



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

SERBIAN-CHINESE FORESTRY FORUM

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES



BELGRADE, 2025



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PREFACE

The University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry, in cooperation with the College of Forestry and Biotechnology of Zhejiang A&F University, organised the scientific conference Serbian–Chinese Forestry Forum “Forests of the Future – Challenges, Opportunities and Integrated Approaches.” Thanks to the initiative of colleagues from our partner institution, the national conference gained an important international dimension.

Collaboration between our faculties has so far taken place primarily through the mobility of master’s students from China, who attend one semester of the master’s programme Forestry and Natural Resources Management, in English, at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry. The visit of the delegation from Zhejiang raised new questions and opportunities for reciprocal student exchange, as well as for joint participation in international projects.

Numerous issues related to sustainable forest ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, and the restoration of degraded habitats under climate change represent shared challenges for forestry scientists worldwide. Modern forestry connects tradition with new knowledge and technologies – from sustainable forest management and the protection of soil and water resources to the development of renewable materials and the creation of green spaces that enhance quality of life.

The Forum provided a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas among students, teachers, researchers, and professionals from various forestry-related sectors. Its goal was to strengthen academic cooperation, stimulate innovation, and promote the development of green, sustainable technologies, with special emphasis on students and young researchers.

With more than 220 participants and 71 submitted abstracts presenting research results and project activities, the content of the Forum was organised into five thematic sections:

1. The State and Challenges of Forestry in Serbia and China
2. New and Green Technologies and Knowledge in Forestry, Wood Technology, Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, and Ecological Engineering in the Protection of Soil and Water Resources
3. Responses and Adaptation of Trees and Forests to Environmental Stress
4. Forests and Human Well-Being (Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Ecological, Economic, and Social Dimensions)
5. The Role of Young Researchers and Innovation in the Future of Forestry (Student Projects, Start-up Ideas, and International Cooperation)

The Organising Committee will publish the full papers, after peer review, in a special issue of the Bulletin of the Faculty of Forestry. The Book of Abstracts will be available online, along with other activities carried out during the Forum. The programme was enriched by an excursion to the Bojčinska Forest, where participants were introduced to the management system of floodplain pedunculate oak forests (*Quercus robur* L.) and established agroforestry systems.

Finally, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the College of Forestry and Biotechnology of Zhejiang A&F University for their support and cooperation in organising the Forum, as well as to everyone who contributed to preparing and publishing the Book of Abstracts.

Chair of the Organising Committee
Prof. Snežana Belanović Simić, D.Sc.

TOPIC 3

Responses and Adaptation of Trees and Forests to Environmental stress

EARLY MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATION OF *SALIX ALBA* CLONES IN A CONSERVATION-ORIENTED PROGENY TEST

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ABSTRACT

White willow (*Salix alba* L.) conservation is tightly linked to riparian habitat condition and hydrological regimes. These habitats are faced with fragmentation, human disturbances and degradation of ecosystems in general. All this alteration affects white willow populations in a negative way. Remaining forest stands can function as dynamic metapopulations but may depend on site history and within-population genetic diversity. To secure reproductive material and genetic resources national/regional programs combine *in situ* measures with *ex situ* actions. With the aim of conserving the white willow on Great War Island (Belgrade), a clonal (vegetative) progeny test was established in the nursery. The test consists of 25 clones whose ortets—parent trees—were selected from the species' gene pool on the territory of Great War Island. The selection of ortets was carried out in the spring of 2024. The selected trees were georeferenced and mapped. Each tree in the field was marked with a number. The branches were cut with a telescopic pruner, and the cuttings were formed immediately afterward on-site. The cuttings varied in diameter but were uniform in length, approximately 20 cm long with 3–4 dormant buds. A total of 1,611 cuttings were produced, with the number of planted cuttings per clone ranging from 51 to 94. Sprouting of the cuttings was uneven, and the final rooting/survival percentage was determined on May 23, 2024. In total, 999 cuttings rooted and 859 survived first growing season. The morphological characteristics of the plants were analyzed at the end of the first growing period. The overall mean height for all seedlings was 7500.96 ± 1682.01 mm, with a total coefficient of variation of 22.42%. The average ground-level diameter was 5.09 ± 1.06 mm, with a coefficient of variation of 20.82%. Heights were considerably more variable than diameters. Thus, according to descriptive statistical parameters, clones BV_09 and BV_19 stand out. Clone BV_09 shows the lowest average values for both height and diameter, whereas clone BV_19 has the highest average height values, but not the highest diameter values. Based on the analyses conducted during the first growing season, the established clonal test of white willow from Great War Island demonstrates substantial variability in seedling height and diameter across the 25 examined clones. The early identification of distinctive clones, such as BV_09 and BV_19, further highlights the value of this collection for ongoing conservation and breeding efforts. Overall, the clonal test provides a good basis for conservation and improvement of the genetic resources of white willow in this ecologically important riparian habitat.

Keywords: white willow, seedlings, conservation.

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