



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 it's 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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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

Oral presentation 23.04.31

THE ROLE OF HYDROLOGICAL REGIME IN STRUCTURING MACROPHYTE ASSEMBLAGES IN GRAVEL PIT LAKES ALONG THE DRINA RIVER FLOODPLAIN (SERBIA)

Dušanika Cvijanović^{1*}, Bojan Damjanović², Maja Novković³, Aleksandra Veselić³, Milica Živković³, Ana Adenkić⁴, Dragana Vukov & Snežana Radulović⁵

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Hydrological regime plays an important role in structuring macrophyte vegetation in highly connected floodplain lakes, such as gravel pit lakes connected to the main river channel. If the dominant hydrological drivers are known, an optimal selection of gravel excavation location, relative to the main river channel, may create favorable hydrological conditions for aquatic biota. The aim of this study was to determine the most significant and relevant hydrological variables for structuring macrophyte assemblages in newly formed gravel pit lakes along the lower course of the Drina River. Field research was carried out on 49 survey sectors (14 gravel pit lakes), during the summer months of 2015 and 2016. Vegetation data was collected in accordance with the Pan-European standard for the sampling of macrophyte vegetation in lakes, using the UKTAG LEAPPACS (Lake Assessment Methods, Macrophyte and Phytobenthos). Hydrological variables (frequency, duration and amplitude of the flooding events during the 4-year period prior to the vegetation survey) for each lake were extracted from the Republic Hydrometeorological Services according to the relative shore height to the Badovinci water-level station on the Drina River. The role of hydrological variables in structuring macrophyte assemblages was tested using partial Canonical Correspondence Analysis, while Generalized Linear Model was performed to test the ability of selected hydrological attributes to predict the macrophyte quantitative metrics (Shannon diversity index, species richness, total macrophyte cover, number of macrophyte functional groups, number of charophyte taxa and relative charophyte cover). The analyses showed that species richness, Shannon diversity index, total macrophyte cover and number of macrophyte functional groups were negatively predicted by the frequency of flooding events during the summer seasons in the past 4-year period. However, these macrophyte indicators, including the number of charophyte taxa and the relative charophyte cover, were positively correlated with the frequency of flooding events during the spring periods. These results suggest that the frequency of flooding periods during

Oral presentation 24.04.64

A PREDICTION FRAMEWORK FOR AQUATIC VEGETATION USING ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS

Aleksandar Radošević^{1*}, Aleksandar Kovačević², Dušanika Cvijanović³, Igor Jovinić⁴, Jelena Janković⁵, Nikola Vučkasinović⁶, Bojan Damjanović⁷, Maja Novković⁸, Milica Živković⁹ & Snežana Radulović⁹

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The ability to predict aquatic vegetation patterns, such as species composition, species richness and diversity based on various environmental variables may be useful to environmental resource managers and stakeholders. The aim of this study was to develop and validate predictive models for the macrophyte vegetation patterns using Artificial Neural Networks (ANN). The dataset included 56 macrophyte survey sectors collected from 14 gravel pit lakes along the lower course of the Drina River, during the summer months of 2015 and 2016. Predictive models were designed using macrophyte variables (species composition, Shannon diversity index, species richness, total macrophyte cover, number of macrophyte functional groups, number of charophyte taxa and relative charophyte cover) as outputs and physico-chemical and hydro-morphological parameters as inputs. Dataset was later reduced using Principal Component Analysis and Canonical Correspondence Analysis to select only significant variables. Models were made using Python programming language and Keras open source library for Artificial Neural Network support. Over 50 different ANN models were tested. The final model was performed on standardized data using Soft-Max activation function for outputs and included four layers. The highest prediction rate was obtained for vegetation composition which was presented with data matrix consisting of 27 species and 56 samples. Derived model could be used as a starting point toward exploring environmental sorting mechanisms of macrophyte assemblages.

KEYWORDS: Artificial Neural Network, gravel pit, vegetation, macrophytes

Oral presentation 25.04.40

POLLEN AND CHARCOAL AS KEYS FOR UNDERSTANDING VEGETATION DYNAMICS DURING THE PAST - CASE STUDY FROM CENTRAL CROATIA

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Sediment from the biggest Croatian mire (Blatusa) was taken in 2015. Physical and geochemical analysis of sediments, qualitative and quantitative analyses of pollen palynomorphs and charcoal particles were performed. The following local zones were identified: *Pinus* - *Fagus* (Zone 1, depth 210-175 cm), *Fagus* - *Corylus* (Zone 2a, 175- 150 cm), *Fagus* - *Alnus* (Zone 2b, 150-85 cm), NAP (non-arboreal pollen) - *Fagus* - *Quercus* (Zone 3a, 85-45 cm) and NAP - *Carpinus* - *Quercus* - *Fagus* (Zone 3b, 45-5 cm). Local palynological species form following subzones: Cyperaceae - Polypodiales (210-180 cm), Polypodiales - *Sphagnum* (180-90 cm), *Sphagnum* - Polypodiales (90-40 cm) and Cyperaceae (40-5 cm). Zone 1 is characterised by 41 pollen types, the share of arboreal pollen is ~ 85%, the broader area was covered by pine and plants typical for oak forests, and today's area of the mire was a mosaic of wetland vegetation and wet meadows, with partially developed peatland vegetation. Zone 2 is characterised by 45 pollen types, the share of arboreal pollen is ~ 96%, with a domination of beech forest, the high share of hazel (Zone 2a) and alder (Zone 2b), and a local domination of ferns. Zone 3 is characterised by 57 pollen types, the share of arboreal pollen is ~ 72%, with a relative domination of grasses. Beech is the most common tree in Zone 3a and hornbeam and oak in Zone 3b, which is also characterised by the highest palynological richness and numerous anthropogenic indicators (eg. Cerealia pollen). According to the results of ¹⁴C AMS dating, the deepest section of the core belongs to the Preboreal interval (Holocene). The shares of arboreal pollen, anthropogenic indicators, charcoal particles and palynological richness point to variable intensity of anthropogenic pressure, particularly expressed since the developed Middle Ages. Charcoal particles were the most numerous through the Zones 1 and 3, and are evidence of regional and local fires, essential succession factors. The results enable us to apply them for the same post-glacial period for the surrounding biogeographical area in the border zone between Central and Southeast Europe.

KEYWORDS: anthropogenic indicators, Blatusa peatland, fire, Holocene, paleoenvironment, palynology

Poster presentation 26.04.08

NEW RECORDS OF ENDEMIC IRIS ADRIATICA (IRIDACEAE) IN NORTH ADRIATIC (CROATIA)

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Iris adriatica Trinajstić ex Mitić is the strictly endemic rhizomatous dwarf plant from the *I. pumila* complex, first recorded and described in 2002 in Croatia. Due to its small, late-ly decreased or disappearing populations, *I. adriatica* belongs to the NT (near threatened) IUCN category in the Croatian Red Book of Vascular Plants. Recent metabiological profiling of this species revealed its great pharmacological potential and chemotaxonomic relevance. So far, its recorded presence has been limited to the few locations in central Dalmatia (Croatia). Here we present the new records of *I. adriatica* on the Island Cres in North Adriatic. Two new locations were identified: one in the area of Srem, on the north of the church St. Mihovil (155 MASL) and the other, small population in the area of Jelovica, around the church of St. Juraj (141 MASL), which is the northernmost, so far confirmed record of this species in the Republic of Croatia.

KEYWORDS: *Iris adriatica*, new records, endemic species, Cres, North Adriatic

Poster presentation 27.04.18

NEW SPECIES IN THE FLORA OF KOZARA NATIONAL PARK (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

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According to the group of authors Bucalo et al. (2007) the flora of Kozara National Park comprises 737 plant species. During our floristic research conducted in the period 2012 - 2017, 51 new plant species in the flora of Kozara National Park were registered and the total species diversity of flora in this protected area now comprises 787 species. Out of 51 new species, 3 species are Pteridophyta, 36 species are Dicotyledoneae and 11 species are Monocotyledoneae. There are 6 new allochthonous species (*Abutilon theophrasti*, *Euphorbia maculata*, *Reynoutria japonica*, *Lindernia dubia*, *Arum italicum*, *Vallisneria spiralis*) out of which 2 are invasive (*Vallisneria*