

FLORISTIC NOVELTIES FROM THE ISLAND OF KORČULA AND PENINSULA OF PELJEŠAC (SOUTH CROATIA)

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The flora of the south Croatian island of Korčula and the peninsula of Pelješac was studied during the period from 2009 to 2014. Altogether, 99 plant taxa (species and infraspecific taxa) were reported as new for the area, 73 for the island and 26 for the peninsula. Thus the total recorded number of plant taxa on the island of Korčula and the Pelješac peninsula are now 1063 and 1123, respectively. Of those newly recorded, 13 taxa are strictly protected by Croatian Law. The recording of *Pistacia x saportae* Burnat is new for Croatia. The taxa in question occupied various habitats and altitude ranges (0–900 m a.s.l.), but the greatest number of newly recorded taxa was found on dry grasslands. The study demonstrates that the indigenous flora of the island of Korčula and the Pelješac peninsula have not yet been fully investigated and the total recorded plant diversity is still increasing in the area.

Key words: new records, vascular plants, eastern Adriatic, Mediterranean

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Flora otoka Korčule i poluotoka Pelješca istraživana je u razdoblju od 2009. do 2014. Ukupno je utvrđeno 99 novih biljnih svojta (vrsta i nižih taksonomskih svojta), od toga 73 na otoku Korčuli te 26 na poluotoku Pelješcu. Ukupan broj biljnih svojta na otoku Korčuli sada je 1063, a na poluotoku Pelješcu 1123. Ukupno je 13 svojti zakonom strogo zaštićeno. Nalaz *Pistacia x saportae* Burnat na Korčuli prvi je za Hrvatsku. Biljke su nađene na različitim staništima u visinskom rasponu od razine mora do 900 m n.v., a najveći broj novih svojta utvrđen je na suhim travnjacima. Podaci pokazuju kako samonikla flora otoka Korčule i poluotoka Pelješca još uvijek nije u potpunosti istražena, a ukupna biljna raznolikost još uvijek je u porastu.

Ključne riječi: novi nalazi, vaskularne biljke, istočni Jadran, Sredozemlje

INTRODUCTION

Floristic investigations on the island of Korčula and the Pelješac peninsula have a 160 year tradition. Among the first researchers of the flora of Korčula and Pelješac was VISIANI (1842, 1847, 1852, 1872–1881), who recorded 29 and 50 plant taxa on the island and peninsula respectively. The greatest number of taxa on the island were recorded by KELLER (1915), RECHINGER (1934), TRINAJSTIĆ & REGULA-BEVILACQUA (1967/68), BARČIĆ (1974), and TRINAJSTIĆ (1970, 1971, 1985, 1995, 1998, 2000). The greatest contribution to our knowledge of the flora of the Pelješac peninsula was made by RECHINGER (1934), REGULA-BEVILACQUA & UNGAR (1971), UNGAR (1972), JASPRICA (1983, 1998a,b), JASPRICA & KOVAČIĆ (1997a,b, 2000), KOVAČIĆ & JASPRICA (2002) and KOVAČIĆ *et al.* (2000). A more detailed

historical overview of research on the flora of this area has been presented by TRINAJSTIĆ (1995, 2000) and JASPRICA & DOLINA (2009).

Investigations have been recently continued and some new records of plant taxa and associations have been reported (e.g. JASPRICA, 2011; JASPRICA & KOVAČIĆ, 2011, 2014; JERIČEVIĆ & JERIČEVIĆ, 2013).

According to all the available literature until now, 990 and 1097 plant taxa (species and infraspecific taxa) have been recorded on the island, including neighbouring islets, and on the peninsula, respectively (TRINAJSTIĆ, 1998; JASPRICA, 1998a; NIKOLIĆ, 2014). The existence of discrepancies in the number of taxa reported between the Flora Croatica Database (NIKOLIĆ, 2014) and data from the available literature must be stressed. Data from some older papers, or those not dealing with flora have not been taken into account in the Flora Croatica Database, and in addition over time the names of some taxa have been used as synonyms.

The aim of this paper is to present new records of plant taxa for the island and peninsula, that have not previously been reported in the literature. In addition, this study includes detailed information on the localities and habitats of plant taxa, and extends our knowledge of their chorology.

STUDY AREA

The karstic island of Korčula (271 km²) and the Pelješac peninsula (355 km²) are situated on the eastern Adriatic coast in South Croatia (Fig. 1). The study area belongs to the Mediterranean Region, Eastern Mediterranean Subregion, Adriatic Province, and Epiro-Dalmatian Sector (RIVAS-MARTÍNEZ *et al.*, 2004). Geologically, the ground mostly consists of highly permeable Jurassic, Cretaceous and Paleogenic limestones. Dolomites account for the smaller portion of the rocks. Mediterranean limestone soils are developed on this geological substrate (BAŠIĆ, 2013).

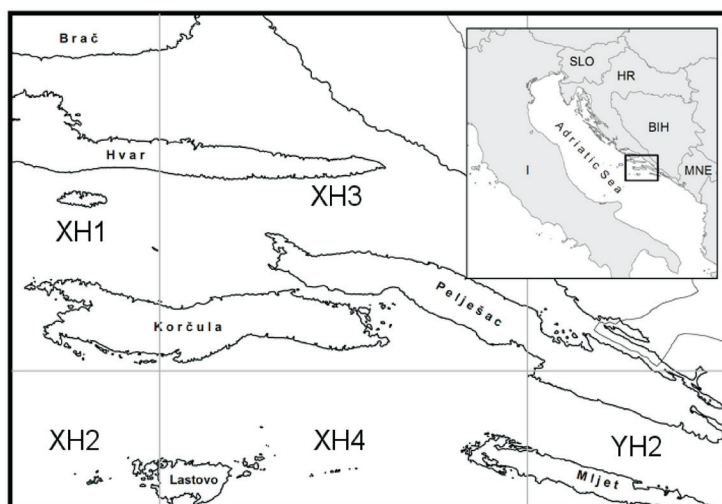


Fig. 1. Geographical position of the study area. (Abbreviations: SLO: Slovenia; HR: Croatia; BIH: Bosnia and Herzegovina; MNE: Montenegro; I: Italy).

According to the bioclimatic classification and the Bioclimatic Map of Europe (RIVAS-MARTÍNEZ *et al.*, 1999, 2004), the study area has a Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic bioclimate, and it is situated within the lower meso-Mediterranean belt.

The vegetation consists mostly of thermophilic evergreen forests of Holm oak and Kermes oak (*Quercetea ilicis* Braun-Blanq. *ex* A. & O. Bolòs 1950), and of its degraded forms such as garrigue (*Erico-Cistetea* Trinajstić 1985). The greater part of the surface area is covered by macchia and includes the following associations: *Fraxino orni-Quercetum ilicis* Horvatić (1956) 1958, *Myrto communis-Quercetum ilicis* (Horvatić) Trinajstić 1985, *Fraxino orni-Quercetum cocciferae* Horvatić 1958 and *Pistacio lentisci-Juniperetum phoeniceae* Trinajstić 1987. Reasons for the degradation of the forest stands are numerous: permanent cutting during the past, conversion of forests into agricultural areas, destruction by pasture, summer fires, urbanization, etc. Mediterranean pine forests mostly include the associations: *Quercus ilicis-Pinetum halepensis* Loisel 1971, *Junipero phoeniceae-Pinetum halepensis* Trinajstić 1989, *Pistacio lentisci-Pinetum halepensis* De Marco *et al.* 1984 and *Erico manipuliflorae-Pinetum halepensis* Krause *et al.* 1963. A considerable portion of the area is under cultivation. Altogether, 76 associations and sub-associations within 34 alliances, 28 orders and 27 vegetation classes have been recorded on the Pelješac peninsula (JASPRICA & KOVAČIĆ, 2011). Some new syntaxa have recently been described in the area (JASPRICA *et al.*, 2014a, 2015). The high vegetation diversity may be explained by the relatively large surface area and the range of altitude (1–961 m a.s.l.). Despite the numerous phytosociological works, the total diversity of plant associations on the island of Korčula is still unknown.

The island of Korčula and the Pelješac peninsula are two of 94 Important Plant Areas (IPAs) in Croatia, due to 1) the important populations of one or more plant taxa that are of global or European conservation importance, 2) an exceptionally rich flora in a European context in relation to biogeographic zone, and 3) the presence of habitats of European or global significance for protection or for botany (COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, 1992; EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 2007; see also JASPRICA, 2010, 2011; JASPRICA & KOVAČIĆ, 2010). From a botanic point of view the most interesting habitats and those with a high nature value are the rare sandy (the class *Ammophiletea* Braun-Blanq. & Tüxen *ex* V. Westhoff, Dijk & Passchier 1946) and gravel coasts (the class *Cakiletea maritimae* Tüxen & Preising *ex* Braun-Blanq. & Tüxen 1952), dry grasslands (the order *Scorzonero villosae-Chrysopogonetalia grylli* Horvatić 1963 of the class *Brachypodio-Chrysopogonetea* Horvatić 1963) and some abandoned agricultural areas that are important habitats of orchids. The island and the peninsula have 38 and 41 endemic taxa, respectively. Most of them belong to the group of Illyrian – Adriatic endemic plants.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was carried out in the period between 2009 and 2014 in all seasons. The research includes indigenous taxa, but also included in the list are cultivated taxa encountered out of a cultivated environment. Whenever possible, a specimen of each taxa encountered in the flowering state was collected and pressed. Herbarium specimens are deposited in the herbarium collection of the Laboratory for Terrestrial Flora and Fauna of the University of Dubrovnik. Collections were made only if ten or more individuals were present in a plant population. At each collection site, the GPS (Global Positioning System) locations are included and expressed in geodetic coordinates (the World Geodetic System 1984 datum); plant community type, elevation, and any other notable ecological characteristics are also recorded.

Taxa were determined using the standard determination keys, books and guides: BONNIER (1911–1935), FIORI (1923–1929), HAYEK (1924–1933), HEGI (1936–1987), TUTIN *et al.* (1968–1980, 1993), HORVATIĆ & TRINAJSTIĆ (1967–1981), TRINAJSTIĆ (1975–1986), JAVORKA & CSAPODY (1975), PIGNATTI (1982), DOMAC (1994), DELFROGE (1995, 2006), etc. The nomenclature of plant taxa follows the Flora Croatica Database (NIKOLIĆ, 2014). The taxa in the list are given in alphabetical order of genera and species. Taxa listed in the Red Book of Vascular Flora of Croatia (NIKOLIĆ & TOPIĆ, 2005) are marked with their corresponding IUCN status (IUCN, 2014). In addition, strictly protected taxa (SP) defined by the Croatian Law are also denoted (ANONYMOUS, 2013a,b).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the studies of the flora of the island of Korčula and the Pelješac peninsula conducted during the period 2009–2014, 99 plant taxa were found as new for the area (Table 1). Among the new records, 73 taxa were recorded on the island and 26 on the peninsula. Thus the number of recorded plant taxa of species and subspecies level increases from 990 to 1063 on the island, and from 1097 to 1123 on the peninsular.

According to NIKOLIĆ (2014), among the newly reported taxa three can be considered as endemic: *Consolida brevicornis* (Vis.) Soo and *Trifolium mutabile* Port. were found on the island, and *Stachys menthifolia* Vis. was observed on the peninsula. *Consolida brevicornis* and *Stachys menthifolia* are Illyrian-Balkan endemics, while *Trifolium mutabile* has a wider occurrence in the Mediterranean (EURO+MED, 2006–2014). In fact, all of these taxa have very narrow distributions in the coastal and insular part of South Croatia. The island and peninsula now have 40 and 42 recognised endemic taxa, respectively.



Fig. 2. *Adonis aestivalis* L. Specimen sampled at the karstic depression ('*polje*') of Prapatna near the village of Smokvica, the island of Korčula (photo: M. Jeričević).

Two of the taxa belong to the Critically Endangered (CR) category: *Consolida brevicornis* (Vis.) Soo and *Trifolium michelianum* Savi. Three taxa are Endangered (EN): *Adonis aestivalis* L., *Cynanchum acutum* L. and *Marrubium peregrinum* L. Of those the south-eastern European taxon *Marrubium peregrinum* is very rare in Croatia and found mostly in the inland part of the country. Our findings from the island of Korčula and those of PETTER (1852) from the island of Hvar represents the only localities with this taxon in the Mediterranean part of Croatia.

The Eurasian *Orchis purpurea* Huds. is a Vulnerable (VU) taxon. Although well distributed along the Croatian coast and in the continental part of country, it is not present, except on the island of Vis, on the southern Croatian islands. In addition, four taxa (*Avellinia michelii* (Savi) Parl., *Cephalanthera damasonium* (Mill.) Druce, *Juncus squarrosus* L., *Silybum marianum* (L.) Gaertn.) were considered as Near Threatened (NT) and one (*Allium vineale* L.) was classified as Least Concern (LC). Only two taxa (*Arundo plinii* Turra and *Trifolium incarnatum* L. ssp. *molinerii* (Balb. ex Hornem) Syme) have been classified as Data Deficient (DD).

According to recent molecular phylogenetic, biogeographic and morphological (HARDION *et al.*, 2012a, b) and ecological studies (JASPRICA *et al.*, 2014, 2015), it is generally accepted to distinguish two distinct taxa within the *A. plinii* s.l. complex: (i) the Apennine-Balkan *A. plinii* s.s. and (ii) the circum-Mediterranean *A. micrantha*. *A. donax* L. the cosmopolitan Giant Reed distributed from Sub-tropical Asia to the Mediterranean Basin, has already been reported on the island of Korčula and the Pelješac peninsula (RECHINGER, 1934, JASPRICA & KOVAČIĆ, 1997a).

In total, 13 taxa were Strictly Protected (SP) by Croatian Law: *Adonis aestivalis* L., *Arundo plinii* Turra, *Cephalanthera damasonium* (Mill.) Druce, *Consolida brevicornis* (Vis.)



Fig. 3. *Pistacia x saportae* Burnat. Specimen sampled on the Smrč hill above the Pavja Luka Bay, the southern shore of the island of Korčula (photo: M. Jeričević).

Tab. 1. List of new taxa for the island of Korčula and the peninsula of Pelješac (abbreviations: E – endemic taxa; CR – Critically Endangered; EN – Endangered; VU – Vulnerable; NT – Near Threatened; LC – Least Concern; DD – Data Deficient; SP – strictly protected taxa by Croatian Law).

Taxa	Family	Habitat	Locality	Coordinates and dates
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L.	Asteraceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'51.47" N, 16°59'33.31" E; 22 June 2010
<i>Adonis aestivalis</i> L.; (EN; SP)	Ranunculaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°54'38.30" N, 16°55'13.85" E; 11 April 2009
<i>Ajugaiosa</i> (L.) Schreb	Lamiaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°59'08.0" N, 16°39'14.3" E; 4 November 2012
<i>Allium flavum</i> L.	Alliaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°57'24.8" N, 16°56'37.4" E; 11 July 2010
<i>Allium vineale</i> L.; (LC)	Alliaceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°57'32.52" N, 16°56'56.97" E; 7 July 2013
<i>Alyssum strigosum</i> Banks et Solander	Brassicaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'47.77" N, 17°03'53.99" E; 12 April 2012
<i>Anemone coronaria</i> L.	Ranunculaceae	olive groves	Korčula	42°56'13.2" N, 17°06'15.1" E; 13 March 2012
<i>Arabis alpina</i> L.	Brassicaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°58'04.55" N, 17°04'15.95" E; 31 March 2013
<i>Arundo micrantha</i> Lam.	Poaceae	ruderal habitats	Pelješac	42°51'16.49" N, 17°36'48.64" E; 5 January 2014
<i>Arundo plinii</i> Turra; (DD, SP)	Poaceae	ruderal habitats	Pelješac	42°59'11.0" N, 17°05'28.5" E; 5 October 2013
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> L.	Liliaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°55'40.45" N, 17°09'37.14" E; 15 April 2012
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i> L.	Aspleniaceae	rocks	Korčula	42°57'18.81" N, 17°01'42.8" E; 6 May 2012
<i>Asplenium scolopendrinum</i> L.	Aspleniaceae	cave	Pelješac	42°59'48.34" N, 17°09'15.21" E; 9 June 2013
<i>Azorella michelii</i> (Savi) Parl.; (NT)	Poaceae	dry sandy grasslands	Korčula	42°55'05.39" N, 17°11'03.07" E; 7 October 2012
<i>Briza minor</i> L.; (NT)	Poaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'06.94" N, 17°09'29.01" E; 15 May 2013
<i>Calepina irregularis</i> (Asso) Thell.	Brassicaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°55'54.36" N, 16°58'55.89" E; 9 March 2013
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i> L.	Campanulaceae	olive groves	Korčula	42°56'28.97" N, 17°05'36.17" E; 30 June 2010
<i>Centaurea jacea</i> L.	Asteraceae	meadows	Korčula	42°56'21.33" N, 17°05'33.24" E; 13 July 2013
<i>Centaurea triumfetti</i> All.	Asteraceae	Dalmatian black pine forests	Pelješac	42°59'43.76" N, 17°08'45.46" E; 9 June 2013
<i>Centaureum pulchellum</i> (Sw.) Druce	Gentianaceae	along karstic pool	Korčula	42°56'21.71" N, 17°05'33.49" E; 13 July 2013
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> (Mill.) Druce; (NT, SP)	Orchidaceae	Dalmatian black pine forests	Korčula	42°56'07.0" N, 17°03'56.8" E; 17 May 2013
<i>Chelidonium majus</i> L.	Papaveraceae	ruderal habitats	Korčula	42°56'31.38" N, 17°06'35.23" E; 9 November 2012
<i>Clematis viticella</i> L.	Ranunculaceae	along the seashore	Korčula	42°58'34.81" N, 17°2'27.95" E; 26 May 2012
<i>Consolida brevicornis</i> (Vis.) Soo; (E; CR, SP)	Ranunculaceae	olive groves	Korčula	42°58'23.19" N, 17°00'52.11" E; 5 May 2013
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Corylaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'47.00" N, 17°04'19.96" E; 5 November 2011
<i>Cotinus coggiaea</i> Scop.	Anacardiaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°54'57.44" N, 17°07'49.1" E; 4 July 2010
<i>Cynanchum acutum</i> L.; (EN; SP)	Asclepiadaceae	ruderal habitats	Korčula	42°56'02.3" N, 17°09'28.7" E; 21 August 2012
<i>Echium parviflorum</i> Moench.	Borraginaceae	along roads and paths	Pelješac	42°58'38.53" N, 17°09'32.16" E; 7 April 2013
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> L.	Onagraceae	Dalmatian black pine forests	Pelješac	42°59'42.03" N, 17°08'06.77" E; 2 June 2013
<i>Epilobium lanceolatum</i> Sebastiani et Mauri	Onagraceae	Dalmatian black pine forests	Pelješac	42°59'47.86" N, 17°07'51.80" E; 10 June 2012
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i> L.	Onagraceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'16.15" N, 17°09'07.80" E; 25 June 2010

<i>Epipactis helleborine</i> (L.) Crantz; (SP)	Orchidaceae	Dalmatian black pine forests	Peješac	42°59'46.77'' N, 17°07'54.66'' E; 27 May 2012
<i>Epipactis microphylla</i> (Ehrh.) Sw.; (SP)	Orchidaceae	Dalmatian black pine forests	Peješac	42°59'42.7'' N, 17°07'59.6'' E; 19 May 2013
<i>Erysimum odoratum</i> Ehrh.	Brassicaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'33.42'' N, 17°3'10.84'' E; 27 April 2013
<i>Euphorbia terracina</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°57'03.16'' N, 17°05'02.59'' E; 30 May 2013
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i> L.	Clusiaceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°56'34.13'' N, 17°06'23.00'' E; 30 November 2012
<i>Iberis umbellata</i> L.	Brassicaceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°56'01.20'' N, 16°58'57.91'' E; 9 May 2010
<i>Inula ensifolia</i> L.	Asteraceae	dry grasslands	Peješac	42°59'50.45'' N, 16°58'35.52'' E; 3 July 2011
<i>Inula oculatus-christi</i> L.	Asteraceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°56'36.44'' N, 17°0'30.57'' E; 22 June 2010
<i>Inula spiraeifolia</i> L.	Asteraceae	meadows	Korčula	42°56'21.08'' N, 17°05'33.17'' E; 13 July 2013
<i>Juncus squarrosus</i> L.; (NT)	Juncaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°57'18.34'' N, 16°58'35.45'' E; 6 April 2013
<i>Jurinea mollis</i> (L.) Rchb.	Asteraceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°54'52.08'' N, 17°11'48.79'' E; 9 May 2009
<i>Lamium purpureum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°56'43.84'' N, 17°03'48.31'' E; 31 March 2012
<i>Lathyrus annuus</i> L.	Fabaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°56'10.27'' N, 17°09'11.16'' E; 16 May 2012
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> L.	Fabaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°56'21.33'' N, 17°05'33.24'' E; 15 June 2013
<i>Lathyrus tuberosus</i> L.	Fabaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°56'21.08'' N, 17°05'33.17'' E; 13 July 2013
<i>Legousia falcata</i> (Ten.) Fritsch	Campanulaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°55'45.95'' N, 17°04'03.70'' E; 19 May 2010
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i> (L.) Mill	Scrophulariaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°55'04.02'' N, 17°10'56.48'' E; 28 April 2013
<i>Linum bienne</i> Mill.	Linaceae	along roads and paths	Peješac	42°59'32.66'' N, 17°05'24.02'' E; 8 May 2011
<i>Linum hirsutum</i> L.	Linaceae	along roads and paths; dry grasslands	Peješac	42°49'12.93'' N, 17°40'29.52'' E; 29 May 2011
<i>Lunaria annua</i> L.	Brassicaceae	ruderal habitats	Korčula	42°56'43.51'' N, 17°03'45.72'' E; 8 April 2013
<i>Marrubium peregrinum</i> L.; (EN, SP)	Lamiaceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°56'47.2'' N, 17°01'52.5'' E; 22 June 2010
<i>Melilotus albus</i> Medik.	Fabaceae	damp habitats	Korčula	42°55'41.4'' N, 17°04'02.7'' E; 18 November 2011
<i>Mentha pulegium</i> L.	Lamiaceae	damp habitats	Korčula	42°56'28.00'' N, 17°08'55.76'' E; 27 September 2009
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i> (L.) Hill	Botanaceae	meadows	Korčula	42°57'18.34'' N, 16°58'35.45'' E; 6 April 2013
<i>Narcissus papyraceus</i> KerGawl.	Amaryllidaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'20.6'' N, 16°47'39.7'' E; 30 January 2012
<i>Narcissus serotinus</i> L.	Amaryllidaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°59'08.0'' N, 16°39'14.6'' E; 29 September 2013
<i>Nicotia nidus-avis</i> (L.) Rich. (SP)	Orchidaceae	Dalmatian black pine forests	Peješac	42°59'44.16'' N, 17°08'49.93'' E; 9 June 2013
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> Graham	Solanaceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°56'32.78'' N, 17°06'21.90'' E; 27 June 2010
<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i> (Sibth. et Sm.) d'Urv.	Fabaceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°55'43.9'' N, 16°41'02.8'' E; 21 April 2012
<i>Orchis purpurea</i> Huds.; (VU, SP)	Orchidaceae	wet meadows	Korčula	42°56'57.2'' N, 17°04'12.1'' E; 24 April 2010
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i> L.	Fabaceae	dry sandy grasslands	Korčula	42°55'03.43'' N, 17°10'54.72'' E; 28 April 2013
<i>Orobanchae foetida</i> Desf.	Orobanchaceae	macchia	Korčula	42°54'46.88'' N, 16°53'11.68'' E; 30 May 2013
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> L.	Oxalidaceae	olive groves	Korčula	42°55'04.8'' N, 16°52'05.2'' E; 9 March 2013
<i>Peucedanum orselinum</i> (L.) Moench	Apiaceae	lawns and rocky pastures	Peješac	42°59'47.86'' N, 17°07'51.80'' E; 10 June 2012

<i>Pistacia x saportiae</i> Burnat	Anacardiaceae	macchia	Korčula	42°54'41.02'' N, 17°06'07.27'' E; 25 February 2013
<i>Plantago bellardii</i> All.	Plantaginaceae	dry sandy grasslands	Korčula	42°55'04.02'' N, 17°10'56.48'' E; 28 April 2013
<i>Ponicrus trifoliata</i> (L.) Raf.	Rutaceae	abandoned gardens	Pelješac	42°58'53.09'' N, 17°08'03.84'' E; 8 January 2012
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i> (L.) Gracke	Rosaceae	along roads and paths	Pelješac	42°59'34.77'' N, 17°08'14.07'' E; 6 May 2012
<i>Pseudolysimachion spicatum</i> (L.) Opiz.	Scrophulariaceae	dry grasslands	Pelješac	42°59'44.27'' N, 17°07'59.76'' E; 3 July 2011
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> L.	Ranunculaceae	karstic pool	Korčula	42°56'41.51'' N, 17°04'35.54'' E; 14 May 2010
<i>Ranunculus illyricus</i> L.	Ranunculaceae	dry grasslands	Pelješac, Korčula	Pelješac: 42°59'36.9'' N, 17°08'06.5'' E; 19 May 2013 Korčula: 42°56'54.01'' N, 17°00'29.74'' E; 6 May 2012
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> L.	Rhamnaceae	macchia	Korčula	42°58'20.70'' N, 16°59'47.92'' E; 23 February 2013
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L.	Fabaceae	macchia	Korčula	42°57'36.10'' N, 17°07'35.68'' E; 18 July 2010
<i>Rorippa pycnantha</i> (Lam.) Rchb.	Brassicaceae	dry grasslands	Pelješac	42°59'49.2'' N, 17°07'51.7'' E; 6 May 2013
<i>Rosa pendulina</i> L.	Rosaceae	along roads and paths	Pelješac	42°59'44.16'' N, 17°08'49.93'' E; 9 June 2013
<i>Rubus caesius</i> L.	Rosaceae	along roads and paths	Pelješac, Korčula	Pelješac: 42°59'44.27'' N, 17°07'59.76'' E; 3 July 2011 Korčula: 42°58'27.11'' N, 16°57'05.39'' E; 13 June 2010
<i>Salvia argentea</i> L.	Lamiaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'13.64'' N, 17°01'42.53'' E; 8 June 2013
<i>Salvia pratensis</i> L.	Lamiaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'27.59'' N, 17°06'16.99'' E; 1 July 2011
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i> L.	Caprifoliaceae	along roads and paths	Korčula	42°57'25.24'' N, 17°08'05.66'' E; 15 May 2010
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i> L.	Caryophyllaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°55'28.34'' N, 17°05'28.96'' E; 26 June 2010
<i>Scorzonera villosa</i> Scop.	Cichoriaceae	olive groves	Korčula	42°55'57.8'' N, 16°41'21.9'' E; 20 April 2013
<i>Serratula radiata</i> (Waldst. et Kit.) M. Bieb.	Asteraceae	dry grasslands	Pelješac	42°59'35.5'' N, 17°08'14.1'' E; 17 June 2012
<i>Silybum marianum</i> (L.) Gaertn.; (NT)	Asteraceae	trampled habitats	Korčula	42°55'06.74'' N, 17°11'08.70'' E; 26 May 2013
<i>Stachys menthifolia</i> Vis.; (E, SP)	Lamiaceae	along roads and paths	Pelješac	42°59'34.45'' N, 17°18'39.23'' E; 2 June 2013
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i> L.	Boraginaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°56'29.57'' N, 17°05'35.07'' E; 25 April 2010
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> L. ssp. <i>molinerii</i> (Balb. ex Hornem) Syme; (DD)	Fabaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°55'44.86'' N, 17°04'5.15'' E; 13 May 2012
<i>Trifolium mutabile</i> Port.; (E, SP)	Fabaceae	wet meadows	Korčula	42°56'20.1'' N, 17°09'03.4'' E; 15 May 2013
<i>Trifolium ochroleucum</i> Huds.	Fabaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°55'24.3'' N, 16°54'01.9'' E; 25 May 2013
<i>Trifolium repens</i> L. ssp. <i>prostratum</i> Nyman	Fabaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°57'15.04'' N, 16°57'47.21'' E; 23 June 2013
<i>Trigonella gladiata</i> M. Bieb.	Fabaceae	wet meadows	Korčula	42°56'11.73'' N, 17°09'11.30'' E; 29 April 2012
<i>Valeriana tuberosa</i> L.	Valerianaceae	along the seashore	Pelješac	42°59'07.08'' N, 17°03'58.87'' E; 7 April 2013
<i>Verbascum blattaria</i> L.	Scrophulariaceae	dry grasslands	Korčula	42°57'35.15'' N, 17°02'00.22'' E; 17 April 2011
<i>Verbascum orientale</i> (L.) All.	Scrophulariaceae	olive groves	Korčula	42°55'36.79'' N, 17°05'23.49'' E; 3 June 2010
<i>Verbena supina</i> L.	Scrophulariaceae	dry grasslands	Pelješac	42°59'04.33'' N, 17°18'28.65'' E; 2 June 2013
<i>Vicia melanops</i> Sm.	Vetbenaceae	trampled habitats	Korčula	42°58'36.58'' N, 16°41'10.86'' E; 8 September 2013
	Fabaceae	along roads and paths	Pelješac	42°49'44.25'' N, 17°40'57.93'' E; 17 May 2012

Soo, *Cynanchum acutum* L., *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz, *Epipactis microphylla* (Ehrh.) Sw., *Marrubium peregrinum* L., *Neottia nidus-avis* (L.) Rich., *Orchis purpurea* Huds., *Stachys menthifolia* Vis., *Trifolium michelianum* Savi and *Trifolium mutabile* Port.

In this study, only two taxa (*Ranunculus illyricus* L. and *Rubus caesius* L.) were common to both parts of the study area.

Only a few cultivated taxa (e.g. *Narcissus papyraceus* Ker Gawl., *Nicotiana glauca* Graham, *Hypericum calycinum* L., *Poncirus trifoliata* (L.) Raf.) were encountered out of a cultivated environment. According to NIKOLIĆ (2014), *Narcissus papyraceus* had only been reported by VISIANI (1842) in the area between the cities of Zadar and Split (South Croatia). The South American species *Nicotiana glauca* is invasive in the western Mediterranean (VALDES, 2012) and also in Croatia (BORŠIĆ *et al.*, 2008), and was found along the coast and on the islands in South Croatia (BOGDANOVIĆ *et al.*, 2006). Findings of *Hypericum calycinum* and *Poncirus trifoliata* outside of cultivation have already been recorded in the coastal area of South Croatia (JOVANČEVIĆ, 1953; KOVAČEVIĆ, 2000), but not in other parts of Croatia.

In this study the taxa may be classified into several groups. The first group includes taxa mostly distributed on the neighbouring islands and these occurrences have broadened their area in South Croatia. These are, for example, the endemics *Consolida brevicornis* (Vis.) Soo, *Trifolium mutabile* Port. and *Stachys menthifolia*.

The second group consists of the taxa with a wider geographical distribution in Croatia, the study area representing the southernmost limit of their geographical range in the country. In our study, among others, they are: arachaeophyte *Adonis aestivalis* L. (Fig. 2), common found in the annual ruderal vegetation; *Rosa pendulina* L. the characteristic species of Croatian fir and beech stands, and *Trifolium incarnatum* L. ssp. *molinerii* (Balb. ex Hornem.) Syme taxa of the *Arrhenatherum elatius* grasslands. In this study, the record of *Rorippa pyrenaica* (Lam.) Rchb., a rare taxon on the pastures and wet-meadows in the lowland Croatia (ŠEGULJA *et al.*, 1998; PANDŽA, 2010, cf. NIKOLIĆ, 2014), is new for Dalmatia, South Croatia.

The third group includes taxa with only either scarce or very old data on their distribution in Croatia (e.g. *Erysimum odoratum* Ehrh., *Verbena supina* L., *Marrubium peregrinum* L.). *Erysimum odoratum* Ehrh., native to south-eastern Europe, grows on Croatian inland dry grasslands (e.g. ŠEGULJA, 2000, PURGER & CSIKY, 2008), along the coast in the Bay of Kvarner, North Adriatic (HIRC, 1915) and on Mt. Mosor in Dalmatia (South Croatia) (HRUŠKA & ŠEGULJA, 1971). The Steno-Mediterranean taxon *Verbena supina* L. has previously been found on the islands of Lastovo and Hvar (TRINAJSTIĆ, 1979, 1993), and can be considered as very rare in Croatia.

The presence of *Serratula radiata* (Waldst. et Kit.) M. Bieb. on the Pelješac peninsula must be stressed. It is common on the eastern European semi-dry grasslands (cf. ILLYÉS *et al.*, 2009), while in this study it was encountered on the south-facing slopes of rocky dry grassland on Mt. Saint Ilija above the town of Orebić at ca. 620 m a.s.l. In Croatia, it has also been observed on the NE Istria peninsula, on Mt. Velebit, and the Dalmatian mountains: Promina, Svilaja, Biokovo and Sniježnica (VISIANI, 1847; NIKOLIĆ, 2014).

In this study, the occurrence of *Pistacia x saportae* Burnat is a new entry on the national checklist. It is an evergreen shrub, up to 2–3 m high, with greyish-brown branches (Fig. 3), flowering from March to May, fruiting in February, September, and October (AL-SAGHIR & PORTER, 2012). It occurs in maquis throughout the Mediterranean basin (Cyprus, Palestine, Spain), on calcareous soils and at altitudes up to 450 m a.s.l., where its supposed parent species are *P. lentiscus* ssp. *lentiscus* and *P. terebinthus*.

Regarding ecology, the taxa occupied various habitats and high altitude ranges (0–900 m a.s.l.). However, the majority of recorded taxa were found on dry grasslands which are largely in accordance with the vegetation of the order *Scorzonero villosae-Chrysopogonetalia grylli* Horvatić 1963 (TERZI, 2011).

CONCLUSION

In summary, a total of 73 and 26 new plant taxa were recorded on the island of Korčula and the Pelješac respectively. Thus the entire flora of the island and peninsula now consists of 1063 and 1123 vascular plant taxa. These records contribute to our knowledge of the distribution ranges of those taxa in Croatia and the Balkan Peninsula. Our study also demonstrates that the flora of the island of Korčula and the Pelješac peninsula has not yet been fully investigated. Total recorded plant diversity is still increasing in the area. The paper emphasizes the importance of continuous floristic investigations on the Croatian islands and along the coast (NIKOLIĆ *et al.*, 2008 and references therein, BORŠIĆ *et al.*, 2009; MILOVIĆ *et al.*, 2013), as foreign authors have done for other sites in the Adriatic Basin (BIONDI *et al.*, 2012; FERRINO *et al.*, 2013a, b) and in some other Mediterranean countries (e.g. BIEL, 2002, SEVASTI *et al.*, 2009; VÉLA & PAVON, 2012, etc.).

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