

BUSTA 1)

Quali sono le potenzialità e le informazioni messe a disposizione dallo studio della componente vegetale applicata ad epoche antiche.

Rettore: Quali sono i compiti e le responsabilità del Rettore secondo lo Statuto, e qual è la durata del suo mandato?

In addition to a very high level of species diversity, the Mediterranean region shows a considerable diversity among and within plant populations, documented by a large number of studies on different genetic markers (Fady-Welterlen 2005). The main factor for the differentiation of European gene resources is generally found in Quaternary climate oscillations, causing repeated retreats and re-advances of plant populations into and from refuge areas (Comes & Kadereit 1998; Taberlet et al. 1998; Hewitt 1999, 2000). Recently, combined phylogeographical and palaeobotanical studies have shown that within-species diversity for the European beech was shaped over times much longer than the last interglacial–glacial cycle (Magri et al. 2006).

BUSTA 2)

Può fare qualche esempio sull'approccio interdisciplinare nello studio della componente vegetale e sui vantaggi ottenibili dall'applicazione di tale approccio.

Direttore Generale: Quali funzioni gestionali e organizzative spettano al Direttore Generale e in che modo si rapporta con il Rettore?

The Mediterranean Basin is a hotspot for biogeographical and evolutionary studies, showing an exceptional level of biodiversity (Greuter 1995; Quézel 1995; Blondel & Aronson 1999; Comes 2004; Thompson 2005). A complex geological history, characterized by orogenic processes and widespread extensional tectonics, a considerable physiographic and climatic heterogeneity and a long-term impact of human activities have caused repeated isolations of individual plant populations and admixtures of populations of different origins. Another prominent feature of the Mediterranean flora is its high rate of regional endemism, due partly to a recent diversification (neo-endemics), and partly to the conservation of taxa with relictual distribution, resulting from a long-term regional permanence without evolutionary changes (palaeo-endemics) (Comes 2004; Thompson 2005).

BUSTA 3)

Può fornire informazioni sulle conoscenze ad oggi disponibili dell'assetto climatico e sul paesaggio vegetale attuale e pregresso nell'area mediterranea.

Consiglio di Amministrazione: Quali sono le principali competenze del Consiglio di Amministrazione in materia di bilancio, patrimonio e programmazione?

With this purpose in mind, we have focused our attention on cork oak (*Quercus suber* L.), an emblematic Mediterranean evergreen sclerophyllous tree. Cork oak is a slow growing, extremely long-lived evergreen tree. It is a monoecious wind-pollinated species with a protandrous system to ensure cross-pollination. Reproductive system (mostly sexual) and dissemination (gravity and zoochory) of cork oak are coherent with those of most oak species. It may reach about 20 m in height, with massive branches forming a round crown. Its thick and soft bark is the source of cork, which is stripped every 10–12 years from the outer layer of the bark along the lower portion of the trunk (Gellini & Grossoni 1997).

BUSTA 4)

Quali sono l'importanza e gli eventuali limiti della strumentazione microscopica attualmente a disposizione per gli studi botanici.

Senato Accademico: Quali funzioni svolge il Senato Accademico in ambito didattico e scientifico, e come si differenziano da quelle del Consiglio di Amministrazione?

The modern distribution of *Q. suber*, rather discontinuous, ranges from the Atlantic coasts of North Africa and Iberian Peninsula to the southeastern regions of Italy, and includes the main west Mediterranean islands as well as the coastal belts of Maghreb (Algeria and Tunisia), Provence (France) and Catalonia (Spain) (Fig. 1). *Quercus suber* is widely cultivated within its natural range for the production of cork. According to Carrión et al. (2000a), without human activities *Q. suber* would never develop pure stands in the Iberian Peninsula, and would form mixed forests with xerophyllous and deciduous oaks together with *Pinus pinaster* instead.

F.to La Commissione