

## Preface

### *A START FOR ACTA SILVATICA*

*It has been a long-nourished demand of Hungarian researchers in forestry and wood sciences to publish an independent foreign-language (English, German) journal in order to enhance international contacts.*

*Scientific research began when higher education in forestry started in 1808. After WWI the majority of the country's forests have fallen to neighbouring countries leaving a forest cover of 1.1 million ha out of the former 7.3 million hectares. For a country poor in forests, importing timber was a heavy burden. To increase forest area and wood yield was the primary objective of the foresters. Research tasks have been selected accordingly.*

*After WWII the Forest Research Institute was re-established in 1949 in Budapest. Up to the late 1960s the scope of research topics kept increasing from genetics to mechanization. Wood sciences developed in a similar way. A series of research achievements were applied in practice. As a result forest area of the country has grown by 600 thousand ha until the Millennium, while wood yield of the forests doubled.*

*In the second half of the 20th century, ecological thinking started spreading in forestry, to sustain and restore biodiversity of the forest. Research topics centred around close-to-nature silviculture and complete utilization of harvested wood. Forestry management of the 20th century promotes the multiple use of forests and the improved use of harvested timber. The nature protection and recreation role of the forests kept advancing. Present research focuses on comprehensive treatment of forestry and wood sciences within the complexity of ecosystems. Advanced processing of environmentally friendly wood has won priority. Research in wildlife management is also worth mentioning here. Hungary's wildlife research has achieved international recognition, as the country has a wide range of small and big game research programs.*

*The Forest Research Institute in Budapest, and the Faculties of Forestry and of Wood Sciences at the University of West Hungary in Sopron are engaged in forestry, wildlife management and wood sciences research. Extension research work is carried out also by the State Forest Service and by the National Institute for Agricultural Quality Control*

*As an EU member, Hungary is striving for a better involvement in international cooperation. Utilisation of the natural, mixed forests as well as of the plantations of the naturalised black locust offer promising research topics. Looking forward to achieve mutual benefits, the Forestry Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Forest Research Institute and the Forestry and Wood Sciences Faculties of the University of West Hungary launch the journal *Acta Silvatica et Lignaria Hungarica*.*

*Rezső Solymos  
member of Hung. Ac. Sci.  
head of Scientific Committee*