



The Balkan Botanical Congress is an international meeting that has been held nearly every three years, since 1997. It brings together botanists from around the world who perform research on plants in the widest sense, as well as scientists who are engaged in the plant sciences and their applications. We were honored to host such an extraordinary scientific event this year in Serbia.

The 7th Balkan Botanical Congress – 7BBC 2018 took place in Novi Sad from September 10th to 14th 2018. The Congress was organized by the University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology and Ecology and the “Andreas Wolny” Botanical Society, along with the great help of 7 co-organizers and more than 30 supporters and sponsors. It truly was not possible to happen without exceptional help of our co-organizer - the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province who made this congress not only possible, but totally awesome.

7BBC 2018 placed a special emphasis on plants of the Balkan Peninsula and covered various research fields. The Congress was organized into ten sessions: Plant Anatomy and Physiology, Plant Taxonomy and Systematics, Plant Molecular Biology and Genetics, Floristics, Vegetation and Phytogeography, Conservation Botany and Plant Invasions, Phytochemistry and Plant Resources, Agronomy and Forestry, Botanical Collections and History, Ethnobotany and Cryptogam Biology. These topics were elaborated through five plenary lectures given by eminent scientists, as well as in the form of introductory lectures, oral and poster presentations. With an overall number of 387 abstracts presented on the very latest of botanical science, we shared knowledge, expertise and novel ideas. We welcomed nearly 400 scientists to Novi Sad, and we believe that we succeeded in our joint endeavor to make new networks and new connections among botanists. We hope that we contributed to advancements in the wide and beautiful field of botany, ranging from fundamental botanical research to applied botany.

It is our great pleasure to publish this Abstract Book in Botanica Serbica, in the same year that this international journal, a renamed continuation of the Bulletin of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden Belgrade, celebrates its 90 year jubilee. On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing committee of 7BBC 2018 we would like to express our gratitude to all contributors, colleagues and sponsors for taking part in the 7th Balkan Botanical Congress, as well as for their efforts and contributions to its successful realization.

Goran Anačkov and Lana Zorić,
Co-presidents of the Scientific Committee of the 7 BBC
and guest editors of Botanica Serbica 42 (supplement 1).

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Sessions:

The 7th Balkan Botanical Congress consists of plenary lectures, introductory lectures of each session, as well as oral and poster presentations on the following topics:

Sessions 1. Plant Anatomy and Physiology

Sessions 2. Plant Taxonomy and Systematics

Sessions 3. Plant Molecular Biology and Genetics

Sessions 4. Floristics, Vegetation and Phytogeography

Sessions 5. Conservation Botany and Plant Invasion

Sessions 6. Phytochemistry and Plant Resources

Sessions 7. Agronomy and Forestry

Sessions 8. Botanical Collections and History

Sessions 9. Ethnobotany

Sessions 10. Cryptogam Biology

jedâdra, or with other crops grown for the same purpose, such as in French, with *sésame d'Allemagne*. Merging archaeobotany and linguistics may cast more light not only on the present, but also on the earliest past of crops, including camelina.

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KEYWORDS: archaeobotany, *Camelina sativa*, crop history, false flax, linguistics, oil crops

Poster presentation 08 09 05

ETHNOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOURCES AS A PRELUDE TO ETHNOBOTANICAL RESEARCH IN PODHALE REGION

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Podhale is a cultural region in southern Poland, in the northern foothills of Tatra Mountains. It is a region of ethnographic and geographical uniformity, which for decades has not undergone the process of urbanization, while maintaining numerous customs and characteristics of traditional culture. Ethnographic research in this region has been conducted since the beginning of the 19th century. The main topics that interested researchers of the 19th and 20th centuries were shepherd's customs, architecture, clothing and dialects. Unfortunately, ethnobotanical studies have not been conducted in Podhale until today. This paper is an ethnobotanical analysis of historical sources on the ways of using wild plants by the inhabitants of Podhale. Here, over 25 ethnographic publications and 71 ethnographic interviews from the collections of the Tatra Museum of Natural Sciences in Zakopane, as well as archival interviews from the Polish Ethnographic Atlas and old manuscripts / guides, so-called "jottings" (a kind of guidelines leading to treasures hidden in Tatra Mountains and magical rituals allowing to find them), have been used. In addition, letters to Józef Rostafiński (from 1883) have been analyzed. He conducted a nationwide ethnobotanical survey, as a response to which, J. Rostafiński received almost 860 letters from about 370 respondents, and only two of them came from the Podhale region. The result of this analysis is a list of 177 plant species belonging to 62 families, which were used in the kitchen (mainly as food in hunger times), folk medicine, local architecture and furniture, as well as in magical rituals and religious ceremonies. These analyzes of historical ethnographic sources show that Polish highlanders have been using many of the plants growing in their immediate surroundings. Therefore, they will serve as an introduction to further ethnobotanical research that will be carried out in the near future in Podhale. The final list of species will be the basis for com-

paring the knowledge about the use of wild plants by Polish highlanders in the past and nowadays.

KEYWORDS: Podhale, ethnobotany, Polish highlanders, use of wild plants, Tatra Mountains

Poster presentation 09 09 08

PLANTS AND SENSE OF IDENTITY – CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN GOTSE DELCHEV MUNICIPALITY, BULGARIA

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Plants and vegetation are in unbreakable relation with all human activities. Because of these links numerous species and habitats were adopted as cultural symbols by the local communities. This survey is an attempt to describe the variety of plants and plant communities which are part of the sense of geographical, ethnic and religious identity of the population of Breznitsa and Banichan - villages in Gotse Delchev municipality in South West Bulgaria. Ethnobotanical methods such as semistructured individual interviews and focus groups were used to gather the information from the members of the local communities. An interpretation of the data was made considering the concept of the cultural ecosystem services which shows the importance of the agroecosystems, forest and grass ecosystems and the lands with sparse vegetation on defining the self-perception of the members of the rural communities.

KEYWORDS: cultural ecosystem services, sense of identity, ethnobotany, Breznitsa, Banichan, Bulgaria

Poster presentation 10 09 04

TRADITIONAL USE OF MEDICINAL AND EDIBLE PLANTS ON STARA PLANINA (SOUTHEASTERN SERBIA)

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This study provides significant ethnobotanical information on medicinal plant use in the Stara planina region (south-eastern Serbia). The research area is characterized by a high diversity of plant species, which have a wide range of medicinal and dietary uses among the local population. The aim of this study was to document all the traditional knowledge and analyze the medicinal plants used in

this area, as well as to identify plant species of importance for future pharmacological studies. Local knowledge was obtained through semi-structured and open interviews, in which 51 informants, aged between 49 and 92 (with a mean age of 70.5), were interviewed. The relative importance of the plant species was determined by calculating the use value (UV). The informants provided data on 157 medicinal and edible plants belonging to 57 families, of which *Asteraceae*, *Lamiaceae* and *Rosaceae* predominated in their local use. The species with the highest use values in ethnobotany and diet were *Allium ursinum*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Carlina acaulis*, *Cornus mas*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Gentiana asclepiadea*, *G. cruciata*, *G. lutea*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Juglans regia*, *Mentha × piperita*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *P. major*, *Rosa canina*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *R. idaeus*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Satureja montana*, *Thymus serpyllum*, *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *V. vitis-idaea*. Medicinal plants were used most commonly to treat respiratory, gastrointestinal, urogenital, skin and cardiovascular conditions, as well as for detoxification and strengthening the body. Aerial parts of medicinal plants (mostly when in bloom) are traditionally used in making various preparations (teas, decoctions, tinctures, oils, ointments, balms, juices, syrups, and 'travarica' brandy). Ethnobotanical research in the Stara Planina region has established that the fruits, leaves, aerial parts or roots of the 47 plant species are used as food and drink in the form of juices, syrups, sweets, brandy, spices, salads (in their fresh state) and for making various other dishes. Ethnobotanical knowledge in this area is decreasing due to high emigration rates in recent times. However, this historically developed ethnobotanical heritage should be preserved and promoted on a wider level and given special consideration in future management plans for the Stara planina region.

KEYWORDS: ethnobotany, Stara planina (Serbia), medicinal plants, edible plants, traditional plant uses

Poster presentation 11 09 14

ETHNOBOTANIC STUDY OF SOUTHERN ŠAJKAŠKA

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Sajkaska is a region in province of Vojvodina, northern Serbia. Region is located in humid continental climate zone. This is flat land transected with big rivers. Because of that, this region is very suitable for agriculture. This paper presents a research in southern part of Sajkaska, region located in Novi Sad and Titel municipalities and 9 settlements: Kac, Budisava, Kovilj, Sajkas, Mosorin, Vilovo, Lok, Gardinovci and Titel. The aim of this paper is to assume diversity of economically important flora of Southern Sajkaska region. This analysis is

conducted by collecting data from local population. In every settlement 30 people was polled and they were answering questions about fruit, vegetable, grain, spice and medicinal plant species which they grow, as well as plant species that were grown in the past and also those that are planned to be grown in the future. Collected data were analyzed with classical statistical methods. Results prove correlation between number of different plant species and microclimatic characteristics of settlements, cultural differences between ethnicity of polled people, education levels, type of jobs of people and their age. There are certain trends in types of plants that are grown in different settlements. Also, there are strong correlation between diversity of grown species and resident's age. Considering education levels there are trends indicating higher diversity of grown vegetable, spice and medicinal plant species and species planned for growing in the future. Analysis of resident's ethnicity, indicate higher plant diversity in settlements with more different nationalities living together. This research presents trends in selecting and growing different plant species. It shows trends and correlations about geography and ecology of region and their influence in forming specific groups of species region. Researches like this have great importance in estimation of economically important flora of the settlements and also ethnological and ethno-botanical importance. Also, they compile informations about rare and forgotten species and cultures of researched area.

KEYWORDS: cultivated plants, economical importance of plants, Šajkaška

Poster presentation 12 09 03

USING ELLENBERG-PIGNATTI VALUES TO ESTIMATE HABITAT PREFERENCES OF WILD FOOD AND MEDICINAL PLANTS: AN EXAMPLE FROM NORTHEASTERN ISTRIA (CROATIA)

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The paper presents the first ethnobotanical application of Ellenberg indicator values, which are widely used in European plant ecology. The aim of the study was to find out if Ellenberg values (indicating habitat preferences) differ for wild food and medicinal plants used in north-eastern Istria (Croatia). We used Ellenberg-Pignatti values (the version of Ellenberg values used in this part of Europe). Fifty semi-structured interviews were carried out among local key informants, asking which wild food and medicinal plants they used. The mean number of food and medicinal plants mentioned per interview was 30. Altogether, 121 species were recorded as food