



EDITORIAL, 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Seventy-five years ago, in January of 1944, the first issue of the informative bulletin of the Botanical Society of Mexico (Sociedad Botánica de México, A.C.) was published. The *Bulletin* (as Boletín and Boletín de la Sociedad Botánica de México) served to disseminate relevant botanical information from that time, generated by pioneering, visionary Mexican and foreign botanists who were interested not only in presenting the results of their research but also in uniting an academic guild for a still-restricted field of biology. The intention was to emphasize the relevance that the botanical knowledge of Mexico merited, and thus serve as a basis for the development of other areas of biological knowledge. The *Bulletin* was started as non-profit, and to this day, its sponsor, the Botanical Society of Mexico, is a non-profit organization that re-invests all proceeds in furthering our knowledge about Mexican plants. Each issue was brought to light due to the effort and dedication of the same people who carried out the research, and frequently with their own resources. For them, the formation and consolidation of the *Bulletin* was essential, but long times often passed with the publication of only a few contributions. However, the momentum was never lost, and when the 1980s arrived, editorial policies and an editorial committee were established, and this raised the work to a new level and modernized the peer evaluation process. The rest of the story we already know, and since 2012 the journal has been titled *Botanical Sciences* and become more than a continuation of those first *Bulletins*.

Now, in addition to its informative, communicative, and disseminative roles, the journal is an intermediary and last element of evaluation at several levels. The consolidation

process that the journal has undergone, thanks to the enormous efforts of various editorial teams, has allowed *Botanical Sciences* to be an instrument for the evaluation of its authors, as well as the journal itself and its editorial teams. The current challenge of *Botanical Sciences* is to maintain itself as an academic, periodic, competitive, and professional journal. The present editorial team (2017-2020) is working on a series of changes in the OJS platform that will facilitate managing the editorial process as much as possible, as well as the stability of participating academics in their roles as authors, reviewers, or section editors. It also is implementing visual aids and easy access to the critical sections of the journal where their content is brief, clear, and accurate. We also plan to maintain access to publications in various formats (e.g., PDF, XML). It is imperative to increase the visibility, downloads, citation, and impact of the journal by implementing search engines that allow the publications of *Botanical Sciences* to be accessed through Google Scholar and others.

Finally, but also very importantly, plagiarism analysis programs have been implemented to guarantee the ethics of the journal and an adequate and responsible service to the readers. All this is in conjunction with the goal of maintaining *Botanical Sciences* as a competitive and attractive publication for our readers and members, as well as the scientific community as a whole. Now is the time for the Society, to which it belongs and that gave it life, to fully commit to its publication and support its sustainability and permanent growth through the only source of energy that can keep a periodical publication alive: its contributions.

Salvador Arias, Editor-in-chief