

Prof. hon. Dr. Klaus Ammann

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Portrait

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/Curriculum/Klausportr-600.jpg>

Studies

Born December 6, 1940

Studies at University of Berne: Thesis on Vegetation History 1972, summa cum laude Prof. Dr. Max Welten
 Studies at Bergen Norway, Prof. Dr. Knut Faegri, 1966,
 Duke University NC USA, Drs. Bill and Chichita Culberson 1975
 and Kingston, Jamaica W.I. 1992

Lecturer University of Bern Dept. of Cryptogamic Botany since 1976
 Director Botanic Garden, University of Berne since 1996
 Prof. hon. University of Berne 2000
 Sabbatical Missouri Botanical Garden, Prof. Dr. Peter Raven 2003
 Retirement from University and Botanic Garden: February 28, 2006

Teaching

- Lecturing in Plant Systematics and Evolution, Biogeography University of Bern
<http://boga.unibe.ch/home/botanik/vielfalt.html>
- Lectures on Air Pollution Biomonitoring at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich
<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/Flechten/Flechten2.htm>
- Numerous lectures in national and international conferences on biodiversity and biotechnology
<http://www.google.ch/search?hl=en&q=Klaus+Ammann+conference&meta=>
- UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization): Member of Teaching faculty Global Initiative on Education in Biotechnology <http://binas.unido.org/binas/>
- Science and the Courts: Occasional participation in teaching <http://www.sehn.org/index.html>

Committees, among others

- Biosafety Committee of the Government of Switzerland
http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/buwal/de/fachgebiete/fg_efbs/index.html
- GMO Expert Group European Commission Directorate General JRC – IPTS
- Chairman of Section Biodiversity of European Federation of Biotechnology
<http://www.efbweb.org/sections/biotec3h.htm>
- Editor in Chief (Ecology) of Environmental Biosafety Research
<http://www.edpsciences.org/ebr/>
- Member Board of Directors Africa Harvest www.ahbf.org
- Member Advisory Board African Technology Development Forum ATDF, <http://www.atdforum.org/>

Research Projects

Closed: Collaboration Atlas of the Swiss Flora, Chemotaxonomy of Macro-Lichens, Calibrated biomonitoring of Air Pollution with Lichens, Ecological Monitoring SANW, Ethnobotany in Jamaica, Ecological Monitoring in Bulgaria.
 Ecological Risk Assessment of Vertical Gene Flow in Switzerland, <http://www.bats.ch/>

4 EU-Projects on Gene Flow and Plant Conservation of Europe

1. Safety Assessment of the Release of Transgenic Crops: Spread of Herbicide-resistance Genes from Wheat and Foxtail Millet to Weedy Species. In collaboration with INRA Dijon, France, closed 2002.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/infocentre/export/01-09-agr03d_35.html
2. Euro+Med, coordinator work packages Atlas Florae Europaeae Helsinki, Finland, Caryological Data Base Patras, Greece, European Red List and Website on Popularized Flora Europaea Contents, Botanical Garden, University of Berne, a joint venture with IUCN SSC Group European Plants, Planta Europa and the Council of Europe.
<http://www.s2you.com/euomed/> closed 2003

3. SIGMEA, Gene Flow of Maize in Europe, in collaboration with the Federal School of Technology, Zurich Switzerland, <http://sigmea.dyndns.org/> started 2004

Project in collaboration with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation)

<http://binas.unido.org/binas/home.php>

Compendium on Risk Assessment Research, support system for the decision making tree on biosafety.

Website Activities

- Berne Debates: They will soon be hosted at the new website of EFB (European Federation of Biotechnology)
- Report on the Impact of Biotechnology on Biodiversity, occasionally updated, (see publication in Trends of Biotechnology, cited in Bibliography below)
<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/Biotech-Biodiv/Report-Biodiv-Biotech12.pdf>
- Contributing member of the Faculty of 1000:
<http://www.facultyof1000.com/about/biography/1260323600223102>
- Content Management for new website of Botanic Garden University of Bern, Switzerland:
<http://boga.unibe.ch/home.html>
including soon a number of lectures on biodiversity with texts and slides, see 'Botanik', 'Artenvielfalt'

Publications and reports

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/Bibliography/Ammann-Bibliography-20050714.pdf>

My Scientific Credo

It is my intention to encourage the learning process leading to solutions of today's crucial problems such as protection of biodiversity, risk-benefit assessment of genetically engineered crops and the public debate about biotechnology. All this should serve to enhance the dialogue between the rich and the poor, hunger being the foremost problem on this planet. Ultimately, risk is the balance between hazard and opportunity. If scientists want to be heard with factual arguments, they must admit that the world cannot be explained exclusively with facts, since the questions about problems and opportunities connected to scientific progress have social and cultural components and are thus extremely complex. Debates on such complex issues need to have a discursive structure taking into account the *symmetry of ignorance* or the *asymmetry of knowledge*.

<http://www.botanischergarten.ch/Wiley/Factors-Discourse-Wiley.pdf>

Please sign up the European Manifesto:

<http://www.abic2004.org/manifesto/index.php>

and please join the new initiative to enforce active participation of public science in the Cartagena negotiations

<http://pubresreg.org/>

and have a look at the new project:

www.ahbfi.org

updated 08. 2005