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SOME PROTECTED SPECIES OF PLANTS IN THE MARAMUREȘ COUNTY (ROMANIA)

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Abstract: The Rodna Mountains, the Maramureș Mountains, the Gutâi Mountains, the oligotrophic swamps have been the main concern of many-sided studies in course of time and brought to light their rare species. For all that novel aspects are not at all impossible to appear in the places already mentioned above as well as in many others less dealt with such as the Lăpuș Mountains, the Țibleș Mountains and the Someș Valley. Here, for example, the natives draw attention to existence of some species that have been listed to the under preservation. The clearing of narcissuses on the Coastei Hill in the Suciul de Sus Village is hardly known or taken into consideration and, therefore, quite ignored. The habitat of the *Narcissus poeticus* ssp. *stellaris* is not far from the farms enclosed by the tillable land. Formerly it measured a few hectares, but now it is only a few tens of ares because of the tillable ground surrounding it. Another species that can be found in the places we have already referred to this also in danger, its name is *Fritillaria meleagris*. Long ago it was considered to have been inexistent in the county of Maramureș, but later on it could be found again in the Fersig Forest on the Someș Valley, at Ardusat and at the Lăpuș Valley.

Study area

The north-west of Romania, to which Maramureș belongs, is a territory with mountains, hills and plains alternating on small spaces. The origin and geological age of different formations span along the history of Terra, which makes the local vegetation to be a very rich one, and integrates species arrived here through migration along the multiple geomorphic and climate transformations.

Most of the territory consists of mountains and hills: the Maramureș Mountains, which reach a height of almost 2000 m (Pietrosul, Torioaga, Pop Ivan, Mihailec, and other peaks), the not less imposing and mysterious Țibleș, that delimitate the depressions at the outskirts of Baia Mare and Lăpuș and the Gutâi Mountains, belonging to the northern group of the Occidental Carpathians, sets an imposing barrier between the true "County of Maramureș", lying north, and the southern territory that spans towards the Someș Plain and Sylvania Hills.

The hydrographic network is made of large rivers such as Someș in the south-west and Tisa, the latter forming the northern boundary on a distance of 62 km. The rivers Săsar, Sălaj, Lăpuș flow into Someș, whereas Vișeu, Iza and Mara from the Maramureș Mountains flow into Tisa.

The climate is formed under the influence of the dominantly western and north-western atmospheric flow and sheltered by the nearby mountains. It has a temperate character, with continental influences, and with annual average temperatures of about 6-9°C and annual precipitations between 600 and 800 mm.

The dominant soils are the acid brown and the ferruginous as well as podzolics in the Maramureș Mountains and Rodnei, andosols on the eruptive layer of Ignis, and the luvic-brown soil predominates in the hill areas.

The regional flora is one largely dominated by the Eurasian species (35-37%) and the following infiltrated throughout various geological eras: circumpolar species (10-13%), Central European ones (7-9%) and a few Sub-Mediterranean ones (below 3-4%) and continental elements (1-2%) [1].

Results and Discussion

Many of the rare and vulnerable species have been identified in the Maramureş area by well known botanists as Coman, Morariu, Pop, Porcius, Moldovan. The concretizations of the botanic studies and the recognizing of the floristic patrimony were materialized in time by including some territories in the network of protected areas. Among the most important ones well-knowing are: The Biosphere Reservation from the Rodnei Mountains, the chestnut tree Reservation from Baia Mare, The “Creasta Cocoşului” protected area, The oak tree forest from Bavna, the fossil reservation Chiuzbaia, the Vlăşchinescu Swamp, the Morăreni Lake, and, more recently, the natural trans-bordering reservation of the Maramures Mountains [2]. These protected areas, as well as other ones, conserve both vulnerable species and phytocenosis with a high degree of diversity, shelter worthy ecotypes, being true reservoirs of germoplasma.

One of the reference species is the variegated tulips or, in romanian “bibilica” (*Fritillaria meleagris*), a rare and vulnerable species. Its populations being in an descending dynamics, and at a certain moment it was also absent from the flora of Maramureş.

It was rediscovered in the Fersig forest in 1965, a place where it is present even today, but in a diminished population liable to the anthropical factor. The Fersig forest or the Bavna forest reservation is a reminiscence of the great woods that were once covering the Someş and Lapuş Plain, from which nowadays there are only islands of forests surrounded by crops. The surface of the forest is approximately 2000 hectares from which the western part of about 26 hectares is delimited as a reservation. The edificatory element of this phytocenosis is *Quercus robur*. Unfortunately, the forest being in the vicinity of the village Fersig, close to Baia Mare, the variegated tulip is substantially picked and sold during April. The inexistent guarding measures, the precarious education in ecology favour the constant diminishing and impoverishing of the population. In April 2003 there were listed only 20-25 samples on a surface of a few tens of are, but, on the other hand, bouquets thrown along the road or sold on the streets of Baia Mare were remarked.

Another population of variegated tulips, known only locally and not mentioned in the literature, is at Rodina, the village Ariniş. Rodina is a village situated variegated tulips finished their blossoming period. Though less picked than those from Fersig, the pressure of picking is substantial, the children from the village picking large quantities. This spring the first sample was found on the 9th of April, and in the following week, when they were in bloom, the population was represented by about 20 bloomed samples, 10-15 dried ones, and on the road from the village there were 3-4 bouquets thrown away numbering about 30-40 samples.

One of the areas which is truly unique through the beauty and wildness of the scenery, and very little studied from a botanical point of view is the southern part of the county, namely Țara Lăpusului. At approximately 20 km from Târgu Lăpuş, in the north-west of the village Peteritea (Vima Mica commune) the bank of the Lapus river is height, more than 300 m above the level of the river, rocky and narrow with the aspect of a knife blade, which inspired the local name of “la custura”. The place, surrendered by beech forests with a few oak trees, by grasslands of *Nardus stricta*, due to the fact that is more moist, allows for the installation of a population of *Narcissus poëticus* ssp. *stellaris* and one of *Fritillaria meleagris*. Because the area is not fertile for crops or pastures, the only existing pressure, unfortunately one with a high intensity, is the anthropic one. Both the tulips and daffodils are picked without impediments, which leads to a diminishing of both populations and numbers each year.

In the same time, in “Țara Lăpuşului”, at the foot of the Țibleş Mountains lie the Obcinele Țibleşului, with narrow and long peaks, oriented from north to south and having altitudes of maximum 970 m. The slopes are covered in forests in a proportion of 50% with beech trees, and at their foot there are piedmonts. The lower terrace, continued upstream to the mountainous area from Groşii Țibleşului is flooded in spring. Both steps of the area were covered in hay fields, and more recently by crops. The wet hay fields were more favorable to the

installation of a compact population of *Narcissus poëticus* ssp. *stellaris*. The locals testify the presence of daffodils in-groups along the lower terrace of the rivers Țibleș and Suciul, but also on the higher terrace, as the Dealul Coastei from Suciul de Sus. These lands covered in phytocenosis of *Cirsio cani-Festucetum pratensis* Májovsky et Ruzicková 1975 and *Agrostideto-Festucetum pratensis* Soó 1949 are used as hay fields [3]. If in the previous springs, on the Dealul Coastei there were daffodils on several ares, in May 2003 the land was ploughed with the exception of about ½ ares on which there is left a population of daffodils. There is only one landowner who has not ploughed his land, a fact that did not prevent him from picking bouquets of tens of daffodils that faded on the porch. What is remarkable is that, although the land was ploughed, some samples with a deeper bulb developed and bloomed even on the ploughed surface.

Conclusions

It is sure that such local populations of some rare and vulnerable species exist in other parts of the Maramureș county, as well. It is important that these parts be identified, charted and included among the mentioned one in a protection program.

The protections will be not restricted at the limiting or spencing the mentioned areas, but it will mean a sustained educational programs by organizing some study trips, seminaries or local cultural and scientific events, like specific festival dedicated to the protected species witch could become a valuable local brand.

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CÂTEVA SPECII DE PLANTE PROTEJATE ÎN MARAMUREȘ (ROMÂNIA)

(Rezumat)

Maramureșul istoric, Munții Rodnei, Munții Maramureșului, Munții Gutâi, au fost studiate în decursul timpului atât din punct de vedere floristic, cât și al vegetației. Dar aspecte inedite pot să apară din zonele mai puțin cercetate cum sunt: Munții Lăpușului, Munții Țibleșului, porțiuni din Valea Someșului. O privire atentă asupra florei din aceste zone dezvăluie prezența unor populații de plante socotite ca rare, unele vulnerabile și ocrotite. Aceste populații, foarte puțin cunoscute, subzistă într-o precaritate cvasi-absolută deoarece se găsesc cantonate pe terenuri umede aflate în imediata apropiere a localităților rurale, a terenurilor de cultură și a pășunilor comunale.

Una dintre speciile de referință este laleaua peștiță sau bibilica, *Fritillaria meleagris*, specie rară și vulnerabilă, monument al naturii. Studiul botanic maramureșene o citează ca fiind prezentă în zonă în luncile apelor, populațiile ei înregistrând, din păcate, o dinamică descendentă, la un moment dat constatându-se absența ei din peisajul floristic al Maramureșului.

În anul 1965 este redescoperită în pădurea de la Fersig, unde este prezentă și astăzi, dar printr-o populație diminuată, supusă puternic factorului antropic. Pădurea Fersig sau rezervația forestieră Bavna, este o reminiscență a codrilor care împădureau odinioară Câmpia Someșului și Lăpușului, din care astăzi se mai găsesc doar insule forestiere înconjurate de culturi agricole. Edificatorul acestei fitocenoze forestiere este *Quercus robur*. În aprilie 2003, pe o suprafață de câteva zeci de ari au fost inventariate doar 20-25 de exemplare, în schimb s-au remarcat buchete aruncate de-a lungul drumului și altele comercializate pe străzile din Baia Mare.

O altă populație de lalea peștiță, cunoscută doar pe plan local și necitată în literatura de specialitate este la Rodina, comuna Ariniș. Deși mai puțin cules decât cele de la Fersig, presiunea culesului este substanțială, copiii din sat culegând cantități mari. În primăvara anului 2003 primul exemplar găsit a fost pe 9 aprilie, iar în săptămâna

consecutivă , când înflorirea era maximă populația era reprezentată prin aproximativ 20 de exemplare înflorite, 10-15 indivizi uscați, iar pe drumul dinspre sat, mai erau aruncate 3-4 buchete, însumând în jur de 30-40 de exemplare.

O zonă cu totul inedită prin frumusețea și sălbăticia peisajului, foarte puțin studiată din punct de vedere botanic este zona de sud a județului, respectiv Țara Lăpușului. Aproximativ la 20 de km de Târgu Lăpuș, în nord-vestul satului Peteritea (comuna Vima Mică), malul Lăpușului este înalt depășind cu aproximativ 300 de m nivelul râului, stâncos și îngust cu aspectul unei lame de cuțit, de unde și toponimia locală de “la custură”. Locul, înconjurat de păduri de fag, printre care sunt diseminate exemplare de gorun, de pajiști de *Nardus stricta*, fiind mai umed, permite instalarea unei populații de *Narcissus poeticus* ssp. *stellaris* și a uneia de *Fritillaria meleagris*.

De asemenea, în “Țara Lăpușului”, la poalele Munților Țibleșului se întind Obcinele Țibleșului cu culmi înguste și prelungi, orientate pe direcția N-S și având altitudini de maximum 970 de m. Fânețele umede erau propice instalării unor populații compacte de *Narcissus poeticus*. Mărturiile localnicilor atestă prezența narciselor în pâlcuri întinse pe terasa inferioară a râurilor Țibleș și Suci, dar și pe terasa mai înaltă, cum ar fi Dealul Coastei din Comuna Suci de Sus. Aceste terenuri ocupate de fitocenoză de *Cirsio cani-Festucetum pratensis*, *Agrostideto-Festucetum pratensis* sunt utilizate ca fânețe. Această modalitate de utilizare n-a afectat, decenii de-a rândul populațiile de narcise. Dacă în primăverile trecute, pe Dealul Coastei existau narcise pe câteva zeci de ari, în mai 2003 terenul a fost arat cu excepția a cca ½ ari pe care se mai păstrează un rest de populație de narcise. Cu siguranță că astfel de populații locale ale unor specii rare și vulnerabile mai există și în alte puncte ale județului Maramureș. Important este ca ele să fie identificate, cartate și alături de cele menționate, să fie incluse într-un program de ocrotire.