

Dear readers,

starting with the appearance of the first issue of the 34th volume of *Biologia Plantarum*, its traditional scope proposed in 1958 goes to change. We hope that the new political and economical system in Czechoslovakia enables to realise the many-years effort aiming to increase the scientific level and technical quality of this 34-year-old journal covering all branches of experimental botany.

During the coming two years, the new editorial policy should focus the journal's scope on new branches and trends in experimental botany and increase the scientific value and impact of appearing papers. The foundation of a specialised group of the publisher - the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, equipped with recent desk-top publishing systems, and more pages per volume should lead to more rapid appearance of received manuscripts, to a better technical quality and design, to rapid supply of reprints and to other amendments.

The journal will continue to publish, in English, original and review articles from all branches of experimental botany. Simultaneously with the development of experimental botany as a scientific branch also the scope of the journal changes. The number of papers dealing with problems of molecular biology, biotechnology, *etc.* steadily grows. In future, the journal will prefer theoretical papers, and must therefore reject papers aiming to practice. We should apologize to our past authors of such papers that their similar manuscripts have not been accepted. Of course, the manuscripts accepted according to the past scope (those dealing with practical or local problems, written in languages other than English, *etc.*) will be published in this volume. We will also continue to publish book reviews, the number of which is increasing every year due to kindness of many publishing houses which supply us with their new books. To speed up the appearance of the papers, we ask the contributors to read carefully new instructions for preparing the manuscript (*cf.* pp. 175-178 of this issue). Please note that you can speed up publication of your paper by sending us electronic manuscripts (preferably on a diskette with one hardcopy) or, if necessary, by electronic mail.

We hope, dear readers and authors, that our effort to prepare a good journal will find your effective support by sending us good manuscripts as the quality of journal mostly depends on you.

Prague, 10 May 1992.

Dr. Jana Pospíšilová
Executive Editor

Dr. Jiří Čatský
Editor-in-Chief