



Madera y Bosques

ISSN: 1405-0471

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Instituto de Ecología, A.C.

México

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Editorial

Madera y Bosques, vol. 22, núm. 2, junio, 2016

Instituto de Ecología, A.C.

Xalapa, México

Available in: <http://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=61749306001>

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Scientific Information System

Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal

Non-profit academic project, developed under the open access initiative

e^editorial

Like everything in the modern life of the 21st century, the edition and publication of scientific journals has experienced significant changes in recent years as a result of the technological revolution that we are having. The more drastic change has that do with the format of the publications. Until not long ago, the printed version of a journal was the standard and model to which all publishing efforts were directed. In the second decade of the current century, this paradigm has been transformed substantially and surely forever, in favor of electronic or digital publishing. The motivation for this conversion is to reach an audience many times greater than the current one, taking advantage of contemporary communication channels of the World Wide Web data network – internet - and eventually, save on printing and storage costs. To generate the digital version of the journals is currently the goal and objective of publishing teams. To this end, policies and editorial management procedures have also had to undergo deep transformations. The traditional process, which by the end of the second half of the 20th century still was handled by traditional hard copies and regular mail, started to change gradually to benefit from more expeditious and almost immediate media as the email. Until very recently, this form of contact between authors, editors, reviewers, printers, trainers and all the members of the editing process was the preferred form of communication for its immediacy and low cost. The only downside was when you were not able to reach a computer connected to the internet or flaws in the system that limited communication temporarily. However, the editing process itself was not yet handled with software that would allow a comprehensive management that would cover communications between authors, peer reviewers and editors, along with the elaboration of the modifications by the authors and the integration of files for final editing.

In the first years of this century, new systems of electronic publishing and management began to take great impulse and were gradually adopted by the publishing companies both commercial and academic. Today they are almost universally recognized as the more effective means for routine management of articles submitted for possible publication. One of the systems that has been more successful, especially in Latin America, has been developed by researchers and specialists in editing and computer sciences integrated into the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) promoted by Canadian universities such as the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Simon Fraser (SFU) in the region of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (<https://pkp.sfu.ca/>), with the collaboration of other universities. In words of their creators, PKP is an initiative to develop free (without cost) open source software, to improve the quality and the scope of scholarly publishing. The system developed by this project is the so-called Open Journal System (OJS). OJS can be traced back to the *Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2002* which was launched on the argument that “Scholars need the means to launch a new generation of journals committed to open access, and to help existing journals that elect to make the transition to open access...”

For being open access and because it strives for scientific information itself to be also open access, this system has been received with great enthusiasm in Latin America and other regions of the world. It is clear that OJS not is the only system of publishing management available but it is of the most popular, probably the more employed in the world. According to the figures of PKP, for the third quarter of 2012 the use of OJS exceeded 14000 magazines. By 2016, surely, this figure must have increased considerably.

Coupled with the use of OJS, there are a series of computer software to process the manuscripts for its edition in digital format. These programs are known with their acronyms in English such as PDF,

HTML, XML, etc., a real soup of letters. The oldest and better known of all of them is the PDF format. The portable document format (PDF) is used to present and exchange documents in a reliable way, independent of the software, the hardware or the operating system. It was invented by the Adobe Company; PDF is an open standard officially recognized by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). HTML is the acronym of HyperText Markup Language (language of hypertext markup) and makes reference to a markup language for the elaboration of electronic files such as web pages or documents for the formation of manuscripts for digital journals. The most modern and powerful of all of these programs is the XML, acronym for eXtensible Markup Language ("markup language extensible"), a markup language developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) used to store data in machine-readable form. It comes from the language SGML and allows you to define the grammar of languages specific to the structure of large documents. Unlike other languages, XML supports data bases, being useful when multiple applications must communicate among themselves or integrate information.

In order to handle all these languages, computer programs and technological platforms, the publishing teams of the journals have had the necessity of updating its capabilities so they do not lag far behind the commercial scientific journals that have very professional and competent staffs. In Mexico, the guidelines of the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) have been vital to promote the professionalization of such publishing teams. CONACYT has provided financial support for this conversion and has agreed with the National Autonomous University of Mexico so that through the Office of Computer and Information Technologies and Communications (DGTIC) it coordinates the efforts of the editorial teams of scientific journals that are part of the former index of Mexican journals of scientific and technological research (IRMICyT) and also are part of the new system of classification of journals that it is putting forward. This ambitious project aims for the Mexican journals of research keep to in the technological vanguard so the results of the research that they publish arrive to a greater number of readers in all of the world and have a greater publishing impact.

Starting from August 2016, the journal *Madera y Bosques* adopted formally the system of management publishing OJS (<http://myb.ojs.inacol.mx/index.php/myb>) putting itself on a par with the Mexican journals that are in the forefront of the field of the edition of scientific journals. This effort has been full of technological challenges and has involved a radical conversion of the system previously in place. The process of conversion to the digital format has not been free of setbacks, but in general terms, is has had significant advances and apparently, it is going in the correct route. The launch of the new editorial management platform based on the OJS system coincides with the release of issue 2 of volume 22 of the journal, summer issue of 2016. This number includes ten articles in three different languages: Spanish, English and French, which speaks of the high demand and dissemination that has managed the journal in recent years. The articles have varied themes and they are rich in new developments and scientific advances.

The first manuscript by Saavedra-Romero *et al.*, deals with the tree crown condition, as a health indicator in urban trees of the San Juan de Aragon Park, Mexico City. Green urban areas provide several benefits to the society and the environment. The San Juan de Aragon Park, located northeast of Mexico City, is one of the few in that urban area and their trees' health is unknown. In this survey, the crown condition indicator protocol was adapted and applied in 28 circular plots established randomly in the

mentioned park. Normal diameter, total height, species identity, crown condition and tree density of all trees into the plots were evaluated. Six crown variables were measured. Only live crown ratio reached the established standards reported in other studies. The second article by Martínez-Sánchez is a study on the structural diversity for a humid and sub-humid tropical forest in Tabasco, México. The structural diversity of a tropical humid forest (THF) and a tropical sub-humid forest (TSF) in Tabasco, Mexico, was compared by means of eight structural indexes which estimate community basal area sorted by DBH and tree height classes. It was concluded that the structural indices evaluate species diversity as well as the community structural diversity in a more complete way having the THF higher structural diversity than TSF: The authors suggest their use in other tree vegetation studies.

The third manuscript by González Ovando *et al.*, analyzes the priority areas for ecological restoration and reference sites in Chignahuapan-Zacatlan region. The main goal of this paper was the use of Multi-Criteria Evaluation to identify priority areas for ecological as well as to determine reference sites by restoration by remote sensing. The Analytic Hierarchy Process through an GIS environment was used to identify priorities for attention. The results indicate that about 80% of the area was classified with a level of priority for restoration. In spite of this, only 0.8% was classified as maximum priority. With the recognition of these areas in maps, there is a better view of the areas that are more vulnerable and prone to degradation. The fourth paper by Rodríguez-Moreno *et al.*, studies the geographic land cover and calendar month effect on surface meteorology and insolation of coniferous forests in Mexico. To demonstrate how they influence such variables, in the expression of thirteen indirect indicators of superficial meteorology and of sun radiation, the technique of re-scaling of information based on latitude to calculate the zenith angle in coordinated pairs was applied in forests of coniferous of Mexico. The statistical analysis showed significant differences for soil cover, sampling site and month calendar. In the expression of the indexes, an apparent effect was observed latitudinal of closeness to the line of coast which seems to suggest his influence in the evaluated indexes.

The fifth manuscript by Rodríguez-Trejo and Pompa García describes how nut size, nut color and shade affect germination of *Quercus deserticola*. The aim of this work was to investigate the effect of nut size and color, as well as shade, on the germination of *Quercus deserticola*. The experimental factors were nut size (small and large), color (light brown and dark brown), and 40% shade (with and without shade). An analysis of variance with a mixed procedure, and a Tukey mean comparison were conducted, for the variables germinative capacity and germinative energy, and a logistic model to estimate the probability of germination was obtained. There was a significant effect of seed size, color of seed, and of shade on germinative capacity. The highest germinative capacity (100%) was for large seed, dark brown color and with shade. The germinative energy was affected by seed color and by the interaction seed size*color. The highest germinative energy was for large and dark brown color seed, with 11.5 days. In the sixth text, García-De La Cruz *et al.*, study the germination and seedling emergence of four endangered oak species: *Quercus germana*, *Q. insignis*, *Q. sartorii* and *Q. xalapensis* observed under different light conditions (sun vs. shade) in a secondary forest fragment (SFF) and a greenhouse (GRE). Seed weight variability was also evaluated for each species and its relationship to germination and emergence explored. In the SFF, germination and emergence only differed among species; *Q. xalapensis* germination was the lowest and *Q. sartorii* emergence was the highest, com-

pared to the rest of the species. Acorn weight did not influence germination and emergence in any species. The implications of this study are discussed, along with recommended propagation techniques for growing oaks to forest restoration in disturbed areas.

In the seventh manuscript Mollinedo García *et al.*, compare growing and productivity characterization of young teak (*Tectona grandis* Linn f.) plantations and make an estimation of site index curves in the northern area of the Republic of Guatemala. To characterize the evolution in terms of growth and development 248 data from permanent monitoring plots have been analyzed in total. The site index curves based on a modified growth model allowed to identify and reaffirm a classification of land based on its productive capacity on site and make evident how it has been the evolution of the growth and development of teak in Guatemala. The eighth paper by López García and Manzano analyzes climate vulnerability and socio-environmental situation and present the perceptions in a semiarid region of northeastern Mexico. Interactions of climate and natural resources with environmental and social deterioration are analyzed in this study. The history of social development of the region was constructed through face-to-face interviews. The perceptions of farmers towards the vulnerability to climate change, the use of water and the possibility to adapt were also analyzed. The mayor problems arising from the analysis are perceptions of impacts of drought and depleting of aquifer resources. The importance of direct sources of information and interaction with local stakeholders in gathering perceptions, undertaking diagnostics, and building rural development agendas is discussed.

The ninth article is a technological study by Sandoval Torres *et al.*, who make a study of colour alterations in Oakwood during vacuum drying. An analysis of the mechanisms of discoloration in Oakwood during plain vacuum drying allowed us to identify three mechanisms of discoloration. These mechanisms are the degradation of hemicelluloses, the oxidation of tannins and release of volatile organic components. They found interesting relationships between the temperature, the antioxidant potential and C=O intensities in the infrared spectra. The increase in saturation and brightness (lightness) can be related to the thermal degradation of extractibles (mainly ellagitannins). Finally, the tenth manuscript by Rosales-Castro *et al.*, deals with the chemical composition of leaves and branches of *Cedrela odorata* L. from two forest plantations as a source of lignocellulosic raw materials in El Palmar, Veracruz and San Felipe Bacalar, Quintana Roo, as well as the total phenol and flavonoids concentration, and their capacity to capture free radicals, focused in the evaluation of its potential as lignocellulosic source for biofuels and/or towards its application in biomedical areas. Differences were found in the lignocellulosic concentrations among the samples collected at the two plantations, excelling those collected at Bacalar, QR. The obtained results indicate that the leaves, wood from branches and sawdust are viable for obtaining carbohydrates, while wood can be a source of phenols and flavonoids with possible therapeutic applications. These papers represent a wealth of new information from various forest species from México and other countries and they certainly will contribute in a great way to increase the knowledge that currently exists about them. They will be an excellent frame to inaugurate a new era in the editorial processes of *Madera y Bosques*.

Raymundo Dávalos Sotelo

Editor