

Dear Authors and Readers,

The first issue of volume 59 (2019) was the last issue of *Acta Palaeobotanica* edited by Professor Leon Stuchlik. Now, as Consulting Editor, he remains an active member of the Editorial Board. The function of Editor-in-Chief has passed to me.

I want to thank Professor Stuchlik for his many years of work for *Acta Palaeobotanica*. He was the third Editor-in-Chief in the history of our journal. The first volume appeared in August 1960, initiated by the eminent Polish botanist and palaeobotanist Władysław Szafer. He edited the journal until 1971, followed, between 1971 and 1986, by Andrzej Środoń.

Then Professor Stuchlik assumed the responsibilities of Editor-in-Chief. He served in that capacity continuously for 33 years, until the middle of 2019. During those 33 years,

Acta Palaeobotanica has increased its range of subjects, drawn more and more contributing authors from many parts of the world, and expanded its readership. Professor Stuchlik's most important recent decision was to make all the papers open-access, available free of charge to any interested scientist. This move has significantly increased the number of readers – and citations.

The quality of the journal has risen greatly under his editorship. I hope that I can push this progress further in the years to come. I am grateful that Professor Stuchlik's wisdom, kindness, patience, and readiness to help will remain an asset to our work in the editorial office.

Maria Barbacka