

INSTITUTE OF BOTANY OF THE ASCR, v. v. i.

Botanický ústav AV ČR, v. v. i. (BÚ)

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The Institute was created in 1962 from the Geobotanical Laboratory of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Průhonice, which was founded in 1954.

In 1968, the Botanical Gardens in Průhonice, including Průhonice Park, were incorporated into the Institute. In 1972, the Department of Hydrobotany was established in Třeboň (now known as the Section of Plant Ecology). Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute carries out basic botanical research at the level of species, populations and plant communities. The following fields are represented: taxonomy and phytogeography of higher and lower plant species (including algology, ecotoxicology, mycology, bryology and lichenology), plant ecology (including population biology, comparative and production ecology and ecophysiology), mycorrhizal symbioses, syntaxonomy and synecology concentrating on investigating large vegetation complexes, including vegetation mapping and paleoecology. Currently, it is especially concerned with biodiversity and evolutionary trends among plants, the invasive behaviour of species, responses of plants and vegetation to environmental changes and the coexistence of various species in the ecosystem.

Joint Research Centres

The Institute has joint departments of:

- ecotoxicology with the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno, Kotlářská 2, 611 37 Brno
- population plant biology with the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Albertov 6, 128 43 Prague 2
- ecological and systematical botany with the Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Branišovská 31, 370 05 České Budějovice
- Centre of Applied Plant Ecology with the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno, Kotlářská 2, 611 37 Brno

The Institute publishes the foreign-language journal *Folia Geobotanica*, founded in 1966, *Taraxacum Newsletter*, and co-publishes the newsletter *Bryonora*.

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL:
<http://www.ibot.cas.cz>