



# Global Science Education and Research Seminars

Campus de Rabanales, Aula P11 (Aulario Averroes)

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (12:30 p.m.)



UNIVERSIDAD DE CÓRDOBA



Mihail Ognyanov Kechev was born in 1974 in the town of Chirpan, Bulgaria. Graduated from the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" with a Master's degree in Ecology. He defends his PhD thesis in the field of Entomology in the department of Zoology at the same university. The title of the dissertation is "Dolichopodid fauna (*Insecta: Diptera: Dolichopodidae*) of the Western Rhodopes."



**Dr. Mihail Kechev**

Scientist and lecturer at the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development Plovdiv, Bulgaria

From 2009 is Assistant Professor and from 2015 is Associate Professor at the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, Bulgaria where he teaches Ecology, Agroecology and Biodiversity.

His scientific interests are in the field of biodiversity, zoology, biomonitoring, taxonomy and ecology of insect families: *Dolichopodidae*, *Culicidae*, *Ceratopogonidae*.

## Biodiversity of Bulgaria. Floodplain forests.

Although Bulgaria is small in size (111 000 square kilometers), but supports a highly diversity of flora and fauna. This diversity depends on variety of climate, relief, geology and hydrological conditions. 33.8% of the territory in the country is included in Natura 2000. 35% of land area consists of forests and 60% of these forests are of natural origin.

Floodplain forests are highly dynamic ecosystems that occur on river banks. They depend on particular flood regimes for their continued existence, as many of their dominant species require flood disturbance, usually in the spring, and new deposited sediments to be regenerated. These ecosystems support a highly biodiversity of trees, lianas, medical plants and herbs, and vertebrate and invertebrate fauna. About 85 - 90% of floodplain forests in Europe have disappeared and remaining fragments are in critical conditions. They are one of Europe's most threatened ecosystems and are listed in the European Habitats Directive. Floodplain forests need deep scientific research, restore and conservation.

