

## In memoriam Zorana Sedlar (1980-2020)

A year bad in so many ways, 2020 is especially bitter for the small botanical community in Croatia due to the premature and sudden loss of Zorana Sedlar (Fig. 1). She was not only a member of the community, she was also its cheerful, smiling and optimistic side, always ready to help and support her colleagues and friends. Zorana was born in Zagreb, but she was strongly connected with the Adriatic and the island of Molat, where her mother's family comes from. She completed her primary and secondary education in Zagreb and in 1998 started the study of biology at the Faculty of Science. She graduated in 2004 with a thesis in plant physiology, and in the same year she started working at the Botanical Division of the same Faculty as a research assistant. She was involved in projects related to research into vegetation ecology and the biogeography of flora and vegetation of Croatia. She was also involved in teaching as an assistant in practical classes in plant ecology, geobotany, vegetation ecology and the related fieldwork. Her excellent knowledge of the Italian language enabled her to visit the University of Camerino, where she acquired specialist knowledge in vegetation dynamics and established permanent cooperation with colleagues there. The acquired

knowledge and lasting love for the island of her ancestors prompted her to dedicate her doctoral thesis to research into changes in the vegetation cover of the island of Molat during the last hundred years caused mainly by depopulation. She also started to study the flora of the island, and with her friend and colleagues she began research into the island's entomofauna and its connection with the vegetation. At the same time, she was involved in floristic research into the island of Mljet, the Krka National Park and Mt Žumberak. In the Krka National Park, in addition to floristic research, she also researched vegetation dynamics, the impact of grazing and controlled fires on the restoration of grassland vegetation. In 2016, Zorana moved from the position of senior assistant at the Faculty to the position of curator at the Croatian Museum of Natural History. She became involved in the work on the herbarium collection, especially in its digitization, but she also worked on a number of other museum projects. She collected material for exhibitions, was engaged in education, participated in botanical field research with colleagues from the Museum, but at the same time went on with research and cooperation with colleagues from the Faculty. She published the results of her research in a number of scientific and professional articles and studies, as well as conference papers. Since Zorana's career was abruptly interrupted by a serious illness during the first half of it, it would be inappropriate here to give any summary of her work. So much more was planned, started, conceived, desired and imagined. She coped bravely with her illness, not showing any signs that something might be wrong, so that even her closest associates had no idea how severe her illness was. As I said at the beginning, she belonged to the bright and smiling side, persisting bravely and modestly until the very end. For all of us, Zorana will remain a person with a smile, someone who never had a single bad word to say.



Fig. 1 Zorana in field research near Barač caves in spring 2020.  
*Foto by Sara Essert.*

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