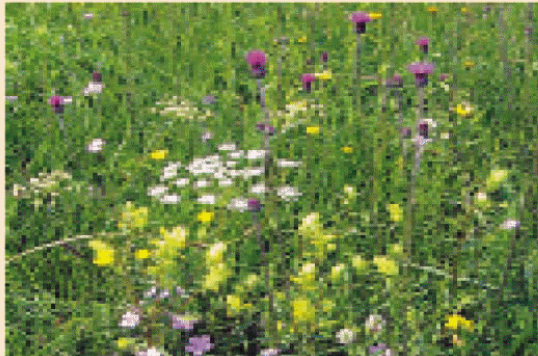


Dry Meadows in the Periphery of Ljubljana – How to Conserve Them?

Suhi travniki na obrobju Ljubljane – kako jih ohraniti?

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Introduction

In 2002, the Botanical Garden of Ljubljana took a dry meadow on lease. The meadow lies at Vižmarje, in the close vicinity to Ljubljana. The peasants reported having noticed certain plants otherwise found at higher areas. The first sample inventorying of plant species in the course of 2001 and the fact that in a close vicinity to Ljubljana infrequent species were present in large numbers prompted our effort to preserve this meadow in an as original a form as possible. Our interest became even keener when after exploring the history of the area we found out that the owners had not exploited the meadow (had not manured it and not mowed it more than once a year) for the last forty years.

Results

In 2002 the meadow has been under constant monitoring in order to register the current



Ilirski mečak (*Gladiolus illyricus*) – pogosta vrsta na omenjenem travniku. Wild *Gladiolus* - common species in this meadow.

state which will later be compared to the state after a one-time mowing. Quite a number of species also appear in the Red List of Pteridophytes and Spermatophytes (T. Wraber & P. Skoberne, 1989; UL RS 82/2002, 2002). All of them fall into the category of vulnerable

species: *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Gladiolus illyricus*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Lilium bulbiferum* subsp. *bulbiferum*, *Ophrys holosericea*, *Orchis coriophora*, *Orchis militaris*, *Orchis morio*, *Orchis tridentata*, *Orchis ustulata*, *Pulsatilla nigricans*. According to the current inventory the meadow offers home to more than 120 different species, but the list has not been finished yet.



Črnjeleško mačje uho (*Ophrys holosericea*). Late Spider-orchid.

Izvideček

V neposredni bližini Ljubljane, v Vižmarjih, je Botanični vrt v Ljubljani v letošnjem letu najel suhi travnik na površini 2 ha, ki že štirideset let ni bil intenzivno obdelan. Že prvi vzorčni popisi v letu 2001 so pokazali, da je na travniku prisotnih veliko rastlinskih vrst, kar nekaj od teh je zajetih tudi v Rdeči seznam praprotnic in semenk. Travnik je tudi dokaj bogat s kukavičevkami. V Evropi so taki travniki deležni še posebne pozornosti, saj so že prava redkost. Travnik je v začetni fazi zaraščanja. Predvidevamo, da se ga bo s pozno košnjo enkrat letno dalo ohraniti. Z najemom in primernim gospodarjenjem travnika skušamo dodati svoj prispevek k aktivnemu varstvu tovrstnih površin in s tem varovanju njihove biodiverzitete.

Discussion

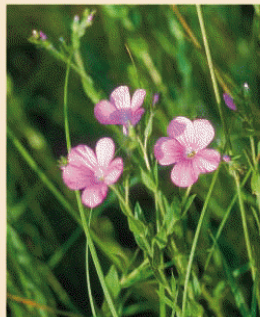
The meadow is in the initial stage of overgrowing. A late one-time mowing is to contribute to its conservation. It is to be expected that the mowing will be followed by an increased presence of at least some of the species, *Orchidaceae* in particular. This method of meadow conservation and prevention of overgrowing is resorted to also elsewhere in the world (Fitzgerald R., 2000).

A long-term aim of the project is to maintain the meadow in the current state, purchase it off or at least arrange for a longer lease contract, and most of all, have it legally protected. This would be



Orančna lila (*Lilium bulbiferum* subsp. *bulbiferum*) se pojavlja mestoma. Orange Lily - appears in different parts of the meadow.

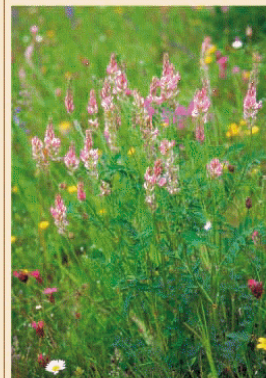
extremely useful in view of the fact that the meadow is located within a water collecting area. The Botanical Garden would like to preserve the plants in their natural habitat. The goal of taking the garden on lease and exposing it to proper management is to contribute to active conservation of this type of surfaces and thus to the conservation of their biodiversity (UNEP, 1994).



Lepjiivi lan (*Linum viscosum*).

References

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Navadna turška detelja (*Onobrychis vicifolia*) in panonski osat (*Cirsium pannonicum*). Sainfoin and *Cirsium pannonicum*.

Foto: A. Marinček and J. Bavcon