

Current Advances in Fern Research

Helena Fernández
Editor

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 Springer

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*To everybody feeling lost,
exhausted and desperate,
living a life,
none of us can even imagine....*

Preface

This is the second book focussing on ferns, of our particular collection, given that the majority of researchers who have participated in the first book, titled *Working with Ferns: Issues and Applications*, decided to engage this new project. The first book had so many entries (around 20,000 since its publication in December 2010) that Springer considered a good idea to face a new venture, which was welcome by all the authors.

There is other taxa, far away *Arabidopsis* and all those important crops we cultivate, hiding interesting clues that are waiting to be deciphered, so that we could finally understand how plants are, as we know them today. Ferns are the pioneering vascular plants that started living on land and still continue colonizing and spreading to all the corners of the Earth. Around 1200 species of ferns exist at the present time.

Research on ferns is scarce. That is true. We are a small scientist community in reality but not for that less important. Extant ferns are representative of a legacy of great value, which can be admired and debated from different angles, such as evolutionary, taxonomical, genomic, genetic, physiological, biochemistry, environmental or merely by the beauty that their fronds have and the important market created around them.

Finally, and beyond a purely scientific reasoning, ferns have also joined all of us, and have contributed to bridge the gap existing among our routines, our countries, our big efforts to go ahead with our goals.

Nothing of this sort would have been possible, without the cooperation and generosity of the almost 70 authors, who have prepared their chapters, and put their experiments to the dream that this second book to see light.

Thanks to the editorial Springer for having been committed to us this challenge of giving birth to a new book on ferns.

The editor

P.D. The funds I will receive as editor will be entirely donated to the NGO Médecins sans Frontiers.

Oviedo, Spain

Helena Fernández

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