

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHORS



Photograph of Elena (to the left) and Ana (to the right)

The Germplasm Bank of the Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia is working today for the conservation of wild flora of the Valencian Community in Spain. Its main aim is the long-term preservation of spores and seeds.

ANA M. IBARS received her Ph. D. in Botany from the University of Valencia, Spain.

From 1987, she has been associate professor of the University of Valencia. Her research has progressed from anatomical studies of pteridophytes towards their conservation. She initiated the Fern Spore Bank in 1998, which later in 2000 was joined to the Seed Bank under development in the Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia. Together with Dr. E. Estrelles, Ana has participated in various fern conservation projects and presented their research results at various symposia and publications. She is currently Vice-Director of the Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia and Associate Researcher of ICBiBE (Cavanilles Institute of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology).

ELENA ESTRELLES, received her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Valencia. From 1991 she has been Senior Technical Officer in the Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia. She is now curator of the Germplasm collection in this institution. She has coordinated the activities of our centre in different European projects related to Plant Conservation including Ensconet, Genmedoc and Semclimed. Today, she is collaborating with Ana M. Ibars in the study of spore ageing in order to optimize the maintenance of viability.