

**THE *MONOTROPA* L. (*ERICACEAE*) IN THE FLORA
OF "DOBRUȘA" LANDSCAPE RESERVE**

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The number of plant species is declining at an increasingly alarming rate in recent years, mainly due to human activities such: as change of land use, pollution and climate change.

The problem of the conservation of biodiversity, presents two distinct aspects: the identification of rare species threatened with extinction and the development of the necessary measures to save them; the application of these measures within endangered biocenotic systems.

The floristic research, carried out in the period of 2009-2022 within the "Dobrușa" landscape reserve, led to the identification of two new species of the flora of this protected area, from the genus *Monotropa* L. as: *Monotropa hypophegea* Wallr. and *M. hypopitys* L..

The *Monotropa* genus are classified in family of Ericaceae. According to data from literature, the number of species in this genus varies between three and eight.

In the flora of the Republic of Moldova are registered two species of *Monotropa* genus: *M. hypopitys* L. and *M. hypophegea* Wallr., both species are rare in our country and included in the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova with the rarity category – Critically Endangered (CR) species.

On the territory of the "Dobrușa" landscape reserve it was identified a population of *M. hypopitys* L., on plot 55H (47°47'36.63"N, 28°40'52.27"E), the population is characterized by 15 specimens, it lives under the canopy of an old stand which predominates the hornbeam mixed with ash, pedunculate oak and linden. Also were recorded two populations of *M. hypophegea* Wallr., one in the plot 41A (47°48'25.16"N, 28°39'28.40"E) and another in the plot 69S (47°47'12.44"N, 28°41'10.88"E), they live under the canopy of stand of pedunculate oak grove mixed with hornbeam and ash.

Given the fact that this growth point is identified for the first time on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, the respective population needs to be constantly protected and monitored in order to highlight their evolution.

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