

Conservation important vascular plants and endemics from the flora of Sofia city

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Abstract:

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During an investigation of the flora of Sofia city for a period of 18 years (1984–2001), a number of 27 conservation important species were established. Most of them are wild: *Leucjum aestivum* L., *Angelica pancicii* Vand., *Pastinaca hirsuta* Panc., *Peucedanum aegopodioides* (Boiss.) Vand., *Bupleurum gerardii* All., *Trifolium trichopterum* Panc., *Stachys milanii* Petrovic, *Cephalanthera damassonium* (Mill.) Druce, *Cephalanthera longifolia* (L.) Fritsch., *Epipactis palustris* (L.) Crantz, *Platanthera chlorantha* (Custer) Rchb., *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall., *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz, *Carex disticha* Huds., *Campanula sparsa* Friv., subsp. *sphaerothrix* (Grsb.) Hay., a total of 15 species. The remaining species are used for decoration in parks, along streets, and house yards in the city: *Juniperus sabina* L., *Taxus baccata* L., *Ilex aquifolium* L., *Castanea sativa* Mill., *Nymphaea alba* L., *Pycnantha coccinea* Roem., *Galanthus elwesii* Hook. fil., *Anemone sylvestris* L., a total of 9 species. Another group of conservation important plants have occurred in the city in the past. Unfortunately, they have not been confirmed so far: *Hottonia palustris* L., *Merendera sobolifera* C. A. Mey, and *Acorus calamus*.

Key words: vascular plant, conservation, Sofia.

Results and discussion

The following species are extinct:

Acorus calamus L. Collected at the beginning of the 20th century in humid meadows between Svetovrachane and Lokorsko by Nikolay Stojanov.

Merendera sobolifera C. A. Mey. Collected by Stefan Georgiev at the end of the 19th century in land of the then village of Poduene.

Hottonia palustris L. This hydrophyte occurred by the early 1930s in the Kazichene swamp. When it was drained, the species was extinct and has not been confirmed for the Bulgarian flora yet.

Senecio paludosus L. Reported by Urumov (1912) for the swamps by the village of Chelopechene. Currently, they are used for production of inert materials and the presence of this hydrophyte has not been confirmed.

A number of 9 species are protected by the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act (2002): *Juniperus sabina* L., *Taxus baccata* L., *Ilex aquifolium* L., *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall., *Pycnantha coccinea* Roem., *Acorus calamus* L., *Galanthus elwesii* Hook. fil., *Carex disticha* Huds., and *Anemone sylvestris* L.

The following species are classified as “threatened” by the Red Data Book of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria: *Taxus baccata* L., *Leucjum aestivum* L., *Castanea sativa* Mill., *Nymphaea alba* L., *Pycnantha coccinea* Roem., *Carex disticha* Huds., and *Anemone sylvestris* L.

Those classified as “rare” are *Juniperus sabina* L., *Angelica pancicii* Vand., *Bupleurum gerardii* All., *Utricularia vulgaris* L., *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall., *Cercis siliquastrum* L., *Merendera sobolifera* C. A. Mey, *Ficus carica* L., and *Senecio paludosus* L.

The following species are Balkan endemics: *Angelica pancicii* Vand., *Pastinaca hirsuta* Panc., *Trifolium trichopterum* Panc., *Stachys milanii* Petrovic, and *Campanula sparsa* Friv. subsp. *sphaerothrix* (Grseb.) Hay.

The following species are from the CITES group: *Cephalanthera damassonium* (Miller) Druce, *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Hudson) Fritsch, *Epipactis palustris* (L.) Crantz, *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz, *Platanthera chlorantha* (Cust.) Reichenb., *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall.

All the exsiccates of the above-mentioned groups are stored at the Herbarium of the Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski University (SO).

References

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