

## Dedication

This 30th issue of *Bocconea* closes the series published exclusively by the International Foundation *pro Herbario Mediterraneo*, chaired for over 30 years by HRH Prince Amedeo of Savoy, until his passing in 2021.

As Editors-in-Chief of the journal, we feel the duty to dedicate this volume to the memory of Prince Amedeo, and we do so with a grateful heart, in memory of his action in support of the initiatives undertaken by the Foundation for the development of international scientific collaboration in the Mediterranean botanical investigation. Plants and the Island of Pantelleria, his special interests in the Mediterranean, together acted as a glue to increase his passion for Mediterranean flora and to get closer to OPTIMA, earning him the nomination of “Honorary Member” by the Executive Council of the Organization.

Called in 1997 by Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo, to represent the City in the first ordinary Board of Directors of the aforementioned International Foundation – formally recognized by Decree of the Minister of University and Scientific Research of the Italian Government, March 1st 1995 – he was elected president by acclamation, a position renewed for several terms and held uninterruptedly until his premature and unexpected death, which occurred in Arezzo (Tuscany) on June 1st, 2021. During his presidency, the Foundation not only pursued one of its two main institutional tasks – that is to promote the dissemination of botanical acquisitions relating to the flora of the countries of the Mediterranean area, through the publication and distribution of two journals, precisely *Bocconea* and *Flora Mediterranea* – but also the creation in the University of Palermo of a big botanical museum, the *Herbarium Mediterraneum*, a scientific structure at the centre of the Mediterranean Basin, a meeting point for scholars of different nationalities. This project, promoted and supported by OPTIMA, had run aground and the implementation process was relaunched by the Foundation – not by chance *pro Herbario Mediterraneo* – thanks to the purchase of a large part of the old warehouse building adjacent to the Botanical Garden, already partly purchased by the Sicilian Region to then be granted for use by the University of Palermo and to be used as the headquarters of the planned *Herbarium*. The resolution for this purchase, in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic, was adopted in the last meeting of the Board of Directors convened and chaired by Prince Amedeo, who spoke remotely via telematics. The disease that had been undermining his health for some years and for which he was subjected to periodic debilitating therapies, would eventually cause his death when it seemed he could recover from a surgical operation that had forced him to be hospitalized in a clinic in his native Tuscany. In his frail conditions, long journeys and contact with the outside world were not recommended; for this reason he will delegate the Vice President of the Foundation to sign the sales contracts for the property in Via Lincoln in Palermo, for



Prince Amedeo of Savoy during the opening ceremony of the X OPTIMA Meeting (Palermo, 2001).

the purchase of which he gave all his encouragement. It was his last important act of trust also towards the University of Palermo and the botanists of the headquarters.

The dedication of this volume to the dear memory of Amedeo of Savoy – prince of Italian royal blood on his father’s side and Greek on his mother’s side – is intended to be a cause of regret for no longer having him among us and at the same time a living memory as well as an expression of esteem and affection for an illustrious member of the House of Savoy who loved the countries of the Mediterranean, frequenting them, flying over their skies as an amateur and sailing their seas, not only as an Officer of the Italian Navy.

Palermo and Berlin, December 30th 2024

Francesco M. Raimondo & Werner Greuter  
Editors-in-Chief