



Annals of Botany Special Lecture



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Intrinsic and extrinsic drivers of diversification: linking pattern with process

Elena Conti received her undergraduate degree from the University of Bologna (Italy) and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA) in 1994, followed by post-docs at Washington State University and Harvard.

She has been a Professor in the Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany of the University of Zurich (Switzerland) for 17 years, and was Department Chair for six years. She served on the international DIVERSITAS-bioGENESIS program and on several editorial and academic review boards; she is currently Associate Editor for *Annals of Botany*.

Elena studies the origin of biological diversity at different hierarchical scales, focusing on: 1) Evolution of plant reproductive strategies and their associated floral morphologies, especially heterostyly; 2) Biogeography of alpine-arctic and Mediterranean plants, especially island endemics.