

A BROAD DEFINITION OF SCIENCE

An important objective of *Interciencia*, since its beginnings more than four decades ago, has been to provide space for the most diverse forms of knowledge production, often distant from orthodoxy. A broad definition of the concept of science has been a central element in the vision of the journal.

In agreement with that vision, the current issue brings together papers resulting from the work carried out in laboratories dedicated to traditional lines of research, at the same time as others that are generally not accepted to be part of publications considered as being of 'hard science' but which, notwithstanding, are not devoid of merits and, in all the cases, have been carried out with formal strictness and filtered through the sieve of peer review by specialists in their respective fields of knowledge.

A review article is included that presents the state of the art in the production of lipases from fungi and yeasts. It deals with enzymes that are abundantly employed in numerous biotechnological industrial processes for the manufacturing of food and drugs. Their procurement from fungi becomes important as it avoids the use, for this purpose, of bacteria that are in many cases pathogenic germs.

The biological and agronomical characterization of the varieties of maize that are found in the state with the largest production of this important and needed staple in Mexico is of utmost relevance. It constitutes a knowledge that supports the possibilities of reaching increments in the production and in the genetic improvements required to achieve such increments.

The use of information technologies for monitoring the crop conditions in greenhouses and the study of the effects of organic fertilization on the soil fungal population are examples of different approaches for the agronomical handling and the optimization of agricultural productivity. Given its obvious repercussion in the nourishment and wellbeing of the peoples of the region, the latter has been one of the most commonly recurrent themes presented in *Interciencia*. In turn, the usage of satellite images represents a techno-

logical advantage applied to obtain an accurate estimate of the amount of water that moves into the atmosphere from the vegetation cover through the evapotranspiration process, which constitutes a central aspect of the water and energy exchange between earth and atmosphere, currently an altered process in view of the global climate change.

In a different perspective, associated to the humanities but equally linked to development and to knowledge, is the field of education. Two research reports published in this issue of *Interciencia* correspond to this field. In one of them the results of the application of new active methodologies for the learning of engineering in an institution of higher education are analyzed. Another study explores the problems derived from the existence of a structural racism resulting from the colonialist ideologies in Latin American countries, which generate relations of hierarchization and racialization conducive to the discrimination of immigrant children in primary schools. The visualization and analysis of such aspects constitute a challenge for public education in our countries, which therefore requires of the conception and implementation of public policies that promote interculturality and inclusion at all the educational levels.

To evaluate how 'scientific' is a given approach and the obtained results is most likely a non-productive exercise. As the adage states, 'all is the color of the glass one is looking through' or 'truth is in the eye of the beholder'. In consequence, every professional values the merits of his activity. In current times, social scientists should be subjected to similar requirements and have equal opportunities of being part of the contents of scientific publications produced with the accepted quality parameters and, contribute in this manner to increase the sum of knowledge of mankind.

MIGUEL LAUFER
Editor