

**Branislav Nikolić**

Editor-in-Chief

*Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society*

Dear Prof. Dr Nikolić,

Please consider our manuscript entitled “**Allelopathic potential of *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. and *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle growing on asbestos deposits**” by Filip Grbović, Gordana Gajić, Snežana Branković, Zoran Simić, Nenad Vuković, Pavle Pavlović and Marina Topuzović for publication as an original article in the *Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society*.

This study examines chemical interactions between two introduced woody species (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L. and *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle) and two native herbaceous plant species (*Trifolium pratense* L. and *Medicago sativa* L.) growing on asbestos deposits of abandoned mine „Stragari“ in central Serbia. Asbestos deposits present a huge problem for local government, engineers, and environmentalist due to high risk to human health and environment. In this study, we investigated allelopathic potential of two woody species and their potential for revegetation of asbestos deposits. Our main findings were that in spite of higher allelopathic potential of *A. altissima*, it can be suitable for revegetation of asbestos tailings. This plant species initiates pedogenesis and affects the asbestos chemistry. The most important results were that allelopathic activity of phenolic compounds was highly correlated with pH, C, N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O content, as well as with concentration of Ni, Cu, Zn, Pb and Mn in asbestos. These findings provide sound knowledge about hazardous substrate, such as asbestos, its pedogenesis and revegetation. All these observations can be useful for monitoring, assessment and rehabilitation of contaminated sites, phytoremediation, environmental management and ecosystem service of waste deposits. We believe that these findings will be of interest to the readers of your journal.

We declare that this research data are original and accurate, it has been written by the stated authors, has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere and will not be submitted for such a review while under review by the *Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society*.

The authors have no conflicts of interests to declare. The manuscript doesn't contain libelous or other unlawful statements and does not contain any materials that violate any personal or proprietary rights of any other person or entity.

Potential reviewers for our manuscript are:

- 1) **Lola Đurđević**, principal research fellow (retired), University of Belgrade, Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković", Department of Ecology, Bulevar Despota Stefana 142, 11060 Belgrade, Serbia, e-mail: [kalac948@gmail.com](mailto:kalac948@gmail.com);
- 2) **Suzana Živković**, senior research associate, University of Belgrade, Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković", Department of Plant Physiology, Bulevar Despota Stefana 142, 11060 Belgrade, Serbia, e-mail: [suzy@ibiss.bg.ac.rs](mailto:suzy@ibiss.bg.ac.rs);
- 3) **Ágnes Csiszár**, associate professor, University of West Hungary, Sopron, Department of Botany and Nature Conservation, e-mail: [csiszar.agnes@emk.nyme.hu](mailto:csiszar.agnes@emk.nyme.hu);

These researchers would be a suitable reviewers due to their expertise in chemical ecology, allelopathy and plant-soil science.

As Corresponding Author, I confirm that all authors approved the final version of the manuscript and agree to be accountable for all aspects of this work. We hope you find our manuscript suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Grbović', written over a horizontal line.

**Filip Grbović**

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