



DRAVA – INTERECO

III. Workshop - Programfüzet

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Monitoring of vascular flora along Drava river and in Baranja (Croatia)

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Vascular plants, among other taxa, have been monitored on the Hungarian side of Drava river since 2000, under the co-ordination of Duna-Drava National Park Directorate. Neither flora mapping, nor monitoring have been performed on the Croatian side of Drava river yet. The European ecological network NATURA 2000 requires neighbouring countries to harmonize their conservation activities. The main purpose of our INTERREG Project has been to increase information exchange and to launch cooperation between the two countries. The first step in harmonising the methods of surveying vascular plants in the region along Drava river (Croatian-Hungarian border) was establishing the common Protocol for the monitoring of vascular plants. The experience of authors as well as monitoring protocols published in both countries were used. After a basic biodiversity assessment, 20 vascular plants are now selected for monitoring along the Drava river: *Butomus umbellatus*, *Carex bohemica*, *Carex vesicaria*, *Catabrosa aquatica*, *Cyperus glomeratus*, *Equisetum hyemale*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Hottonia palustris*, *Iris pumila*, *Leucojum aestivum*, *Limosella aquatica*, *Listera ovata*, *Myricaria germanica*, *Ophrys sphegodes*, *Orchis militaris*, *Plantago arenaria*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Reseda inodora*, *Scirpus triqueter*, *Trapa natans*. The most important information about these plants are given, and proper surveying methods were suggested based on the authors' knowledge and botanical literature of both countries. During field work in 2007, we made records in accordance with the common Protocol about thirty populations (sites) of twenty selected vascular plant species on the Croatian side of the Drava floodplain and in Baranja. These data, published in the book *Biodiversity studies along the*

Drava river, can be used as basic references for the monitoring of plants and habitats on the Croatian side of Drava river as well as in the north-eastern part of Croatia. Several sites of rare, less known and Red list species (e.g. *Calamagrostis pseudophragmites*, *Cyperus fuscus*, *Leersia oryzoides*, *Potentilla supina*) were pointed out. In the surveyed area numerous Natura 2000 habitat types were found, some of them calling for priority in protection. The most important plant species, vegetation types and habitats whose occurrences indicate important natural values of the study areas are also listed. Among them there are riparian ecosystems which include a great variety of habitats along Drava river as well as Pannonic dunes, sub-continental xeric grasslands, shrubs and woods.

The results of our investigations during 2007 were presented at the 2nd Croatian Botanical Congress, and 2 papers are in press.