Jan Roleček (Mgr., Ph.D.)

Date of birth: 21. 7. 1976

Resident: Czech Republic

Graduated
2007, Ph.D., Masaryk University, Brno: Botany (Dean's Award)
1999, Mgr., Palacký University, Olomouc: General Ecology and Nature Conservation

Work experience
2004–present: Institute of Botany and Zoology, Masaryk University, Brno
2009–2020: Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Vegetation Ecology, Brno
2021–present: Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Paleoecology, Brno

Functions and awards
2013–2015: Deputy director of the Institute of Botany for the Brno Research Division
2017–present: Member of the Board of the Institute of Botany
2015–16: Editor-in-Charge in Phytocoenologia
2017–2019: Associate Editor in Phytocoenologia
2020–present: Editorial Board member in Vegetation Classification and Survey

Teaching (Masaryk University, Brno)
Quaternary environments (since 2013)
Special field practice in botany and zoology (since 2009)
Protected areas of the Czech Republic (since 2005)
Forest ecology (since 2004)

Research focus
Vegetation ecology (vegetation diversity, vegetation history, forest ecology, broad-scale patterns in vegetation, ecology of threatened species)

Research activities in the last 10 years
Between 2020–2022 I led a Czech Science Foundation project focused on research in soil memory of species-rich steppe meadows. Between 2012 and 2018 I lead two research projects focused on the development of methodology for quantitative reconstruction of Holocene vegetation using pollen data (see details below). I also took part in a multidisciplinary project focused on the relationships between man, climate and vegetation in a pre-industrial landscape of southern Moravia (2015–17). Besides that, I conducted research expeditions to Ukraine or Romania every summer between 2012 and 2022 to study vegetation diversity of extremely species-rich semi-dry grasslands. I also participated in the development of methodology of large-scale vegetation classifications, took part in several large-scale vegetation classification projects in Europe and beyond, and studied ecology and history of populations of endangered grassland and forest species (see the list of publications below).

Main research projects in the last 10 years
2020–22: Biodiversity, disturbance history and soil memory: testing the Holocene continuity of species-rich forest-steppe ecosystems. Czech Science Foundation, 20-09895S (leaders: Roleček, Hájek, Šamonil).

2016–2018: Origin of diversity of Central European landscapes: using recent pollen and vegetation models to reconstruct historical biodiversity changes. Czech Science Foundation, 16-10100S (leaders: Roleček, Abraham)

2012–2015: Pollen-based land-cover reconstruction – model testing and its implications for Holocene environmental change studies. Czech Science Foundation, P504/12/0649 (leaders: Kuneš, Roleček)

Publications
About 100 papers (43 of them in WoS journals), chapters in monographs and popularization texts in the field of botany and vegetation ecology. Among them monographic chapters on oak forests for the compendium Vegetation of the Czech Republic (2013), widely used modification of the classification algorithm TWINSPAN (2009) and the reconstruction of the Holocene dynamics of plant diversity in Central Europe (2021).

In the field with Michal Hájek from the Masaryk University (Transylvania, June 2018, photo M. Polák).