

UNIVERSITY OF PLOVDIV "PAISII HILENDARSKI", FACULTY OF BIOLOGY •  
INSTITUTE OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH -  
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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# BalkanBio

5<sup>th</sup> conference on biology

## Proceedings of the 5th Balkan Scientific Conference on Biology

Kostadinova, S., Mollov, I., Dzhambazov, B.,  
Naimov, S., Vassilev, K. & Georgiev, B. (Eds.)

April 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria

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## FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to the 5th Balkan Scientific Conference on Biology, held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria from April 15th to April 16th, 2021.

Plovdiv is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It is claimed that the city is a contemporary of Troy and Mycenae, but it is more ancient than Rome, Athens, and Constantinople. Plovdiv is the second-largest and important city in Bulgaria. Plovdiv is strategically important industrial, commercial, scientific, cultural and transportation-communications center on the Balkans region. The city is famous for the international fair, whose spring, autumn and other specialized exhibitions make it a center of economics and business. Plovdiv is a strategic railway junction and the airport “Plovdiv” recently established itself as an alternative to the airport “Sofia”.

Unfortunately, in these times of the pandemic, even though, we do not have the opportunity to meet in person, we hope that, the Conference will offer a valuable platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between researchers in the field of biology.

Plovdiv University is one of the leading higher-education institutions in Republic of Bulgaria. It is the largest university in southern Bulgaria as well the second biggest in Bulgaria.

Faculty of Biology at the Plovdiv University is located in the cultural reserve Old Town in Plovdiv, next to the Ancient Theatre. Nowadays the Faculty of Biology has more than 50 years of history. Its development is associated with the changes in modern socio-economic conditions of transition to market economy and the process of democratization of society, the integration of Bulgaria into the European structures and the adoption of the achievements of European and world educational and scientific experience by providing resources for the new economy and society in the spirit of European cultural values.

After the success of the four previous Balkan conferences in Plovdiv (2005, 2010, 2014 and 2017), we hope that this edition will, once again, offer a dynamic and friendly environment for stimulating exchanges and discussions.

Official organizing partner for BalkanBio’2020 is the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Sonya Kostadinova (Dean of the Faculty of Biology)*

*Gana Gecheva (Chair of the Organizing Committee)*

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