
Prof. Dr. Thomas Borsch

Director of the Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin (BGBM) and Professor for Plant Systematics and Plant Geography, Freie Universität Berlin



Tasks Leadership of the Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin, science and science policy work

Skills and interests Evolution of flowering plants, phylogenetics and phylogenomics, integrative plant taxonomy, biogeography, workflows and standards to use natural history collections in research and education;
Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
International collaboration and partnership.

Place and year of birth Königstein im Taunus, 18th February 1969
Nationality German
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Education

2005 Habilitation, Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn
2000 Dr. rer. nat., Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn
1996 Diplom, Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn

Career/Employment

2008 – present Professor (W3) for Plant Systematics and Plant Geography and Director of the Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin (BGBM), Freie Universität Berlin
2007 – 2008 Professor (W2) for Biodiversity and Evolution of plants, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Director of the Botanic Garden of the Universität Oldenburg
2005 – 2007 Privatdozent, Nees Institute, Head of the laboratories of molecular systematics
2000 – 2005 Scientific Assistant (C1), Nees Institute, Universität Bonn
1999 – 2000 Research Assistant, Botanisches Institut, Universität Bonn
1992 – 1994 Research Assistant (part-time), Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt

Publications

95 publications in peer-reviewed indexed journals (h index: 40, citations 5946 [google scholar])
10 book chapters and monographs
various publications in periodicals addressing a general audience

Awards

- 2007 – present: Sachverständiger, Kommission für Botanik, Akademie der Literatur und der Wissenschaften, Mainz
- 2006 – 2007: Heisenberg-Stipendiat der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- 1997 – 1999: Stipendiat, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
- 1987: Jugend forscht, 2. Bundespreis Biologie

Activities in boards and related to science policy

- Deutsche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen als integrierte Forschungsinfrastruktur (DCOLL) (member of the presidium)
- World Flora Online, Taxonomic Working Group (co-chair)
- Berlin Centre for Genomics in Biodiversity Research (BeGenDiv) (Vice Speaker)
- Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI, International Advisory Board, member)
- Flora of Greece (Steering Committee, member)
- Netherlands Center for Biodiversity Naturalis (Scientific advisory board)
- Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) (Board of directors)
- Dahlem Center of Plant Sciences (DCPS) (Deputy Speaker)
- European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT) (Board of directors)

Editorial activities

- 2015 – present: Editorial Advisory Board: Revista del Jardín Botánico Nacional; La Habana, Cuba
- 2007 – present: Editorial Advisory Board: Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad
- 2009 – 2014: Associate Editor: Journal of Systematics and Evolution
- 2008 – present: Editorial Board: Willdenowia

Selected Research Projects / Research Networks

- BMBF, ColBioDiv – Integrated Biodiversity Management in Exemplar Regions of Colombia (2017 – 2020): PI together with Co-PIs B. Schütt (Geography FU Berlin) and M. Braig (Political Sciences FU Berlin)
- BMBF, EvoBoGa – Pflanzensammlungen Botanischer Gärten: Lebendige Ressourcen für die Integrative Evolutionsforschung (2017-2020): PI together with Co-PIs M. Koch (Universität Heidelberg) und G. Zizka (Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg)
- BMBF GBOL I and II (German Barcode of Life) (2012 – 2019): Co-PI for flowering plants and BGBM participation
- BMUB, ABS – Access & Benefit Sharing: Bewusstseinsbildung bei Nutzern genetischer Ressourcen in Deutschland und Beratung der zuständigen Behörde für den Vollzug von EU-Verordnung 511/2014 (2015-2016)
- DFG Normalverfahren (several completed projects)
- VolkswagenStiftung – Developing Tools for the Conservation of Plant Diversity in the South Caucasus (Phases I and II, 2010-2019): PI from the German side (together with partners in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)