

Pestrost alpinske in subalpinske vegetacije Dinarskih Alp v Bosni in Hercegovini (zahodni Balkan)

Diversity patterns of alpine and subalpine vegetation in Bosnia-Herzegovina's Dinaric Alps (W Balkan)

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Bosnia-Herzegovina's Dinaric Alps comprise the area between Plješevica Mt. in northwest and Orjen Mt. in southeast. Vegetation occurring in the mountain belt of this part of Dinaric Alps is characterized by extremely high level of both biological and ecological diversity. Climax vegetation above tree line is alpine grassland accompanied with extrazonal vegetational forms – snow beds, screes, rock crevices, mountain springs, blanket bogs, tall herbs. These vegetation types are the most dominant factors that determine unique physiognomy of mountain ecosystems, as well as their primary bio production. They are characterized by extreme floristic richness and high number of both endemic and glacial relicts that build up high number of phytocoenoses of which many are endemo-relict. In regard of syntaxonomy mountain vegetation is being differentiated in 10 classes: *Elyno-Seslerietea*, *Juncetea trifidi*, *Salicetea herbaceae*, *Thalspieta rotundifolii*, *Asplenietea trichomanis*, *Scheuchzerio-Caricetea fuscae*, *Montio-Cardaminetea*, *Loiseleurio-Vaccinietea*, *Mulgedio-Aconitetea* and *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea*. These classes are being differentiated in 20 vegetational orders, 38 alliances and 190 associations and sub-associations, which makes 60% of plant communities in total vegetation diversity of B&H, as well as 12.5% of classes as top syntaxonomic category in vegetation diversity of Europe.

Alpine and subalpine grasslands on carbonate ground occur in 76 endemo-relict associations, 9 endemic alliances and 3 orders which are included in class *Elyno-Seslerietea*. Grasslands occurring on acid alpine soil, frequently developed over silicate bedrock, are represented with 15 associations and 4 alliances of mainly endemic character, and one order belonging to class *Juncetea trifidi*.

In the belt of this vegetation, in cold habitats, where snow maintains over entire year, develops vegetation around snow beds with 7 glacial-relict associations, 2 alliance and 2 orders, comprised by class *Salicetea herbaceae*. Vegetation of rock crevices is represented with 28 endemo-relict associations, while vegetation of alpine screes is represented with 20 of them. In its number especially protruding are associations belonging to sub alpine and mountain meadows of endemic alliance *Pancicion* comprising 17 associations.

Basic imprint to entire vegetation image of not only B&H and Balkan Peninsula, but also south-eastern Europe, is given by rich and unique development forms of mountain vegetation.