

## **Agrobiodiversity of traditional fruit *Malus* sp., *Pyrus* sp., *Prunus* sp. varieties in Serbia**

**Savić, A.<sup>1</sup>, Jarić, S.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Natural History Museum Belgrade, Njegoševa 51, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>2</sup>University of Belgrade, Institute for Biological Research ‘Siniša Stanković’,  
Department of Ecology, Bulevar Despota Stefana 142, Belgrade, Serbia

\* *aleksandra.savic@nhmbeo.rs*

A long tradition of fruit farming in Serbia is a significant part of a nation's heritage, its traditions and customs. The gene pool of the numerous traditional varieties of apples (*Malus sylvestris* L.), pears (*Pyrus communis* L.) and plums (*Prunus domestica* L.), is under a threat of irreversible disappearance, due to introduction of new commercial varieties. Ethnobotanical research was carried out in central, east and southwest Serbia. There are great diversity of apple varieties in central and southeast Serbia: *Kolačara*, *Đula*, *Šumatovka*, *Senabija*, *Tetovka*, *Timočanka*, *Zelenika*. Over 40 pear varieties still remained in central and southwest Serbia: *Vidovača*, *Ječmenjača*, *Lubeničarka*, *Medunak*, *Takiša*, *Karamanka*, *Lončara*, *Jeribasma*. The plum varieties have also great diversity in central Serbia: *Bardaklija*, *Moravka*, *Piskavac*, *Crnošljiva*, *Belošljiva*, *Ranka*. The fruits are used predominantly as a food, consumed as fresh, or processed into traditional products (juice, jam, brandy, slatko, as dried fruit). They are also used in ethnomedicine, as a remedy against some diseases (hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, constipation, body mass reduction). It is of the greatest importance to protect the gene pool of traditional varieties by conservation methods *in situ* and *ex situ*, as well as by raising awareness among local populations, and by employing government aid.