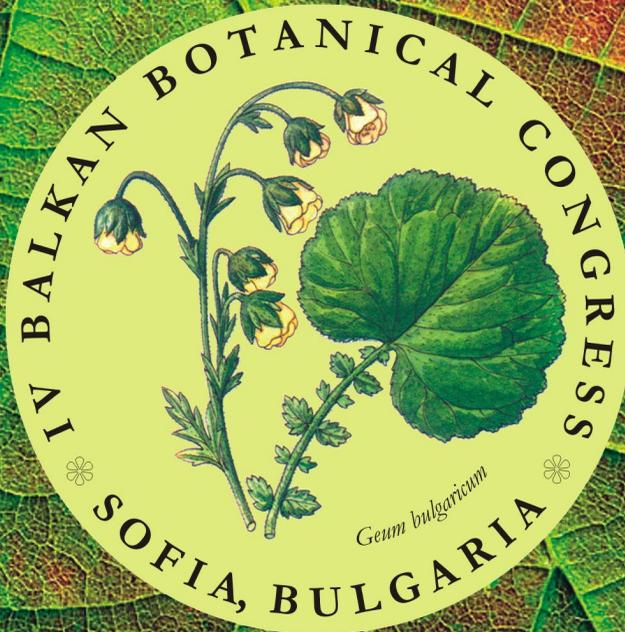




BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
INSTITUTE OF BOTANY

Plant, fungal and habitats diversity investigation and conservation



Under the auspices of the President of BAS

20-26 June 2006

Second Circular **Sofia**

e-mail: iv_bbc@bio.bas.bg

web site: www.bio.bas.bg/botany/iv_bbc/

Congress organization

IV Balkan Botanical Congress is organized by the Institute of Botany
of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences under the auspices
of the Acad. Ivan Yuhnovski, President
of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Organizing Committee:

Honourable President: Velcho VELCHEV

President: Dimitar PEEV

Scientific Secretary: Dessislava DIMITROVA

Treasurer: Velislav NIKOLOV

Field Trips Coordinator: Chavdar GUSSEV

Members of the Organizing Committee: Mincho ANCHEV, Iva APOSTOLOVA, Boris ASSYOV, Ganka BAKALOVA, Svetlana BANCHEVA, Malina DELCHEVA, Tsvetomir DENCHEV, Anna GANEVA, Valeri GEORGIEV, Dimiter IVANOV, Tenyo MESHINEV, Velislav NIKOLOV, Antoaneta PETROVA, Penka ROBEVA-DAVIDOVA, Stoyan STOYANOV, Sonya TSONEVA, Vladimir VLADIMIROV

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Technical assistance:

Petko GERGINOV, Zlatko GOSPODINOV, Zoya MITRINSKA, Nataliya POPOVA, Nikolay VELEV

Address of the Organizing Committee:

IV BBC

Institute of Botany

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Acad. Georgi Bonchev Street, Bl. 23

1113 Sofia, Bulgaria

e-mail: iv_bbc@bio.bas.bg **web site:** www.bio.bas.bg/botany/iv_bbc/

Invitation

Dear friends, dear guests to the IV Balkan Botanical Congress,

Sofia means wisdom! Wisdom of centuries combined with the wisdom of science that all of you carry in your hearts will help us together to make successfully of the 21 century a century of human knowledge and welfare.

You are kindly invited to visit our city where in June the fragrance of roses and lilacs fills the air. Here You will find the open hearts and the warm welcome of your colleagues, the Bulgarian botanists! The people in the Balkans work hard but work is also their pleasure!

Welcome to Sofia: to work together, to exchange ideas and demonstrate recent achievements, to plan our joint future. We believe in the motto of the IV Balkan Botanical Congress “Nature without Borders” and we also believe in the future partnership without borders!

We are expecting You!



Monument of St. Sofia

Prof. D.Sc. Dimitar Peev

President of the Organizing Committee

Provisional time table

Tuesday June 20		Wednesday June 21	Thursday June 22	Friday June 23	Saturday June 24	Sunday June 25	Monday June 26
	08:30 – 10:30	Registration & information	Registration & information	Mid-congress excursion: Vitosha Mountain	Registration & information	Registration & information	Departure
	09:00 – 10:40	Plenary lectures	Scientific sessions		Scientific sessions	Scientific sessions	
	10:40 – 11:20	Coffee break	Coffee break		Coffee break	Coffee break	
	11:20 – 13:00	Plenary lectures	Scientific sessions		Scientific sessions	Scientific sessions	
	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	
Registration 14:00 – 20:00	14:30 – 15:50	Scientific sessions	Scientific sessions		Scientific sessions	Scientific sessions	
	15:50 – 16:30	Coffee break	Coffee break		Coffee break	Coffee break	
Opening ceremony 18:00	16:30 – 17:50	Scientific sessions	Scientific sessions		Scientific sessions	Concluding remarks	
	19:00	Dinner	Dinner		Farewell party	Dinner	
Welcome dinner 20:00							

Language

The official language of the Congress will be English (no simultaneous translation)

The Program

Plenary session: 21 June, morning

Invited plenary speakers and scientific areas

Arne **Strid**, Göteborg: B. Plant diversity – past and present

Vladimir **Stevanović**, Belgrade: B. Plant diversity – past and present

John **Rodwell**, Lancaster: C. Plant ecology. Vegetation and habitat diversity

Giuseppe **Venturella**, Palermo: D. Fungal diversity

Scientific sessions: 21 June, afternoon – 25 June, afternoon

(See the provisional time table on the opposite page)

Symposia and organizers:

A. Plant structure, function and development

Organizer: Prof. Dimitar **Terziyski**

(Agrarian University)

B. Plant diversity - past and present

Organizers: Prof. Mincho **Anchev** & Dr. Dimitar **Ivanov**

(Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

C. Plant ecology. Vegetation and habitat diversity

Organizer: Dr. Tenyo **Meshinev**

(Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

D. Fungal diversity

Organizer: Dr. Ganka **Bakalova**

(Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

E. Plant and habitat conservation

Organizer: Dr. Anna **Ganeva**

(Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

F. Ethnobotany and phytochemistry

Organizer: Dr. Gerasim **Kitanov**

(Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical Academy)

G. Botanical collections and education in botany

Organizer: Dr. Krassimir **Koshev**

(Sofia University Botanical Gardens)

Instruction for oral presentations

Scientific sessions will be held in the Conference Halls of Vitosha Park Hotel.

The duration of the lectures is 20 min incl. 5 min for discussion.

- Participation: one person is allowed to give no more than two oral presentations and two posters as a presenting author.
- Technical equipment: please, specify in the online registration form what kind of equipment you need. Available facilities are:
 - Flipchart;
 - Multimedia;
 - Overhead;
 - Slide projector;
 - Internet connection.

Poster guidelines

Posters should stimulate discussion. The poster should include a brief overview of the study; it should only display the essentials; if your point can be made with fewer words, then edit your poster accordingly. (The less text on your poster, the larger your graphic element and your font can be.)

Size

Maximum poster size is 100 cm high and 90 cm wide. A poster printed on one large sheet is encouraged. Hand written posters are not accepted.

Layout

Posters should have a logical organization. Most posters have sequential sections (e.g. Background, Aim, Methods, Results, Conclusion). Avoid everything that can make your poster look excessively busy, such as boxes around graphs and tables, and long sentences.

Title

Aim for a short title. Size of the letters should be at least 30 pt. State authors and affiliations below the title, in a smaller font. Include mailing and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers at the bottom of the poster. Grant sources supporting the study may also be included below the title or at the bottom.

Body text

The text is more digestible if it is split into logical sections interspersed with graphics

and the size of letters is at least 16 pt. Use bullet lists where possible. Minimize the amount of written text. Text should never dominate the poster.

Graphics

Graphics should be understandable without need for a detailed description. Aim for simplicity, not complexity. Title should inform about the content of the figures.

Tables

Avoid large tables. Make a selection of the most important results. Align decimal points. Title should inform about the information in the table.

Handouts

Handouts of posters are encouraged.

Instructions for abstracts preparation

extended to 28 February, 2006

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 February, 2006.

The abstract should include: Title, Authors, Institution and Abstract text. The abstracts will be accepted **only online** via the website of the Congress.

Abstract format

Use only the English alphabet and spelling. The text cannot exceed 1000 characters, excluding title and authors. No tables and graphics are allowed. No literature cited. The abstracts will not be edited, please, obtain language assistance before you submit your abstract.

Submission topics:

- A. Plant structure, function and development
- B. Plant diversity – past and present
- C. Plant ecology. Vegetation and habitat diversity
- D. Fungal diversity
- E. Plant and habitat conservation
- F. Ethnobotany and phytochemistry
- G. Botanical collections and education in botany

The plenary lectures, oral presentations and posters can be published in a supplement volume of *Phytologia Balcanica* – an international journal issued by the Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The authors who intend to publish their presentations in this way are kindly requested to submit an electronic version and one printed copy at the Registration Desk of the Congress by 25th June 2006. For preparation of manuscripts please follow the “Instructions to the authors” of *Phytologia Balcanica*: <http://www.bio.bas.bg/~phytolbalcan/>.

The papers will not be reviewed but only edited. However, the Editorial Board retains the right to reject papers that do not correspond to the standards and style of the Journal.

Registration and fees for IV BBC

Registration and Information Desk will be placed at the Vitosha Hotel. All participants will receive their name badge, conference documents and all relevant conference material from the Registration Desk.

Registration Desk will be open from 2 to 8 p.m. on 20 June, 2006 and from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. every day of the Congress excl. the day of the mid-congress excursion.

Registration fees for IV BBC (in Euro)

Payment received:	till 31 March, 2006	After 31 March, 2006 and on desk
Developed countries*	100	140
Developing countries**	75	110
Students	25	30
Accompanying persons	30	40

* “Developed” includes Australia, Canada, EU and other Middle, Western and North European nations, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, South Korea, Kuwait, Qatar, United Emirates and USA.

** “Developing” includes all other countries.

The registration fee of IV BBC covers:

For participants:

- Congress materials, including final program and abstracts
- Admission to all scientific sessions and exhibitions
- Welcome reception
- Mid-congress excursion to Vitosha Mountain
- Farewell party
- Publishing of presentations in a Supplement of Phytologia Balcanica

For accompanying persons:

- Welcome reception
- Mid-congress excursion to Vitosha Mountain
- Farewell party
- Admission to the exhibition and poster area

Payment: Registration fees, in Euro, may be paid by:

Bank transfers:

Payments should be made without charges to the recipient. Any bank charges will be collected on desk during the registration. Clearly state the participant's name(s) matching with the name on the registration form. The Institute of Botany will issue a document of attendance only when the full registration fee is paid.

Bank name: Bulgarian National Bank
Branch: Alexander Battenberg Square 1, Sofia
Swift code: BNBGBGSF
Branch code: 66196611
Account name: Institute of Botany
Account No: 3400702007 (Euro)
Reference to be quoted on transactions: Registration fee for IV BBC

On desk: at the Registration Desk you can pay the increased registration fee.

Please note

The reduced registration fee is only applicable if the payment is made before the deadline: 31 March, 2006. If you make bank transfer, please, send by fax (+359 2 8719032) the payment document and bring it with you to the Congress.

Cancellation and refunds

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing by registered letter or fax to the Congress office. Registration fees will be refunded as follows:

Written cancellation received:

- on or before 15 May, 2006: 75% refund;
- after 15 May, 2006: no refund.

The date of the postmark or fax ID will be the basis for considering refunds. Please, indicate the preferred method of reimbursement (cheque or bank transfer, incl. bank account number) on your written cancellation. Refunds will be made after the Congress.

Congress venue and accommodation

The venue of the IV BBC is Vitosa Park Hotel. The four-star hotel is situated in the southern part of Sofia, 10 minutes by car from the city center and close to the airport. The nearby park and the unique view of Vitosha Mountain contribute much to the participants' feeling of comfort and relaxation. Vitosha Park Hotel offers various amenities meeting all requirements of modern conference-making. It represents a unique combination of high-level service and affordable prices. All rooms have been designed according to the highest European standards. Each room has 24-hour Internet connection and cable TV. An electronic access system controls the safety

of the guests. The perfect rest of the guests is ensured by full air-conditioning of all premises, a large sport facility, several bars and a restaurant.

The address of the Hotel is:

Vitosha Park Hotel

1 Rosario str., 1170 Sofia;

Phone numbers of the Hotel are:

+359 2 816 88 88; +359 2 816 89 89

<http://www.vitoshaparkhotel.com/>



The Organizers of IV BBC have **pre-booked a number of rooms at a reduced price** for the working days of the Congress (the price does not include the post-congress excursions). The Bed & Breakfast accommodation in Euro is as follows:

Room	BB excl. lunch and dinner	BB + lunch and dinner
Single room	35	50
Double room	50	80
Appartment	70	+15 Euro/person

The estimate of lunch and dinner per person is 15 Euro.

Please, make your reservation with the Organizing Committee and provide the following information in the online registration form for the Congress: First Name, Last Name, Gender, Country, Arrival Date, Departure Date, Room Type, Address, Way of payment (bank transfer or on-desk), Bank Order Number (if bank transfer is used), Special requirements for meals, other specific needs.

If you intend to share a room with a colleague, please, specify his/her name and registration ID. Please, note that you have to arrange this by yourself after consulting your colleague.

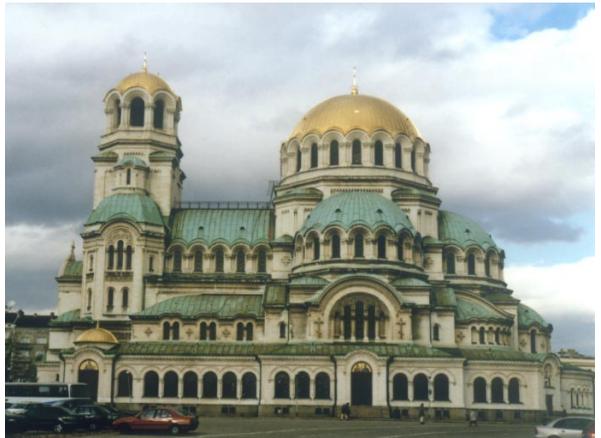
You can send the money for your accommodation together with the registration fee. In this case, please, specify the sums separately in your bank order.

Cancellation of hotel room reservation

You can cancel the booking for your room 24 hours in advance and will receive the money paid for the room except the charge for the bank transfer. Any violation of this deadline will lead to a full charge of the price.

The city of Sofia

Sofia has a history that goes back thousands of years. Through the centuries, many peoples have inhabited it and added to its rich and diverse history. The Thracian Serdi tribe settled here in the 7th century BC and gave the first recorded name of Sofia: Serdica. The Byzantines called it Triaditsa and the Slavs, Sredets. The modern city of Sofia was named in the 14th century after the St. Sofia basilica. In the 3rd century AD, the Romans built strong walls around Serdica, their capital of Inner Dacia and an important stopping point on the Roman road from Naisus (present Nish, Serbia and Montenegro) to Constantinople. After the Hun invasion of 441, the town was rebuilt by the Byzantines. The Slavs gave Sredets a key role in the First Bulgarian Empire, then in 1018 the Byzantines regained Triaditsa. At the end of the 12th century, the Bulgarians returned and Sredets became a major trading center of the Second Bulgarian Empire. The Turks captured Sofia in 1382 and made it the center of the Rumelian Beylerbeyship. The city declined during feudal unrests of the 19th century, but with the establishment of the Third Bulgarian State in 1879, Sofia once again became the capital of Bulgaria. Today there are many archaeological sites in Sofia that display the city's rich history: the castle gates and towers of Serdica, public buildings and streets thousands of years old.



St. Alexander Nevski Memorial Church

The city's image changed rapidly from Oriental into European. Today many streets, buildings, parks, and even whole neighborhoods preserve the architectural style from the turn of the 20th century. Between 1879 and 1939, the population of Sofia grew from 20 000 to 300 000, while today 1 250 000 people live in Sofia.

Since ancient times the city has been famous for the abundance of cold and thermal mineral water springs in and around it. The water is still available today and is praised for its numerous properties. Springs may be found in the city center, as well as in the neighbourhoods: Knyazhevo, Gorna Banya, Bankya, Ovcha Kupel and Ivanyane.

Internet link: <http://www.sofia.com/>

Travel information

Transport

Sofia is easily accessible by air, train, bus or car and the transportation means is your choice. The taxi fare from airport, the Central Train Station and Central Bus Station to the Hotel is ca. 5–6 Euro. When you decide to choose the taxi company we recommend the use of OK Super Trans. This company has a desk at the Airport. If you need a taxi, please, go to this Desk and order it. The same company can be also used from the train and bus stations. The Hotel Vitosha also maintains an official contract with the same company. To avoid overcharging, it is recommendable to use only this company to reach the Hotel.

Visa requirements

The entry formalities for Bulgaria vary according to the country of origin. For EU countries visa is not required. Please, contact your travel agent or the Bulgarian Embassy in your country for formalities. The Congress Secretariat will send you a letter of invitation upon request. It should be understood that this letter is only to help delegates to raise travel funds or to obtain a visa and is not a commitment on the part of the organizers to provide any financial support. Applications for a letter of invitation should be received by the Congress Secretariat before 1st April, 2006. Please, note that visa application can take a lot of time.

Clothing/Weather

Early summer in Bulgaria is normally warm (25°C on average), but this period of the summer can also be rainy.

For the excursions and field trips you will need rain-protection clothes and shoes suitable for climbing.

Currency

The unit of currency in Bulgaria is the lev (BGN) (= 100 stotinki).

Exchange rate: the official bank exchange rate is 1 Euro = 1.955830 BGN. The exchange rate at the airport is relatively low. At the Hotel there is a bank desk where you can change your money during the working days. There is also an ATM (automatic telling machine) at the hotel that can operate with international credit cards.

Public transport

There is a well-developed public transport network in Sofia of trams, busses, trolley busses and metro. For more information please visit: <http://www.sofia.com/transport/>

Special attention

Money care: please, watch out for your pocket money. Unfortunately there is a risk from pick-pocketing, especially in crowded places and the public transport.

Mid-Congress botanical excursion

Date: Friday, 23 June, 2006

Departure: from Vitosha Park Hotel – 9:00 to Aleko Tourist Centre

Return: from Vitosha Mountain to Vitosha Park Hotel at 5 p.m.

Participants: all participants in the Congress. The price is included in the registration fee.

Includes: transportation, boxed lunch and a botanist guide

Description and aims of the excursion:

Vitosha mountain is situated at approximately an hour's driving from Sofia. The highest peak is Cherni Vruh at 2290 m a. s. l., together with nine more peaks above 2000 m. The mountain shelters century old broadleaved and spruce forests, specific subalpine communities, together with their quite diverse flora of over 1480 species of vascular plants. During the excursion, the group will visit the high-mountain belt between 2000 and 2290 m, where a significant amount of endemic species could be seen, such as the Balkan endemics *Leontodon rilaensis*, *Hesperis dinarica*, *Lilium jankae*, *Aquilegia aurea*, *Angelica pancicii*, *Festuca valida*, *Dianthus microlepis*, *Senecio pancicii*, *Silene roemeri*, *Pinguicula balcanica*, *Sesleria comosa*, *Geum coccineum*, *Primula farinosa* ssp. *exigua*; as well as rare plants, such as *Lathyrus alpestris*, *Geranium coeruleatum*, *Gentiana punctata*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Anemone narcissiflora*, *Jovibarba heuffelii*, *Swertia perennis* etc. Orchids are also expected to be seen: *Traunsteinera globosa*, *Dactylorhiza cordigera*, *Pseudorchis albida*, *Nigritella nigra*, etc.

The walking is light to medium difficult. The starting and the final point of the route are the same, and suitable rest-stops and view points are planned on the way.

Contacts:

Trip leader: Boris Assyov

Institute of Botany, BAS; Acad. Georgi Bonchev St., bl. 23;

phone: +359 2 979 3715; fax: +359 2 8719032;

e-mail: assyov@bio.bas.bg

Post-Congress botanical field trips

General information

Organizer of the post-congress field trips:

Explorer 2000 Travel and Tourist Company Ltd., Julia Stoyanova – Managing Director
120, Evlogi Georgiev Blvd.,
1505 Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel.: +359 2 9440558 Tel./Fax: +359 2 8430852
GSM: +35988 8 716 775
E-mail: explorer@mail.bol.bg

Departure date: Monday morning, 26th June, 2006

Departure: from Vitosha Park Hotel

Return to Sofia: late afternoon on 28th or 29th June, 2006. Accommodation for 28 and 29 June, 2006 is provided by the trip organizer: in case you need to stay overnight, please, fill in the registration form; double room 50 Euro, single room – 35 Euro.

Participants: min. number of participants 10 persons; max. number of participants 40 persons.

Plant collection: Collection of herbarium specimens will be limited. The Organizers do not undertake either to provide facilities for plant collection (paper, presses, etc.), or for issuing the necessary certificates for the export of plant materials. However, limited plant collection is possible if the participants provide all necessary facilities on their own. Please, bear in mind that some of the trip itinerary passes through protected areas and many of the encountered plant species are protected under the Bulgarian law.

Registration: Please, use the registration form online.

Payment: You can pay at the Registration Desk of the Congress or by a Bank transfer to the trip organizer.

Bank details:

HVB Bank Biochim

SWIFT: BACXBGSF – Explorer 2000 LTD

Account number in Euro: 1486071006

Reference to be quoted on transactions: Post-Congress Field Trip of the IV Balkan Congress

Southeast Bulgaria, Mt Strandzha

Prices: for a group of 10–16 people, 230 Euro for accommodation in double rooms. For accommodation in a single room: an additional charge of 20 Euro. For a group of 16–40 people, 210 Euro for accommodation in double rooms. For accommodation in a single room: an additional charge of 20 Euro.

The price includes: transportation by bus, 3 nights full-board accommodation (including boxed lunches for the field trips) and an extra lunch for the return trip, a botanist trip guide.

The price does not include: flights to and from Sofia; accommodation for 29th June, 2006.

Itinerary: The itinerary will cross Bulgaria in the east-southeast direction (about 410 km). It will pass through the fertile Thracian Lowland (near Plovdiv) and at the town of Sliven will turn parallel to the southern slopes of the Balkan Range. From Bourgas it will go southwards for 60 km and will reach the Primorsko town, a famous Black Sea resort. On the second and third day short trips (about 100 km) will be organized to the inner parts of

Strandzha mountain. On the way back to Sofia the group will stop for a short visit at the Sinite Kamuni (Blue Rocks) Nature Park (the Balkan Range). The participants can see there high-mountain vegetation on a limestone base.

Description and aims of the field trip: Acquaintance with different plant communities and flora of the sand dunes at the South Black Sea Coast near Primorsko. South Euxinian flora and vegetation could be seen at Mt Strandzha.

Prevailing plants and plant communities:

Psamophytic vegetation: about 60 typical psamophytic and some halophytic plant species, including: *Elymus elongatus*, *Leymus racemosus* ssp. *sabulosus*, *Linum tauricum* ssp. *bulgaricum*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Ammophila arenaria*, *Aurinia uechtriziana*, *Cionura erecta*, etc.

South Euxinian flora and vegetation: forests of *Fagus orientalis* and *Quercus polycarpa*, *Quercus hartwissiana* with *Rhododendron ponticum*, *Daphne pontica*, *Laurocerasus officinalis*, *Ilex colchica*, and of the herbaceous plant species *Fritillaria pontica*, *Primula acaulis* ssp. *rubra*, *Anemone blanda*, *Cyclamen coum*, *Scilla bithynica*, *Trachystemon orientalis*.

Special attention: Mt Strandzha is a risk region for ticks. Please, be prepared with suitable clothes and repellents.

Trip organizer and field guide: Prof. Dimitar Peev, Institute of Botany, BAS; tel.: +359 2 9793777; fax: 359 2 8719032; e-mail: dpeev@bio.bas.bg

Southwest Bulgaria, river Strouma valley and Rila and Pirin mountains

Prices: for a group of 10–16 people, 145 Euro for accommodation in double rooms; for a group of 16–40 people, 140 Euro for accommodation in double rooms. For accommodation in a single room: an additional charge of 20 Euro.

The price includes: transportation by bus, 2 nights full-board accommodation (including boxed lunches for the field trips) and an extra lunch for the return trip, a botanist trip guide.

The price does not include: flights to and from Sofia; accommodation for 28th June, 2006.

Itinerary: Sofia – Kresna – Breznitza – Bansko – peak Vichren – Bansko – Rila Monastery – lake Suhoto – Sofia.

Description and aims of the field trip: The field trip is aimed to present the varied flora and plant communities of the river Strouma valley, the hilly area of Southwest Bulgaria (alt. 300–400 m), up to the alpine vegetation in Rila and Pirin mountains (alt. 2700–2915 m).

Prevailing plants and plant communities:

Main landscapes and vegetation types are: the plantain (*Platanus orientalis*) woods in the Strouma valley; the Mediterranean communities of *Juniperus excelsa*, with the presence of *Juniperus oxycedrus*, *Pistacia terrebinthus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Colutea arborescens*, *Coronilla emerus*, *Hypericum olympicum*, etc.; the altitudinal zonation of the vegetation on limestone and silicate base (mountain forests, the timberline and the alpine flora and vegetation in Rila and Pirin mountains is the richest in endemics area for Bulgaria). The botanical trip to the Pirin Mts passes through forests of endemic pines *Pinus peuce* and *P. heldreichii* and through subalpine formations of *Pinus mugo* and *Juniperus sibirica*. The following endemic species occur in the subalpine and alpine zones: *Daphne kosaninii*, *Centaurea kellereri*, *Saxifraga ferdinandi-coburgi*, *S. spruneri*, *Oxytropis urumovii*, *Papaver degenii*, *Cyanus achtarovii*, *Erigeron vichrensis*, *Poa pirinica*, etc. In the Rila Mts acidophilus *Picea* forests and subalpine and alpine flora complexes can be seen. Among the numerous endemic species are: *Acer heldreichii*, *Lilium jankae*, *Geum bulgaricum*, *Rheum rhapsodicum*, *Aubrieta gracilis*, *Cyanus orbelicus*, etc.

Special attention: The lower parts of the terrain, i.e. the valley of river Strouma, pose the risk of snakes. For the Rila and Pirin Mts, please, be equipped for high-mountain tracking.
Trip organizer and field guide: Dr. Svetlana Bancheva, Institute of Botany, BAS; tel.: +359 2 9793764; fax: 359 2 8719032; e-mail: sbancheva@yahoo.com

South Bulgaria, Western Rhodopi Mountains

Prices: for a group of 10–16 people, 150 Euro for accommodation in double rooms; for a group of 16–40 people, 135 Euro for accommodation in double rooms. For accommodation in a single room: an additional charge of 20 Euro.

The price includes: transportation by bus, 2 nights full-board accommodation (including boxed lunches for the field trips) and an extra lunch for the return trip, a botanist trip guide.

The price does not include: flights to and from Sofia; accommodation for 28th June, 2006.

Itinerary: Sofia – Pamporovo Resort – Trigrad – Devin – Beglika – Sofia.

Description and aims of the field trip: The field trip presents an opportunity for having a glimpse of the magnificence of “the snow-clad mountain of the Thracians”, as Homer called the Rhodopes. The Rhodopes are part of the extensive Traco-Macedonian massif at the heart of the Balkan Peninsula. The mountain has a complicated geological history and constitutes of a host of ridges with different orientation, deep valleys and plateaus. The average altitude is 785 m and the highest peak is Perelik (2191 m).

Prevailing plants and plant communities:

The Rhodopes are the richest floristic region in Bulgaria. More than 2500 species grow here, among which many Balkan and Bulgarian endemics, including the relic endemics *Haberlea rhodopensis* and *Lathraea rhodopea*. Forests prevail as a vegetation type: *Pinus silvestris*, *Picea abies* and *Abies borisii-regis* are the dominant species, the latter in the southern parts of the mountain. Deciduous forests (mainly of beech and oak, but also mixed forests with a number of other deciduous species) dominate the northern slopes and eastern part of the mountain. Extensive pastures and meadows have existed since the Thracian times. Along river Chepelarska (Chaya) one can visit the “locus classicus” of some species described by Josef Velenovsky (*Verbascum decorum*, *Seseli rhodopeum*, etc.). The itinerary reaches the Pamporovo Resort. It is situated among a splendid mosaic of coniferous forests and meadows (in full bloom at that season!). The second day is fully devoted to the carst area near Trigrad village, well known for the famous Trigrad gorge. The richness of the flora is amazing: *Abies borisii-regis*, *Haberlea rhodopensis*, *Scabiosa rhodopensis*, *Arenaria rhodopaea*, *Saxifraga stribrnyi*, *Campanula orphanidea*, *Chondrilla urumoffii*, *Marrubium frivaldskyanum*, *Crataegus orientalis*, *Morina persica*, and many others. During the last day the group will stop in the Beglika Nature Reserve with century-old spruce forests. Here boreal elements like *Galium boreale*, *Potentilla palustris*, *Potentilla fruticosa*, etc. grow together with the endemics *Viola rhodopeia*, *Geum rhodopaeum*. On the adjacent marble screes and slopes one can encounter *Astragalus alopecurus*, *Saponaria bellidifolia*, *Saxifraga sempervivum*.

Special attention: Please, be equipped for high-mountain tracking.

Trip organizer and field guide: Dr. Antoaneta Petrova, Botanic Garden of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; tel.: +359 2 9672823; e-mail: petrovabotgar1@abv.bg.

Photo competition

Participants in the Congress are kindly invited to take part in a photo competition. Those of them who are willing to participate in this event have to assign their photos as follows:

- I. Plants and Fungi – macro photos
- II. Habitat landscapes
- III. Exotics

One person can present no more than one photo in each of the three groups. The photos have to be printed on A4 size photo paper and brought to the Registration Desk of the Congress. The participants in the Congress will vote for the photos and the photos that collect most votes will be ranked at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The Organizing Committee will give 9 awards: three in each group.

In case you intend to take part in this competition, please, send the number of your photos and their assignment by e-mail to iv_bbc@bio.bas.bg with a subject “PHOTO” not later than 30 April, 2006 (please, do not attach the photos).

Program for the accompanying people

Organizer of the program for the accompanying people:

Vectra Travel Tourist Agency

21 June, 2006

Description: walking sightseeing tour of Sofia with an English-speaking guide.

History: Sofia was established more than 7000 years ago. The city offers a magic combination of history and present to its visitors. The heritage of Thracians, Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Turks intermingles in harmony with the modern architecture of business buildings. There are plenty of art galleries, theatres, concert halls, cafes and boutiques shops. After this tour you will feel the rhythm of this city.

Duration: 4 hours

Prices:

10-people group	20 BGN (~10 Euro) / person
30-people group	10 BGN (~5 Euro) / person

The price does not include the admission fees to the museums.

22 June, 2006

Description: excursion to the town of Koprivshitsa

History: the town of Koprivshitsa is situated near to river Topolnitsa, 1060 m above the sea level. It has 2 600 inhabitants. It is 110 km southeast of Sofia and 80 km northwest of Plovdiv. Koprivshitsa is a museum-town and a unique settlement in Bulgaria, which has retained compact over 250 patterns of the Revival Period architecture.

Duration: 1 day

Price:

10-people group	40 BGN (~20 Euro) / person
30-people group	20 BGN (~10 Euro) / person

The price does not include the admission fees to the museums.

24 June, 2006

Description: excursion to Boyana Church and visit to the National History Museum.

History: the Boyana Church was built in three stages: in the late 10th and early 11th, the mid-13th, and the mid-19th centuries. The oldest section (the eastern part of the church) is a small, one-apse cross-vaulted building with inbuilt cruciform supports. It was erected in the late 10th and early 11th century. The second part, which adjoins the eastern section, was commissioned by Sebastocrator Kaloyan and his wife Dessislava in the mid-13th century. This building is of the two-floor tomb-church type. It consists of a ground-floor family sepulchre with a semi-cylindrical vault and two arcosolia on the northern and southern walls, and an upper-floor family chapel identical in design to the eastern section. The exterior is decorated with ceramic ornaments. The church is a UNESCO heritage site.

Duration: 1 day

Price:

10-people group	20 BGN (~10 Euro) / person
30-people group	10 BGN (~5 Euro) / person

The price does not include the admission fees to the museums.



Key deadlines

Registration and abstracts submission:
15 February, 2006

Payment of reduced registration fee:
*31 March, 2006**

* After 31 March, 2006 the increased registration fee is applied.



The Organizing Committee of the IV Balkan Botanical Congress gratefully acknowledge the support of the following companies, institutions and persons:

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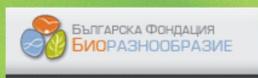
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