

## **Abstract**

The concept of plate tectonics accepted during 20th century fundamentally changed general opinion on the origin of Latin American flora. It was found, that South America formed a part of the ancient continent Gondwana. This continent was covered by a unique flora until 100 million years ago. Actual disjunction of widely distributed tropical taxa present in South America originated after disruption of that original flora distribution. It was deduced that the separation of South America from Gondwana finished about 100 million years ago and led to the isolation of their flora until the formation of the Isthmus of Panama about 3 million years ago. However, recent studies based on molecular clock approaches shows that the exchange of biota between South America and rest of the World was possible several times in different ways before the closure of the Isthmus of Panama. The reevaluation of our opinion about the gondwanan origin of Latin American flora based on advanced molecular analysis is the aim of this work.