



"Lost world" in biodiversity studies: focus at the Earth's blank spaces

The 21st century has seen the beginning of a third hundred-year study of flora and vegetation in Northeast Asia. This region contains one of the world's best-preserved ecosystems, the value of which for humankind is not yet fully understood. The previous hundred-year study of flora and vegetation led to accumulation of great amount of data that enable new approaches to big data synthesis and open new opportunities in utilization of accumulated knowledge for the human well-being. Nevertheless, Northeast Asia still has many places, biota of which was never covered by detail researches, and from the viewpoint of global phytogeography these areas remained 'blank spaces'. From another hand, political, cultural and methodological differences have created many disagreements in terms and theories of plant-related disciplines, and this caused the blank spaces in our knowledge. This conference focuses at analysis of reasons why phytogeographical data are still not available in global biodiversity datasets. We will try to understand how to obtain new biodiversity data from such blank spaces, and to what extent new data may transform our current knowledge on biodiversity space and temporal structure and its evolution.

We anticipate that this conference will provide a useful step forward in understanding how more complete global biodiversity databases could help in studies of the formative processes of one of the world's most significant biomes as well as an improved historical perspective of its influence on vegetation formation on different continents.

The purpose of the conference is not only to exchange knowledge but also to find common points in existing and developing theories and logical and information bases for the future study of Northeast Asian flora and vegetation as well as to discuss how the extension of biodiversity studies may improve the human-ecosystem interactions in the region.

We invite you to take part in the international conference **«"Lost world" in biodiversity studies: focus at the Earth's blank spaces»**, that will take place **23-27 September 2019** at the Botanical Garden-Institute FEB RAS (Vladivostok).

The main themes of the Conference

1. Studies of diversity of the plant world: systematization, documentation, synthesis.
2. Preservation of diversity of the plant world: a state of the arts and what botanical gardens are able to do?
3. Understating of diversity of the plant world: environmental-botanical education and awareness.

In addition to papers on these topics, we welcome your proposals for new subjects to be discussed during the Symposium.

Side events:

During the conference we plan also two side events: 1) meeting of the EABCN (East Asian Biodiversity Conservation Network) council (**coordinator You MeLee**); 2) Open air lesson on botanical and ecological education (coordinators **Valentina Kalinkina** and **Tony Elison**).

Besides the scientific contributions we also await submissions from teachers, graduate students, post-graduate students, magistrates, as well as leaders and specialists who work in children's leisure and recreational organizations, supplementary education organizations.

Language:

The official language will be *English*

Important dates:

January 10, 2019 – Second circular, call for papers and abstract. Registration starts

January 10, 2019 – Registration payment will be opened

February 15, 2019 – Excursion payment call

April 15, 2019 – Deadline for receipt of abstracts and registration forms. Deadline for information for the official invitations from the Russian migration office

May 15, 2019 – Notification of registration and acceptance of abstracts. Official invitation letters. Deadline for early prepayment. Deadline for excursion payment

July 15, 2019 – Deadline for late prepayment. After this date only payment on site is possible

Preliminary schedule:

September 23, 2019 – Registration, Plenary Session, Reception

September 24, 2019 – Sessions

September 25, 2019 – Mid-symposium excursion Sessions

September 26, 2019 – Sessions

September 26, 2019 – Sessions, closing session, Open lesson for ecological education with children, Farewell Party

September 27, 2019 – Departure for post-symposium excursion

Registration fee

Registration fee - 3000 rubles (for students and post-graduate students – 1000 rubles).

Registration fee includes expenses for participation in the sessions, coffee breaks, and a conference pack.

Registration fee does not include fee for the excursions. Information about the hotels, excursions, and fee for that will be provided in the second Information Letter.

Presentations and abstracts:

Both oral and poster presentations may be presented. An oral presentation may last 20 minutes (including less than 5 minutes for question and discussion). Speakers may use an electronic projector. *Please contact the Organizing committee individually for any other forms of presentation.* Vertical numbered display boards 120 by 120 cm will be prepared for posters. Numbers will be placed at the upper left corner of the board. The participants will know their poster number after acceptance of abstract by Organizing Secretariat and registration. The diversity of styles in poster design is appreciated, with the only requirements being the inclusion of the presentation title and name and affiliation of author(s) at the top of poster. The poster session will be organized on a day inconvenient for field trips and excursion, although the posters will be displayed during 4 days between opening and closing ceremony. Informal presentations (slide show, video or oral presentation) may be arranged in the evening time after the sessions or excursions and dinner in the guest rooms of Hotels booked for the Symposium participants. It will be appreciated if you bring presentations with you to share your impressions and experience with participants.

An example of design of abstract for the Conference "Lost world" in biodiversity studies: focus at the Earth's blank spaces

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Your submission should include the title, author name(s), affiliation and address. It must be submitted through sent as a printout on the paper of free format (Letter or A4) and as an exact electronic copy through the e-mail to the address of the Symposium Secretariat. Electronic version must be prepared in the one of following formats: Word (.doc, .docx), Rich text format (.rtf), or ASCII (DOS) format (.txt). Please make your abstract not shorter than 1400 and not longer than 2100 characters including spaces between words. Tables, figures or references are not accepted. The abstract book will be published before the symposium and posted in the site of symposium. Organizing Committee is looking for opportunity to publish selected papers in one of the peer reviewed journal. The Symposium Secretariat expects to receive your abstracts, both electronic and hard copies, not later than April 15, 2019.

Please use address:

Symposium Secretariat
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**We invite you and your colleagues to take active part in the conference and we
thank you in advance for your interest, cooperation and sharing of this
information with your colleagues!**