



Columella

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Editorial note

This is the final issue and volume number under my editorial leadership. As of December 31, 2024, I have resigned as editor-in-chief of this journal and the rector of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences has accepted my resignation.

Several factors prompted this decision. The first 2024 issue of Columella published only three articles, the second issue published only two, and an increase in the number of articles is not anticipated in the current publishing environment. I believe the journal is not appealing to potential authors, anymore. There are numerous competing scientific journals available, the peer review process has become expedited, the scientific prestige (quartile ranking) of competing journals is higher, and researchers are incentivized to publish their results in highly ranked journals.

However, it would be unjust to solely attribute the journal's challenges to external factors. Three years ago, during a personal meeting with the rector, we agreed that Columella should enhance its international profile, be made searchable in Scopus, and increase the publication frequency to four issues per year. These objectives have not been realized in the past three years, and I bear full responsibility for this shortcoming. The protracted editorial and review process exacerbated the already challenging circumstances.

The past three and a half years have been an extraordinary journey for our journal. In 2022 and 2023, Columella became the official journal of the annual International Scientific Conference on Water held each year in Szarvas, Hungary. Thanks to this decision, the second issue of 2022 published 17 peer-reviewed articles, a number that seems incredible from today's perspective.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who assisted the editorial work of Columella. This includes the two co-editors of the journal, Mária Kovács-Weber and Miklós Heltai, guest editors Mihály Jancsó, Zoltán Futó, Károly Bodnár, Ágnes Kun, Noémi Valkovszki and the countless reviewers who have given their time and energy to improve the quality of manuscripts submitted to the journal. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the authors who have honored the journal by sending their manuscripts to be published in Columella. Finally, I would like to thank all readers who found the science in our articles worthy of their attention.

Sincerely yours,

Ákos Horváth
editor-in-chief