

Fungi in Kosovo – the Preliminary Data of their Diversity and Ecology

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Fungi of Kosovo are studied very scarcely and only few official data are available. There are also unpublished data for more than one hundred species collected mainly in the area of Germa Mountain. In this study, an inventory of the macrofungi in Kosovo was performed through the collection of sporocarps of Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes over a period of three months. Sampling was performed in selected localities of diverse climate and vegetation features, aimed at achieving greater variety of the collected fungi species, and different substrates both on deciduous and coniferous trees. Until now a total of 223 species were identified and a comprehensive analysis of macrofungal species richness, abundance and diversity was performed.

The purpose of the investigation of macrofungi will be to establish the qualitative - quantitative structure of terricolous and lignicolous fungi in different forest biocenoses. The collection of mycological material will be organized in order to prepare a collection of species growing in the forest associations, and also in meadows and mountain pastures. These research activities will cover localities of different climate and vegetation features so as to achieve greater variety of the structure of fungal species.

As a practical conservation outputs of this work will be to compile a Checklist of Kosovo fungi based on collection of fungi species in diverse habitats and their identification. A range of habitats (Macedonian and Bosnian pines, Norway spruce, silver fir, Italian oak, etc.) will be visited where rare fungi are likely to be found, along with two national parks, pristine forests and other protected areas in the country. This will contribute to producing a Preliminary Red List of Fungi of Kosovo, pursuant to IUCN categories and criteria. The List will be the source for preparation of legislative acts on fungi protection.