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REVIEW OF THE WEED FLORA OF MEADOWS AND PASTURES OF VLASINA PLAIN

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Meadows of lowland and upland areas of Vlasina Plain represent a significant natural plant resource. A botanical study of the Vlasina Plain region conducted by RANĐELOVIC (2002) identifies four lowland meadow communities (ass. *Equiseto-Scirpetum silvaticae* Šegulja, ass. *Polygono-Scirpetum silvaticae* Schw., ass. *Brachythecio-Menthetum longifoliae* V. Rand. and ass. *Deschampsietum caespitosae* H-ić.) and six phytocoenoses of hilly-mountainous meadows and pastures (ass. *Diantho-Armerietum rumelicae* N. Rand., ass. *Festuco nigrescenti-Nardetum strictae* N. Rand., ass. *Lino-Nardetum strictae* Rexp. et N. Rand., ass. *Thymo-Poetum violaceae* Mic., ass. *Festucetum paniculatae* Horv. and ass. *Centaurio-Festucetum validae* N. Rand.).

Besides identifying the weed species that participate in the grassland communities of Vlasina Plain, this study deals with all relevant parameters concerning that particular plant category, including primarily: taxonomic analysis, quantitative representation in certain grassland communities, life forms (biological spectrum), phyto-geographical characteristics (floral elements), ecological and biological features and categorization according to their harmful effect (very poisonous, weakly poisonous and useless species).

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This first brief report contains data on the weed flora of meadows and pastures of Vlasina Plain, while the main subject of a second communication (in preparation) would be focused on detailed analysis of weed species in the region, their biological characteristics and specific features.

Key words: meadow and pasture plant communities, Vlasina Plain, grassland weeds, floristic composition, quantitative representation

INTRODUCTION

According to a comprehensive phytocoenological study conducted by RANĐELOVIĆ (2002), Vlasina Plain has ten meadow and pastures communities, four of which spread in the lowland and six in the mountainous region (ass. *Equiseto-Scirpetum silvaticae*, ass. *Polygono-Scirpetum silvaticae*, ass. *Brachythecio-Menthetum longifoliae* and ass. *Deschampsietum caespitosae* and ass. *Diantho-Armerietum rumelicae*, ass. *Festuco nigrescenti-Nardetum strictae*, ass. *Lino-Nardetum strictae*, ass. *Thymo-Poetum violaceae*, ass. *Festucetum paniculatae* and ass. *Centaurio-Festucetum validae*, respectively).

Besides identifying the weed species found in the grassland communities of Vlasina Plain, this study covers all parameters relevant to this plant category, namely: taxonomical analysis, quantitative representation in certain grassland communities, life forms (biological spectra), phyto-geographical characteristics (floral elements), ecological and biological features and categorization according to the degree of harmful effect.

The weed flora present in grassland communities of southeast Serbia (Vlasina Plain) was determined and analysed based on theoretical and scientific principles employed by KOJIĆ and collaborators (KOJIĆ *et al* 1992, 1993, 1994, 2000, 2001, KOJIĆ and VRBNIČANIN, 1998).

This preliminary report includes a list of grassland weeds identified in meadow and pasture phytocoenoses of Vlasina Plain.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Meadow and pasture communities were described based on the principles and methods of the Swiss-French phytocoenological school (BRAUN-BLANQUET, 1964).

Meadow and pasture weed categories were analysed within a previously determined theoretical framework (KLAPP,1986, CAPUTE, 1966, ŠOŠTARIĆ-PISAČIĆ and KOVAČEVIĆ, 1968 and KOJIĆ *et al*, 2001).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data on the quantitative participation of weed species in the floristic composition of meadow and pasture plant communities of Vlasina Plain are presented in Tables 1-10.

Tab. 1. Weed species and their participation in ass. Equiseto-Scirpetum silvaticae

Species	Presence	Abundance
Scirpus silvaticus	V	4 - 5
Equisetum palustre	V	+ - 2
Deschampsia caespitosa	V	+ - 1
Juncus acutiflorus	IV	+ - 1
Cirsium palustre	IV	+ - 1
Mentha longifolia	IV	+ - 2
Rumex acetosa	IV	+
Lychnis flos-cuculi	IV	+
Juncus effusus	IV	+ - 2
Lysimachia nummularia	IV	+ - 1
Juncus articulatus	IV	+ - 1
Ranunculus acris	IV	+ - 1
Galium palustre	IV	+ - 1
Prunella vulgaris	IV	+
Holcus lanatus	IV	+
Juncus conglomeratus	IV	+ - 1
Dactylorrhiza maculata	III	+
Ranunculus repens	III	1
Lysimachia vulgaris	III	+ - 1
Veratrum album	III	+
Juncus thomasii	III	+ - 1
Potentilla erecta	III	+ - 1
Cardamine pratensis	II	+
Carex ovalis	II	+

Heleocharis palustris	II	+
Equisetum fluvatile	II	+
Equisetum silvaticum	II	+
Carex nigra	II	+
Hypericum maculatum	II	+
Climacium dendroides	II	+ - 1
Juncus inflexus	I	+
Centaurea jacea	I	+
Rumex hydrolapathum	I	+
Calliergonela cuspidata	I	+
Philonotis fontana	I	+

Tab. 2. Weed species and their participation in ass. Polygono-Scirpetum silvaticae

Species	Presence	Abundanse
Sicrpus silvaticus	V	3 - 5
Polygonum bistorta	IV	+ - 2
Crepis paludosa	V	+ - 1
Carex nigra	IV	+ - 1
Lychnis flos-cuculi	III	+ - 1
Carex ovalis	III	+ - 1
Eriophorum angustifolium	III	+
Rumex balcanicus	II	1 - 2
Cirsium palustre	II	+ - 1
Geum rivale	II	+ - 1
Briza media	II	+
Juncus effusus	II	+
Ranunculus repens	II	+
Mentha longifolia	II	+ - 1
Juncus articulatus	II	+ - 1
Ranunculus acris	II	+
Galium palustre	II	+ - 1
Carex echinata	II	+
Potentilla erecta	II	+ - 1
Veratrum album	II	+
Calliergonela cuspidata	II	+
Philonotis fontana	II	+
Equisetum fluviatile	I	+

Rumex patientia	I	+
Rumex acetosa	I	+
Equisetum palustre	I	+
Juncus acutiflorus	I	+
Deschampsia caespitosa	I	1
Lysimachia vulgaris	I	+
Prunella vulgaris	I	+
Holcus planatus	I	+
Carex vesicaria	I	+
Juncus conglomeratus	I	+
Pteridium aquilinum	I	+
Galeopsis tetrahit	I	+
Carex pallescens	I	+

Tab. 3. Weed species and their participation in ass. Brachytecio-Menthetum longifoliae

Species	Presence	Abundance
Mentha longifolia	V	3 - 5
Crepis paludosa	V	+
Scirpus silvaticus	IV	+ - 1
Juncus effusus	IV	+ - 2
Rumex acetosa	IV	+ - 1
Brachythecium rivulare	IV	+ - 2
Galium palustre	IV	+ - 1
Potentilla erecta	IV	+
Marschanthia polymorpha	II	+ - 1
Ranunculus acris	II	+ - 1
Equisetum fluviatile	II	1 - 2
Carex rostrata	II	+
Rumex balcanicus	II	+
Lychnis flos-cuculi	I	+
Equisetum palustre	I	+
Deschampsia caespitosa	II	+ - 1
Juncus inflexus	I	+
Carex nigra	I	+
Rhinanthus minor	I	+

Tab. 4. Weed species and their participation in ass. Deschampsietum caespitosae

Spesies	Presence	Abundance
Deschampsia caespitosa	V	3 - 5
Ranunculus acer	V	+ - 1
Galium palustre	V	+ - 2
Equisetum palustre	IV	+ - 2
Ranunculus repens	IV	+ - 2
Rhinathus minor	IV	+ - 1
Holcus lanatus	IV	+ - 1
Stellaria graminea	IV	+ - 1
Juncus effusus	III	+ - 1
Prunella vulgaris	III	+ - 1
Carex ovalis	III	+ - 1
Oenanthe banatica	III	+ - 1
Juncus articulatus	III	+
Juncus conglomeratus	III	+ - 1
Galium verum	III	+
Cardamine pratensis	II	+ - 1
Lysimachia vulgaris	II	+ - 1
Succisa pratensis	II	+
Lythrum salicaria	II	+
Cirsium palustris	II	+ - 1
Carex nigra	II	+
Juncus thomasii	II	+
Potentilla erecta	V	+ - 1
Gratiola officinalis	I	+
Valeriana officinalis	I	+ - 1
Lychnis flos-cuculi	I	+
Centaurea jacea	I	+
Bromus racemosus	I	+
Mentha longifolia	I	+
Carex tomentosa	I	+
Crepis biennis	I	+
Lysimachia nummularia	I	+
Crepis paludosa	I	+
Mentha aquatica	I	+
Lycopus europaeus	I	+
Cirsium rivulare	I	+
Dactylorrhiza cordygwra	I	+
Potentilla aplustris	I	+
Carex echinata	I	+

Carex pallescens	I	1
Hypericum maculatum	I	+
Briza media	I	+
Hypericum perforatum	I	+
Veratrum lobelianum	I	+
Luzula campestris	I	+
Viola canina	I	+
Viola arvensis	I	+
Cirsium graecum	I	+
Rumex acetosa	I	+

Tab. 5. Weed species and their participation in ass. Diantho-Armerietum rumelicae

Species name	Presence	Abundance
Polygala major	V	1 - 2
Thymus moesiacus	V	+ - 1
Leontodon hyspidus	V	+ - 2
Euphradia pectinata	V	+ - 2
Rhinanthus minor	V	+ - 3
Briza media	V	+ - 2
Thymus pulegioides	V	+ - 2
Lecanthemum montanum	V	+ - 2
Scleranthus perennis	V	+ - 1
Genista sagittalis	V	+ - 2
Stellaria graminea	V	+ - 1
Dianthus cruenthus	IV	+ - 1
Viola tricolor	IV	+ - 1
Hieracium bauhini	IV	+ - 1
Carlina vulgaris	IV	+ - 1
Orobanche gracilis	IV	+
Linum catharticum	IV	+ - 1
Luzula campestris	IV	+ - 1
Crepis conyzifolis	IV	+ - 1
Polygala vulgaris	IV	+ - 1
Cerastium caespitosum	IV	+ - 1
Crepis biennis	IV	+ - 1
Verbascum longifolium	IV	+ - 1
Rumex acetosella	IV	+ - 1
Veronica austriaca	III	+ - 1
Helianthemum nummularium	III	+ - 1
Ajuga genevensis	III	+ - 1
Galium verum	III	+
Knautia arvensis	III	+ - 1

Potentilla alba	II	+
Orchis coriophora	II	+ - 1
Moenchia mantica	II	+ - 1
Erigeron acer	II	+
Carlina acaulis	II	+
Ranunculus bulbosus	II	+
Hieracium pilosella	II	1
Ranunculus montanus	II	+
Prunella vulgaris	II	+ - 1
Dianthus deltoides	II	+
Peucedanum aquilinum	II	+
Hieracium caespitosum	II	+ - 1
Linum hologynum	II	+
Silene vulgaris	II	+
Stachys germanica	II	+
Gymnadenia conopsea	II	+
Veronica hamaedrys	II	+
Asperula cynanchica	I	+
Koeleria micrantha	I	+
Potentilla argentea	I	+
Euphorbia cyparissias	I	1
Jasione montana	I	1
Filipendula vulgaris	I	+
Plantago media	I	+
Ornithogalum ortophyllum	I	+
Gentiana utriculosa	I	+
Nardus stricta	I	+
Pedicularis heterodonta	I	+
Centaurea jacea	I	1
Rumex acetosa	I	+
Hieracium acuminatum	I	+
Primula vulgaris	I	+
Luzula luzuloides	I	+
Rosa pendulina	I	+
Malva moschata	I	+
Cirsium grecescui	I	+
Lychnis viscaria	I	+
Rorippa pyrenaica	I	+
Salvia verticillata	I	+
Veronica arvensis	I	+

Tab. 6. Weed species and their participation in ass. Festuco nigrescetni-Nardetum strictae

Species	Presence	Abundance
Thymus praecox ssp. *jankae*	V	1 - 3
Thymus moesiacus	V	1 - 3
Nardus stricta	V	3 - 5
Deschampsia flexuosa	V	1 - 2
Genista sagittalis	V	1 - 2
Potentilla erecta	V	1 - 2
Hieracium pilosella	V	1
Viola canina	V	+ - 1
Luzula campestris	V	+ - 1
Euphrasia rostkoviana	V	+ - 1
Stellaria graminea	V	+ - 1
Cerastium fontanum	IV	+ - 1
Briza media	IV	+ - 1
Cerastium caespitosum	IV	+
Crepis conyzifolia	III	+ - 1
Silene roemeri	III	+ - 2
Hypericum maculatum	III	+ - 1
Leontodon hispidus	III	+ - 1
Scambiosa columbaria	III	+ - 1
Rhinanthus minor	III	+
Vaccinium myrtillus	III	+ - 1
Rumex acetosella	III	+ - 1
Veronica chamaedrys	III	+ - 1
Verbascum adamovicii	II	+
Ranunculus montanus	II	+
Polygala vulgaris	II	+
Leucanthemum montanum	II	+
Polygala major	II	+
Hypericum barbatum	II	+ - 1
Dianthus deltoides	II	+ - 1
Crocus veluchensis	II	+ - 1
Verbascum longifolium	II	+
Carex flava	II	+
Orobanche gracilis	I	+
Carlina vulgaris	I	+
Prunella vulgaris	I	+
Rumex acetosa	I	+
Stachys officinalis	I	+
Knautia arvensis	I	+
Ornithogalum ortophyllum	I	+

Tab. 7. Weed species and their participation in ass. Lino-Nardetum strictae

Species	Presence	Abundance
Linum capitatum	V	2 - 3
Thymus praecox ssp. *jankae*	V	1 - 2
Hieracium hoppaeanum	V	+ - 2
Genista depressa	V	+ - 1
Nardus stricta	V	2 - 5
Potentilla erecta	V	1 - 2
Ranunculus montanus	V	1
Deschampsia flexuosa	V	+ - 2
Genista sagittalis	V	+ - 1
Luzula campestris	V	+ - 1
Peucedanum oligophyllum	IV	+
Verbascum longifolium	IV	+
Carex caryophyllea	III	+ - 5
Viola canina	III	+ - 1
Vaccinium myrtillus	III	1
Vaccinium uliginosum	III	+
Knautia magnifica	II	+
Carex ericetorum	II	+
Luzula luzuloides	II	1
Crocus veluchensis	I	+
Hieracium pilosella	I	1

Tab. 8. Weed species and their participation in ass. Thymo-Poetum violaceae

Species	Presence	Abundance
Thymus praecox ssp. *jankae*	V	1 - 2
Crocus veluchensis	V	1
Ranunculus montanus	V	1 - 2
Deschampsia flexuosa	V	+ - 1
Rumex acetosella	V	+
Euphrasia pectinata	IV	+
Linum capitatum	III	+ - 1
Luzula luzuloides	III	+ - 1
Veratrum album	III	+
Verbascum longifolium	II	+
Luzula campestris	II	+
Gentiana asclepiadea	II	+
Hieracium pilosella	II	+
Potentilla aurea	II	+
Peucedanum oligophyllum	I	+

Tab. 9. Weed species and their participation in ass. Festucetum paniculatae

Species	Presence	Abundance
Thymus praecox ssp. *jankae*	V	1 - 3
Centaurea nyssana	V	+ - 1
Verbascum longifolium	V	+
Vaccinium myrtillus	V	1 - 3
Hypericum maculatum	V	+
Luzula luzuloides	IV	+ - 1
Carex montana	III	+ - 2
Ranunculus sartorianus	III	+
Viola canina	III	+ - 1
Potentilla erecta	III	+ - 1
Cerastium fontanum	III	+ - 1
Rumex acetosella	III	+ - 1
Ornithogalum ortophyllum	III	+ - 1
Peucedanum oligophyllum	II	+ - 1
Linum capitatum	II	1
Linaria dalmatica	II	1
Nardus stricta	II	1 - 2
Luzula campestris	II	1
Genista sagittalis	II	+ - 1
Luzula multuiflora	II	+ - 1
Potentilla aurea	II	+
Euphrasia rostkoviana	II	+
Scleranthus neglectus	I	+
Knautia magnifica	I	+
Hieracium pilosella	I	1
Deschampsia flexuosa	I	1
Carex caryophyllea	I	+
Galium verum	I	+
Dianthus cruentus	I	+

Tab. 10. Weed species and their participation in ass. Centaureo-Festucetum validae

Species	Presence	Abundance
Centaurea nyssana	V	+ - 2
Thymus praecox ssp. *jankae*	V	1 - 2
Crocus veluchensis	V	+ - 2
Peucedanum oligophyllum	V	+ - 1
Linaria dalmatica	V	+ - 1
Deschampsia flexuosa	V	1 - 2
Veratrum album	V	+ - 1
Luzula luzuloides	V	+ - 1
Nardus stricta	V	+ - 1
Vaccinium myrtillus	V	+ - 1
Hypericum maculatum	V	+ - 1
Calamagrostis arundinacea	V	1 - 3
Crepis viscidula	IV	+ - 1
Luzula campestris	IV	+ - 1
Linum capitatum	III	+ - 1
Potentilla erecta	III	+ - 1
Gentiana asclepiadea	III	+ - 1
Crepis conyzifolia	III	+ - 1
Genista sagittalis	III	+ - 1
Brachypodium pinatum	II	+ - 1
Verbascum longifolium	II	+
Euphrasia stricta	II	+
Viola tricolor	II	+
Leontodon hispidus	II	+
Hieracium pilosella	II	+
Geranium sanguineum	II	+ - 1
Rumex acetosella	II	+
Orchis coriophora	II	+
Knautia magnifica	I	+
Primula veris	I	+
Viola canina	I	+
Polygonum alpinum	I	1

The results on weeds represented in the meadow and pasture communities of Vlasina Plain (Tab. 1-10) show a high number of weed species found in almost all analysed grassland associations. Furthermore, the determined weed species had high abundance and cover degree values.

In the association *Equiseto-Scirpetum silvaticae,* 40 weed species were identified among a total of 62 species quoted for this phytocoenosis (64.5 %). Fifteen weed species had the highest presence degree (IV and V). ,

Participation of weed species (36 species) in the floristic composition of the association *Polygono-Scirpetum* (60 species) was 60 %.

Stands of the plant community *Brachytecio-Menthetum longifoliae* include 19 weed species in their floristic spectrum, or 57.6 % of the total number of species in the association.

Ass. *Deschampsietum caespitosae* includes a total of 69 species, 49 of which are considered as weeds (71 %). Seven weed species expressed the highest degree of presence (V and IV).

The mountainous grassland community *Diantho-Armerietum rumelicae* is characterized by high plant diversity – a total of 109 species was determined in its floristic composition. The participation of weed species was again rather high (69 weed species, i.e. 62.7 %).

Considering the economical importance of surveyed grassland communities, the ass. *Festuco nigrescenti-Nardetum strictae* may be described as poor in quality since the overall number of 59 coenobionts include 40 weed species (67.8 %). This relatively high number of weed species is also accompanied by high presence and abundance.

The ass. *Lino-Nardetum strictae* included in the investigated area only 44 species, almost half of which were weeds (21 species, or 48 %).

Stands of the ass. *Thymo-Poetum violaceae* were characterized by low diversity. Their floristic spectrum comprised only 30 species, and their weed component accounted for 50%.

The meadow association *Festucetum paniculatae* was found to include 40 plant species, of which 30 species (75 %) fall into the weed category.

Low quality was also found in stands of the ass. *Centaureo-Festucetum validae.* Weed species accounted for 64 %, and 11 of them showed the highest degree of presence.

CONCLUSION

Meadow and pasture communities of Vlasina Plain represent a significant natural resource, which is evident from the high number of plant species in their floristic composition. However, the weed component was found to be more or less dominant in all analysed grassland phytocoenoses, which lowers their quality value.

Despite the significant plant diversity, the general impression of low utility value of meadows and pastures on Vlasina Plain is further strengthened by a lack of leguminous species that are considered to be the most favourable forage plants on grasslands. On the other hand, it is noteworthy that meadow-pasture communities with dominating *Nardus stricta*, a species of poor quality from the aspect of livestock nutrition, occupy huge areas in the investigated region.

Viewed from the aspect of weed science, the lowest quality values were found in stands of the following associations: ass. *Festuco nigrescenti-Nardetum strictae*, *Lino-Nardetum strictae*, *Centaureo-Festucetum validae*, *Deschampsietum caespitosae*, *Equiseto-Scirpetum silvaticae* and *Polygono-Scirpetum silvaticae*.

Based on the analysis of weeds represented in the grassland communities of Vlasina Plain, it is our general opinion that adequate methods of melioration need to be applied in order to improve the quality of fodder resources.

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KOROVI LIVADA I PAŠNJAKA VLASINSKE VISORAVNI

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Izvod

Dolinske i brdske, odnosno, planinske livade i pašnjaci predstavljaju značajne prirodne biljne resurse Vlasinske visoravni. Prema istraživanjima V. Ranđelovića (2002) na ovom području zastupljene su 4 biljne zajednice dolinskih livada (ass. *Equiseto-Scirpetum silvaticae* Šegulja, ass. *Polygono-Scirpetum silvaticae* Schw., ass. *Brachythecio-Menthetum longifoliae* V. Ranđ. i ass. *Deschampsietum caespitosae* H-ić) i 6 fitocenoza planinskih livada i pašnjaka (ass. *Diantho-Armerietum rumelicae* N. Ranđ., ass. *Festuco nigrescenti-Nardetum strictae* N. Ranđ., ass. *Lino-Nardetum strictae* Rexp. et N. Ranđ., ass. *Thymo-Poetum violaceae* Mic., ass. *Festucetum paniculatae* Horv. i ass. *Centaurio-Festucetum validae* N. Ranđ.). Pored identifikacije travnjačkih korovskih vrsta u livadskim i pašnjačkim zajednicama Vlasinske visoravni, proučeni su i analizirani svi važniji parametri koji se odnose na ovu kategoriju biljaka, kao što su: taksonomska analiza, kvantitativna zastupljenost u pojedinim travnjačkim fitocenozama, kategorizacija korova prema štetnosti (vrlo otrovne, slabo otrovne, bezvredne vrste), ekološke i biološke osobine, pripadnost odgovarajućim životnim oblicima (biološki spektar), fitogeografske karakteristike (udeo pojedinih geoelemenata).

U prvom saopštenju, ovom prilikom, dat je samo pregled korovskih vrsta u livadskim i pašnjačkim fitocenozama Vlasinske visoravni, dok će se u drugom delu ove studije analizirati karakteristike i specifičnosti pojedinih travnjačkih korova u livadskim i pašnjačkim zajednicama na području Vlasinske visoravni.

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