of topics and methodologies. The selection for 2015 was also rather difficult and, at end of a rather long discussion, we decided to select the paper of Černý et al. (2015). This paper is an excellent example of a modern vegetation survey study including a large original database of vegetation plots analysed with up-to-date analytical methods to achieve the first comprehensive typology of the forest plant communities in the whole Korean Peninsula. In addition to a synthetic paper on Taiwan forest vegetation published in *Applied Vegetation Science* recently (Li et al. 2013), this paper represents one of the first examples of such study in East Asia. Being focused on a forest survey, the paper is certainly more descriptive than purely applied, but the synthetic approach and the broad scale represent a good foundation for management or conservation strategies of the forests in the Korean Peninsula. Other papers published in the AVS Special Feature on Temperate forests in continental East Asia also indicate the increase in high-quality vegetation studies in China (Liu et al. 2015).

Others papers entered into the list of ‘finalists’ for the Editors’ Award also deserve to be mentioned for their merits. Among them, the paper of Meyer et al. (2015) is an excellent example of applied vegetation science, providing a quantitative assessment of ecosystem changes. In Europe, agricultural habitats have become an essential part of nature. Much of the biodiversity is supported by traditional agriculture within cultural landscapes, and intensification of agriculture is threatening many species. Meyer et al. (2015) assessed the biodiversity loss in ten agricultural areas in central Germany over the last 50 yrs, in terms of plant community types that were recorded in the 1950s and 1960s but are no longer present. Despite the intrinsic limitations of such studies, such as those connected with the determination of the exact geographic position of historical phytosociological relevés, this article shows the potential of using data from traditional descriptive vegetation science to investigate long-term changes, which would be impossible to detect with other approaches.

Another selected paper was that of Johnson et al. (2015), in which knowledge and methods of present
Present-day science and all human beings are facing new millennial problems, from global change to food production, and most of these problems are directly or indirectly related to natural and semi-natural plant communities. Topics such as survey, management, monitoring and conservation of plant communities are all included in this new emerging set of problems, all of which demand sound and evidence-based solutions. We encourage all vegetation scientists to submit their best papers focused on such topics to *Applied Vegetation Science*.

**References**


