

SPONTANEOUS DECORATIVE PLANTS FROM DEALU MARE AREA, VASLUI DISTRICT

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Introduction

Dealu Mare (Vaslui District) is located nearby Bârlad, eastward from this town. There, the altitudes reach high values (254 m), among the highest in this region (only in Dealul Crângului, westward from the town, this value is exceeded: 311 m).

The hydrographic network is short, because of climate. In this area, the chernosoil is dominating (Budui, 2005¹). The relief is controlled both by exogenous and endogenous factors. Dealu Mare is an area where meadows and agricultural crops are interleaving.

Dealu Mare River, the main stream which is crossing the area, is a Trestiana River tributary.

The climate has high temperatures and low rainfall in summer and the cold winters. As consequence, one can record a gradual tendency of desertification of this land.



Fig. 1. Location of Dealu Mare area.

Although this region is not among the richest ones in natural resources in our country, the methane pools outlined in the last decades afford a dynamic economic development. From scientific viewpoint, the richness of fossil vertebrates, as well as of archaeological artifacts is notorious.

The spontaneous flora is also of main interest, due to its diversity, including various taxa. This contribution concerns just this flora.

Materials and methods

In order to study the flora biodiversity I used the classical methods, this research recording several stages: study of references, field missions (carried out in 2008), assignation of floristic specimens (I mainly used Beldie, 1952-1956², 1977³), interpretations of results.

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¹ Budui V., "Distribuția spațială a solurilor în Podișul Central Moldovenesc", p. 70, Analele Univ. Șt. Cel Mare Suceava, Secția Geografie, An XIV, 2005.

Several surfaces, 1 sq. m each, were outlined. After analyzing the plant communities vegetating in several such small areas, larger surfaces, 4 sq. m each had been outlined (this area is the most suitable for this type of region and flora: hill and meadow), in order to sketch the number, density and frequency of plant species.

My own data were completed by the ones already obtained in this area (Săidecaru, 1960-1965).

Results and discussions

Dealu Mare area has a peculiar and at same the time pleasant landscape, the vegetation having a decisive role. Several of the spontaneous species have also medical values (*Hypericum perforatum*-amber, *Chelidonium majus*-celandine, *Matricaria chamomilla*-chamomile), several other being very rare (*Fritillaria meleagris*- the spotty tulip), while others are just decorative (*Verbascum phlamoides*-mullen, *Hyacintella leucophaca*-the hyacinth, *Malva silvestris*-mallow, *Papaver rhoeas*-corn poppy, etc).



Thlapsi perfoliatum

Potentilla rubens

Hyacintella leucophaca

Fig. 2. Plants from Dealu Mare area curate at the herbarium of the “Vasile Pârvan” Museum Bârlad.

Among the plants most often recorded in Dealu Mare, one can report the following species:

No.	Species names	Family	Frequency
1	<i>Anchusa procera</i>	Boraginaceae	nt
2	<i>Anthemis austriaca</i>	Boraginaceae	nt
3	<i>Asperula odorata</i>	Rubiaceae	nt
4	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Asteraceae	nt
5	<i>Cynanchum acutum</i>	Asclepiadaceae	nt
6	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Berberidaceae	nt
8	<i>Campanula ranunculoides</i>	Campanulaceae	nt
9	<i>Dentaria bulbifera</i>	Cruciferae	nt
10	<i>Delphinium consolida</i>	Ranunculaceae	nt
11	<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	Liliaceae	R
12	<i>Hyacintella leucophaea (K. Koch)</i>	Hyacinthaceae	R
13	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Hypericaceae	nt
14	<i>Leontodon sp.</i>	Asteraceae	nt
15	<i>Muscari racemosum</i>	Liliaceae	nt
16	<i>Medicago falcata</i>	Leguminoasae	nt
17	<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	Compositae	nt
18	<i>Malva silvestris</i>	Malvaceae	nt
19	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Papaveraceae	nt

² Beldie Al., *Flora României*, I-XIII, Editura Academiei R.S.R, București, 1952-1956.

³ Beldie Al., *Flora României*, vol. 1, Editura Academiei R.S.R, București, 1977.

20	<i>Potentilla arenaria</i>	Rosaceae	nt
21	<i>Potentilla rubens</i> ⁴	Rosaceae	nt
22	<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	Boraginaceae	nt
23	<i>Polygonatum latifolium</i>	Liliaceae	nt
24	<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Brassicaceae	nt
25	<i>Scabiosa ochroleuca</i>	Dipsacaceae	nt
26	<i>Savathera turingiaca</i>	Malvaceae	nt
27	<i>Stenactis ramosa</i>	Dipsacaceae	nt
28	<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Leguminoasae	nt
29	<i>Thlapsi perfoliatum</i>	Cruciferae	nt
30	<i>Verbascum phlamoides</i>	Scrophulariaceae	nt

Breviary:

I – indeterminate species and subspecies

R – rare species and subspecies

nt – not endangered endemic species and subspecies

P – endangered species and subspecies

* – quoted species but not discovered again in the field

Conclusions

One can underline the area zones of this vegetation, referring mainly to ruderal and segetal plats, which commonly are vegetating on the waysides, in meadows or anywhere the agriculture works had been abandoned.

The botanical, zoological or geological surveys in Dealu Mare area are still rather poor, but on the opposite, it yielded a lot of archaeological vestiges-Culture Starcevo-Criș (Popușoi, 2005)⁵. In spite of their scarcity, the few botanical and zoological data point out the tendency of desertification of this area. The man influences affected the vegetation in the area, decreasing the number of plant taxa. In this manner, their number is low if it is compared to other neighborhood areas, all located around Bârlad town (Perieni, Trestiana, Pogonești, etc).

Among the plants species recorded in the Dealu Mare area, *Hyacinthella leucophaea* (the bluebell) și *Fritillaria meleagris* (the spotty tulip) are rare. In this region, *Fritillaria meleagris* extended its area, being actually recorded also in the Neștian forest, nearby Perieni village. Some natives even tried and succeeded to acclimatize this species in their gardens.

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