

BOOK REVIEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Flora Graeca Sibthorpiana. Centuria Prima et Secunda. 1806–1816. Strid, A. & Strid, B. (ed.). 2009.

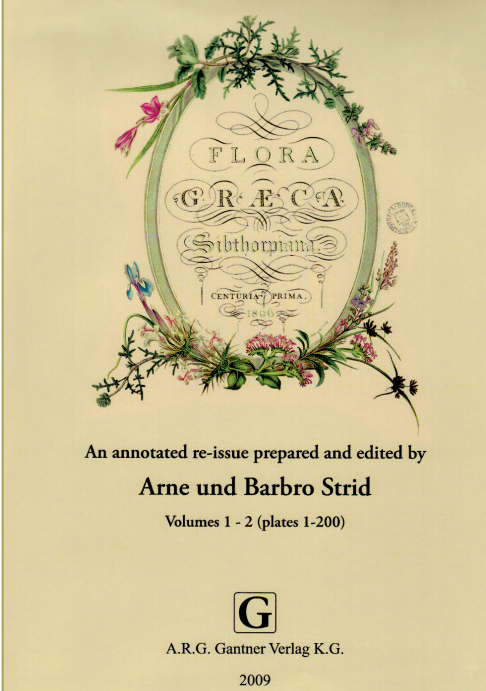

Annotated Re-Issue. Volumes 1 & 2 (Plates 1–200). A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., LI-94-91 Ruggel / Liechtenstein. Hardback, 412 pp. ISBN: 978-3-906166-70-4.

A new de-luxe edition of *Flora Graeca Subthorpiana*, one of the largest illustrated Floras, was published by the A.R.G. Gantner Verlag. According to its editors and organizers, Arne Strid, a very well known botanist, and his wife Barbro Strid, the book is a “pseudo-facsimile edition”. Their idea to reproduce it deserves admiration, because it was printed in only 25 copies and was kept under strict restrictions in the major museums and libraries. Because of its rarity, cost and privately owned copies, the book was unavailable for a long time to the botanists. According to the editors’ note, “*even today the original can be studied only by the privileged few with access to the inner sanctuaries of some major museums and libraries*”. Now, due to their efforts and some very hard work, all botanists with an interest in the flora of Greece will be able to get this unique book.

Flora Graeca Subthorpiana is a publication on the plants of Greece following a survey by **John Sibthorp**, Professor of botany at Oxford, who collected most of the plants on his botanical tours to Greece, Cyprus and W Anatolia in 1786–1787.

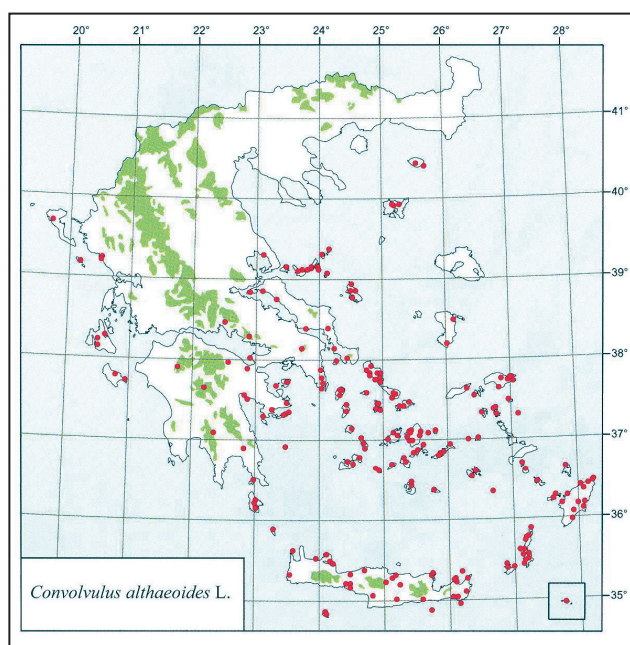
Unfortunately, he died before *Flora Graeca* was published. **James Edward Smith**, a most industrious British botanist of that period and the first President of the Linnean Society of London, was appointed to continue his work. He managed to bring out the first six and a half volumes of *Flora Graeca*. After Smith’s death the work was taken over for a brief period of time by Robert Brown and finally by John Lindley.

Flora Graeca was produced in ten folio volumes in 1806–1840 and includes 966 hand-coloured copper engravings based on the splendid water-colours by **Ferdinand Bauer** from Vienna. As a whole, the work is considered one of the finest examples of botanical

The editors, Arne and Barbro Strid are both recently retired. A.S. is Professor Emeritus at the Botanical Museum of the University of Lund, former Director of the Göteborg Botanical Garden and before that Professor of Botany at the University of Copenhagen. B.S. is a former Senior Scientist in Biochemistry and Plant Breeding at the Carlsberg Laboratory, Copenhagen. A.S. has produced the text and maps whereas B.S. is responsible for much of the Photoshop work with the illustrations.

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illumination and the accurate and exquisite watercolours, so true to nature, are its most prominent feature. All illustrations were prepared by Bauer, within a period of five years. About one-third of the included species were then new to science and certainly the book is of interest not only to painters, but also to botanists who work on the flora in this part of the Mediterranean.

In the Introduction to the book the editors recall its history: Sibthorp's first and second journeys, Hawkin's journeys, preparation of the watercolours, etc., mainly on the basis of data supplied by W.T. Stearn (1967).

Some of the plates have been reduced, so as to reproduce the original folio format into a more practical size, others with small plants have been modified so that the drawing could fill a reasonable portion of the page.

There is a two-page spread for each species included in the book. The colour plates are reproduced on the right-hand page. The upper half of the facing left-hand page carries a text in English and the lower half a dot map based on the over 70 000 records stored in the Flora Hellenica

Database (the map is omitted for 25 species mainly not occurring within the borders of the present-day Greece, such as like *Veronica gentianoides*, *Salvia lanigera*, *Salvia veneris*, *Gladiolus triphyllus*, etc.).

The information about every species contains:

- the currently accepted scientific name, with authority and place of publication;
- important synonyms, with authority but without place of publication;
- comments on the taxonomic status, distribution, ecology, flowering time, for some species also available caryological data, etc.;
- a concise description, with emphasis on the diagnostic characters.

At the end of the book is included an Index of the scientific names for accepted designations and synonyms.

The complete re-issue will comprise five volumes, each corresponding to two volumes of the original 10-volume *Flora Graeca*. The original Latin diagnosis will be attached on a CD to the last volume. Indices will also be provided in the last volume.

Volume 3 (Centuria 3 & 4) will come out in 2 months.

The book is distributed by the Koeltz Scientific Books, D-61453 Koenigstein, P.O. Box 1360, Germany, e-mail: koeltz@t-online.de. Price: 210.00 Euro. Customers from East Europe (only) receive a discount of 50%.

The new re-issue of *Flora Graeca Subthorpiana* is a definite success for its editors and publishers.

Jongepierová, I. (ed.). 2008.
Louky Bílý Karpat (Grasslands of the White
Carpathian Mountains). ZO ČSOP Bílé Karpaty
in Veselí nad Moravou.

Hardback, 462 pp. ISBN: 978-80-903 444-6-4. In Czech & English.

The book is prepared by a team of 72 Czech and Slovak botanists and zoologists. It is devoted to the biodiversity of grasslands of the White Carpathian Mts, known as a territory of definite botanical value and designated a Protected Area in 1980. Part of that territory lies in the Czech Republic and the other in Slovakia. Its meadows belong to the most extensive and species-rich grasslands in Europe. Because of its unique landscape and population, since 1996 the area has got a status of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and subsequently in 2000 was awarded the PLA European Diploma of Protected Areas.

The book is published in Czech and English and is structured as follows:

- **History of the area**

The first chapter (partial area description) comprises information on the geology, geomorphology, hydrology, climate, soils, and land use of the area. The readers can also find information on the palaeohistory and history of settlement, history of farming, conducted researches (botanical and zoological) and conservation. A list of 97 grassland reserves on the territory, with their category, size (ha), year of designation, etc. is also included.

- **Botany**

This chapter begins with the different groups of algae, including a list of species found in the area, followed by the bryophytes, mushrooms and lichens, phytogeography, and species diversity of the grasslands. Very useful information is presented about some selected rare plants distributed in the area and a list of protected and endangered plants in the grasslands and fens with IUCN categories for some of them.

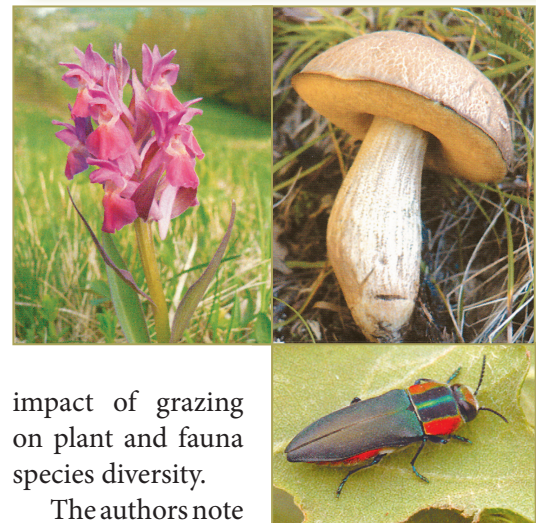
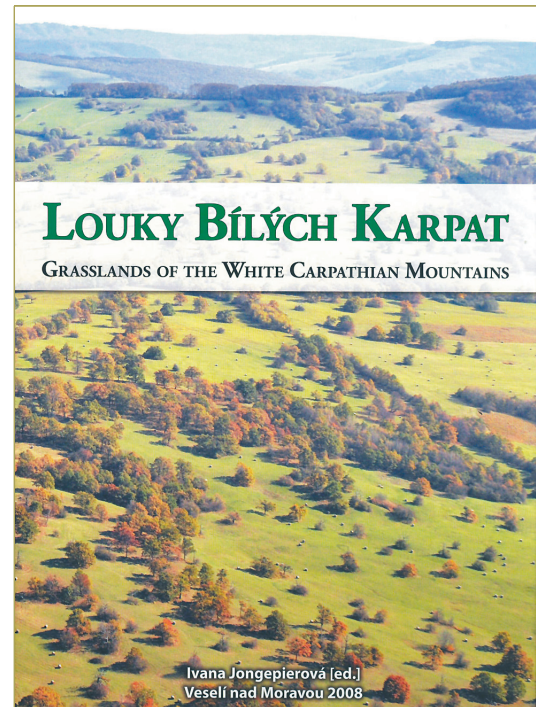
Comprehensive information on the vegetation with a Synoptic Table of the grassland vegetation types is also included. The chapter also contains data on the phytosociological affiliation, vegetation and site characteristics, management, distribution, and conservation of 17 different grassland vegetation types.

- **Zoology**

This chapter includes information on paleohistory of the fauna and on the current fauna composition. Different taxonomic groups are presented from the Soil Fauna, Molluscs, Arachnids, Insects, and Vertebrates.

- **Research projects**

The authors present the results of some research projects as, for instance, the impact of mowing on the flora and vegetation. Special attention is attached to the wet grasslands and the



impact of grazing on plant and fauna species diversity.

The authors note that the first step to determine the most suitable type of grasslands management in the White Carpathians was a series of experiments carried out in a Nature Reserve in the period 1989–2005.

Grasslands re-creation discusses the results of monitoring of natural succession in some selected Nature Reserves, the results of different methods used and the conclusions.

Very interesting information is provided about reintroduction of the endangered species, as well as the results from a programme for preservation of the most endangered species. Data about nine successfully cultivated

species, such as *Allium carinatum*, *Anemone sylvestris*, *Campanula cervicaria*, etc. are also included.

• **Management and restoration**

This last chapter is devoted to the grasslands management (different pastures, meadows) and grasslands restoration. In the second half of the 20th century the landscape of the White Carpathians was radically changed by intensive agriculture. All open habitats created by man need further attention. A start was given to the protection of valuable grasslands, as well as to their management according to the requirements of plants, animals, and fungi. Since the 1980s, the White

Carpathian grasslands have been under regular management, and some of them have recovered. The principles of restoration are also described.

The book is amply illustrated with original colour photos of different plants, vegetation types, animals, maps, tables and diagrams (with extremely valuable data) and with references cited at the end of each chapter.

The book contains valuable and rich information on biodiversity, which would be of interest not only to the specialists but to anyone interested in Nature, and not only of Czech and Slovak extraction, but to all Europeans.

Filipovski, G., Lozanovski, R. & Matevski, V. (eds). 2007.

Collection of Papers Devoted to Academician Kiril Micevski on the occasion of the 80 years of his birth.

Macedonian Acad. Sci. & Arts, Skopje. Paperback, 348 pp. ISBN: 978-9989101-80-9. In Macedonian & English.

[Филиповски, Г., Лозановски, Р. & Матевски, В. (уред. одбор). 2007.]

Зборник на трудови посветен на академик Кирил Мицевски по повод 80-годишнината од раѓањето]

The book is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the birth and to 50 years scientific work of the eminent Macedonian botanist Acad. Kiril Micevski (1926–2002). It comprises 16 scientific publications by botanic scholars from Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, presented in the authors' native tongue and in English to facilitate the users.

Acad. Kiril Micevski is the most prominent name in the Macedonian biological scientific community, and a leading figure in botanical science – taxonomist, florist and phytocenologist, author and editor of the *Flora of Macedonia*. He described 47 new for science plant species and 55 new plant communities (seven alliances and 48 associations). He is holder of a number of national and foreign awards.

The book opens with an article about the life and work of Kiril Micevski written by Prof. Vlado Matevski, as well as with a complete bibliography of the Academician's research works, a list of the taxa and plant communities described by him and his awards. It is followed by an article by Prof. Ernest Mayer from the Slovenian Academy of Sciences in connection with the death of Acad. Kiril Micevski, reprinted by *Letopis Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti*, Ljubljana, 53: 111-113, 2002.

Most of the included articles are dedicated to the flora and vegetation of Macedonia, others deals with some rare and endemic species on the territory of Bulgaria, Serbia and Slovenia, as well as with new macromycetes species for Macedonia.

The collection will be certainly of interest to all concerned with the flora and vegetation of the Balkans.

