



**ARKADIUSZ NOWAK** (born 1971 in Bolesławiec) is a professor of ecology, botanist, and environmentalist. He has authored approximately 310 scientific papers and a dozen books. His research focuses on vegetation conservation, belowground biodiversity, general botany, phytosociology, impact of climate change on vegetation, the distribution and ecology of vascular plants, the biogeography of endemic species in Middle Asia, restoration ecology, and paddy field weed syntaxonomy. Since 2006, he has been actively exploring the vegetation diversity of Middle Asia. Currently, he serves as a professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences and Director General of the Botanical Garden – Center for Biological Diversity Conservation in Powsin.