

## THE CONTENTS OF *INTERCIENCIA*

The content of any scientific journal is a reflection of the orientation given by its editorial body, on the one hand, and that of its audience, be authors or readers, on the other. In contrast to the journals that cover defined specialties and are principally oriented to the dissemination among themselves of the results obtained by researchers dedicated to the respective specialty, *Interciencia*, being the journal of the Interciencia Association, aims to contribute so that the scientific community of the Americas “aid more effectively the development of the nations and the welfare of their people”.

As a result of such ample mission, *Interciencia* receives and admits manuscripts, to be always peer reviewed, in a very large variety of subjects. The principal common characteristic is that they deal with themes that are pertinent to the development of the countries and the welfare of their people and, inasmuch as possible, we try that they be presented in such a manner that they can be understood by a non-specialized reader. It is for these reasons that the gamut of covered fields becomes very large and, finally, it is determined by the interests and activities of the community of researchers and academics who submit their papers to the journal.

The areas to which the largest proportion of papers published in *Interciencia* belong are, traditionally, those of Environment and Ecology, which is the reason for being classed among journals of the latter discipline, rather than being considered as a multidisciplinary journal. However, as this issue of *Interciencia* shows, the contents conform a wide palette of very diverse colors with emphasis, in this case, in aspects of interest in agriculture, biodiversity and the organization of society.

On this occasion, the concern of our scientific community for food supply and biodiversity is notorious, both in the analysis of the yield of different varieties as in the forms of production of edible tubers and fruits, as well as in the

role of local conditions in the growth of fungi utilized for the biological control of crop plagues. All this goes together with studies of insect plagues that affect food crops of different kinds and obvious economic interest: from the first description in a country of the region of a parasitic mite that affects honey-producing bees, to the study of the enzymes responsible for insecticide resistance in insects that contaminate stored grains.

The interest for biodiversity is present in papers that explore the possibilities of seed preservation in cactus plants that are in danger of extinction and in the study of the participation of a variety of beetles in the vital equilibrium of tropical forests, while others inquire about the effects of the use of insecticides on species used as indicators of the contamination of continental waters.

Finally, in the sphere of social sciences two articles are included in this issue. One of them constitutes a study in which it is attempted to quantify the role of institutional management in the quality of universities, while in the other are described new technologies for the graphic representation of population census.

Concerning the countries of origin of the papers published in *Interciencia*, the predominance of works from Brazil and Mexico, which has been characteristic of the journal's publications in recent years, continues to be the case in the present issue. On the other hand, the traditional presence of Venezuela, always justified by the production of the journal in this country, is null, while papers from Chile are present in an important proportion. Inasmuch as the languages in which the papers are published, Spanish and Portuguese predominate, with four each, while three papers are written in English.

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