

# Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología

CSIC

Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia

The Pyrenean Institute of Ecology (Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología) is a research center belonging to the National Research Council of Spain (*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, C.S.I.C.*) and it was founded in Jaca, Central Spanish Pyrenees, in 1983. Previously, a Institute of Pyrenean Studies was set up in Zaragoza (1942), with the main purpose of encouraging the study of the Pyrenees from different points of view: Geography, Geology, Biology, History, Philology. That Institute was the responsible to organize several International Congresses of Pyrenean Studies, between 1950 and 1974. In 1963 the Pyrenean Center of Experimental Biology was set up in Jaca, focusing on botanical, zoological and ecological studies. In 1968 the Institute of Pyrenean Studies also moved to Jaca, both institutes under the direction of Professor E. Balcells. Finally, in 1983 the National Research Council of Spain considered the interest of joining both institutes, founding the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology.

From 1983 on the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology is mainly dedicated to ecological research, especially in mountain areas, not only Pyrenees, but also other important ranges in Spain as well as in other parts of the World. The principal purpose is to analyze the stability conditions of ecosystems and their response against the factors regulating or modifying such stability, especially climatic and land-use changes. Most of studies and research projects are related to the spatial organization of processes and resources, with a synthetic perspective in which man performs an outstanding role. Some of the projects deal with large territories (patterns and regularities in the organization of the natural environment and of the agrarian landscape). Some other are focused on the analysis of particular ecosystems, as well as in ecological processes of special interest. The following are the main research lines:

## **Territorial Systems:**

Past and Present climatology (1)

Landscape dynamics. Changes in land use (2)

Agroecosystems. Man-Landscape interaction (3)

Information systems on resources and environment. Ecological cartography (4)

## **Ecology of Species and communities.**

Flora and plant communities (5)

Animal Biocenosis. Small mammals. Herpetology (6)

Biogeography. Endemism and Conservation (7),

## **Structure and function of ecosystems.**

Grazing ecosystems. Plant-Herbivore interactions (8)

Functional studies on Mediterranean vegetation (9)

Trophic and behavioral ecology (10)

Erosion (11),

Micrometeorology and snow hidrology (12)

Game biology (13).

The Institute has a staff of 12 research scientists (ecologists, geographers, botanists, geologists, zoologists) and a double number of research fellows, preparing their Ph. D. The present Director is Dr. Antonio Gómez Sal.

**CSIC Staff researchers:** Antonio Gómez Sal, *Director* (8,4,3), José M.<sup>a</sup> García Ruiz (11,2,3,4,19), Juan Pablo Martínez Rica (6,7,4), Luis Villar (5,4,7,20), Bernardo Alvera (12), José Creus (1), Federico Fillat (8,3,4), Ricardo García González (8,10,13,4), Teodoro Lasanta (2,3,11,19), Carlos E. Martí Bono (1,11), Gabriel Montserrat (9,11), César Pedrocchi (6,10,13).

**Emeritus professors:** Enrique Balcells (6,3,7), Pedro Montserrat (5,3,8).

**Other researchers (fellows and contracting persons):**

**Doctors:** Ramón Antor (6), Carlos Borghi (6), Pedro Cordero (10), Paloma Cuartas (8,13), Cristina Chocarro (8), Gabriel del Barrio (12,4), Carlos Diez (12), Begoña García (7), Fina Isern (6), Miguel Angel Rodríguez (8), Purificación Ruiz (11,2,1).

**Predoctoral** Arantxa Aldeazabal (8), Javier Alvarez Martínez (8), Ignacio Blas (4), José Luis Benito (5,4,7), Martín Beorlegui (1), M.<sup>a</sup> Teresa Broto (4), Pilar Castro (9), Josefa Clavero (4), Gemma Durán (4), M.<sup>a</sup> Paz Errea (2), Ernesto Franco (1), M.<sup>a</sup> Jesús García Serrano (4), Inazio Garín (8,13), Stella Giannoni (6,7), Blanca Gerona (4), M.<sup>a</sup> Luisa Goded (8), Juan Herrero (13), Rafael Hidalgo (13), Asunción Julián (4), Ricardo Martínez (11,12), Brunilde Mendoza (2,3), Fernando Pardo (8,1), Salvador Rebollo (8,10) Ramón Reiné (8), Emilio Rodríguez (4), M.<sup>a</sup> Angeles Sanz (5,6), José Luis Sanz (4), José Antonio Sesé (5), Julia Yagüe (4).

**Auxiliary personnel**

**Specialized technicians:** Daniel Gómez (20,8), Angel Armero (4,17), Enrique Asensio (4,17)



*Research assistants:* José Azorín (16), M.<sup>a</sup> Luisa Cajal (14), Eugenio de Mingo (16), M.<sup>a</sup> Pilar Escario (15), Ramón Galindo (16), Miguel Cervantes Gracia (15,19), Antonio Lanaspá (20), Cristina Pérez de Larraya (15), Manuel Mairal (18), M.<sup>a</sup> Carmen Pérez (16), Santiago Pérez (16), Emilio Ubieta (16).

*Secretary:* Palmira Abella (Manager), Trinidad Bernal (14), M.<sup>a</sup> Josefa Mayayo (14), M.<sup>a</sup> Jesús Ramiro (14), M.<sup>a</sup> Piedad Urbieta (14).

The Institute publishes *Pirineos*. A Journal on Mountain Ecology (Director, José M. García Ruiz), appearing twice a year (19). From 1987 on, *Pirineos* includes papers related to the dynamics of mountain ecosystems and supplies information about the functioning and spatial organization of resources in mountain areas. The journal is open to contributions of scientific research in mountain environments.

Laboratories (16) are able to realize simple analysis of water, soil and organic matter. The Library (15) has about 6.000 books and some 40.000 journal volumes, including more than 800 journals received regularly by subscription and exchange. There is also a big plant collection (Herbario JACA, 20) with 300.000 samples from Europe, of particular interest for its specialization in Ecology.

The Institute has a meteorological network of 40 weather stations (18) that has furnished a 1,000,000 climate data file covering Spanish Central Pyrenees, and a monitoring catchment area with a high altitude station in the Tena Valley (Izas). Other Service Units are the Secretary (14) and Computers (17).

In 1990, in order to increase the efficacy and scientific repercussions of the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology, a new organization has been established. The former seat of Jaca is still working as a research station on mountain ecology, but now a new seat is created in Zaragoza, 150 km apart, thus allowing a better perspective in the study of terrestrial ecosystems and of very contrasted environments. Moreover, the new seat is located close to several research institutes in Agronomy. The proximity to the Zaragoza University is also a positive factor to encourage scientific exchanges.

Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología  
Campus de Aula Dei  
Carretera de Montañana, 177  
Apartado 202  
50080 ZARAGOZA, Spain

Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología  
Avda, Rgto. Galica, s/n  
Apartado 64  
22700 JACA, Spain

