

## NEW FLORISTIC RECORDS AND SPECIES OF THE FAMILY ORCHIDACEAE FROM THE MAJEVICA MOUNTAIN (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

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### Abstract

The aim of this study was to identify the orchid species present in the area of the Majevisa Mountain (Bosnia and Herzegovina), with special emphasis on the territory of the Lopare municipality, and to assess their conservation status. Field floristic surveys were conducted during the vegetation periods from 2020 to 2025. Species identification was performed using standard floristic bibliography, while conservation status was determined based on relevant legal frameworks. A total of ten orchid species were recorded, with two additional species known from earlier findings, confirming the presence of twelve orchid taxa in the Majevisa area. New floristic findings include species *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall *Cephalanthera longifolia* (L.) R. M. Fritsch, *Cephalanthera rubra* (L.) Rich. and *Orchis purpurea* Huds. The habitats where orchids were found include meadows, forest edges, and thermophilous forests. Habitat preservation and mitigation of degradation drivers are essential for the long-term conservation of orchids in the area.

**Keywords:** the Majevisa Mountain, orchids, biodiversity, nature conservation, flora

### INTRODUCTION

The orchid family (Orchidaceae) is globally diverse, comprising around 28000 species in 880 genera (Givnish *et al.*, 2016). However, its diversity is characterized by sparse populations and high levels of threats (Cribb *et al.*, 2003). In Europe, there are about 250 species across 36 genera (Buttler, 1991). In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 76 orchid taxa at the species and subspecies levels have been recorded, classified into 22 genera (Šabanović *et al.*, 2021). However, many of these records lacked herbarium material. Later studies have provided voucher-based confirmations, including the first confirmed record of *Orchis anthropophora* for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Šabanović *et al.*, 2023), and have documented additional rare taxa such as *Serapias bergonii* and *Himantoglossum calcaratum* subsp. *rumelicum* (Milanović *et al.*, 2022). The total flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina includes an estimated 3760 taxa, of which 309 are endemic (Lubarda *et al.*, 2024). Orchids are threatened by various factors, including direct collection, eutrophication, and habitat degradation (Kull *et al.*, 2016). Habitat destruction

is a major threat to orchids (IUCN/SSC Orchid Specialist Group, 1996), with urbanization, land use change, and agricultural intensification being particularly influential (Stewart, 1992; Tsiftsis *et al.*, 2011).

The Majevisa Mountain, located in northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, represents an area of recognized conservation importance. According to the final report of the project “Working together for Natura 2000”, 101 potential sites were identified as candidates for the Natura 2000 network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Majevisa under code BA7200048 (Milanović and Golob, 2015).

Orchids on The Majevisa Mountain have been poorly studied. The first record of orchids (*Orchis pallens* L.) in this area was reported in the contribution to the knowledge of the vascular flora (Beck-Mannagetta, 1903). In recent studies, named “Inventory, Mapping, and Monitoring of Species and Habitats of the Majevisa Mountain” (Kamberović *et al.*, 2019), 345 plant species from 78 families were identified in 29 sample plots in the Majevisa area of the Srebrenik municipality. The most represented families were Asteraceae and Lamiaceae, with four identified orchid species (*Cephalanthera longifolia*, *Cephalanthera rubra*, *Epipactis helleborine*, *Neottia ovata*). Sarajlić *et al.* (2021) listed three orchid species in the area of the Srebrenik Old Town (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Cephalanthera damasonium*, *Ophrys apifera*).

The aim of this paper is to present new findings of orchid species on the Majevisa Mountain, with a particular focus on the Lopare area, analyze the conservation status of species, and systematize findings in relation to previously published results.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study area

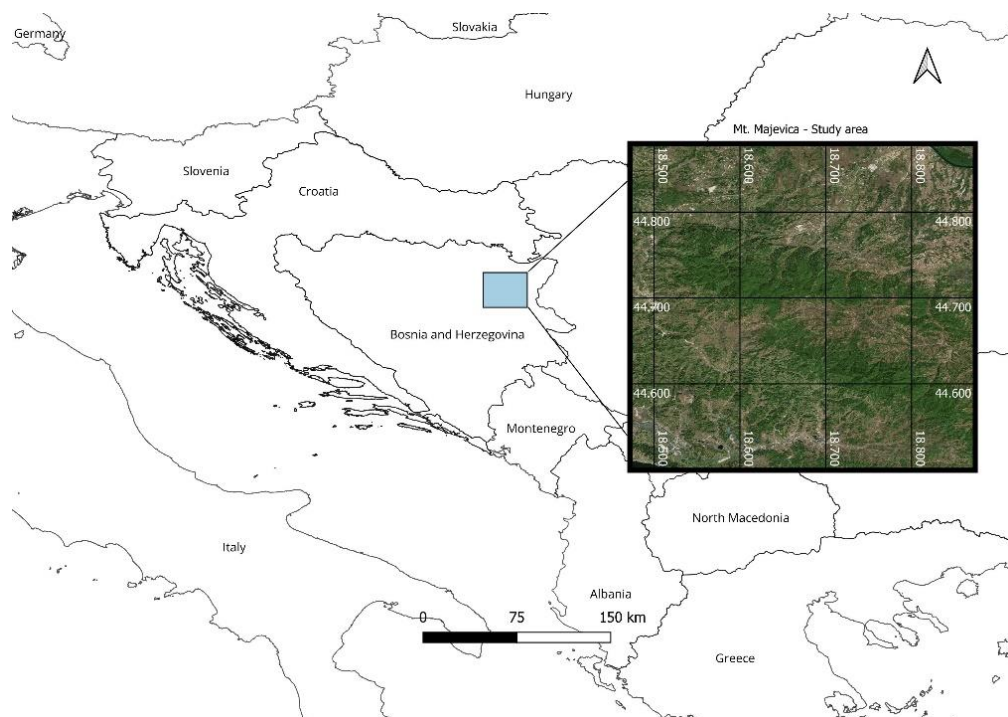
The Majevisa Mountain is positioned between the regions of Posavina, Semberija, and the Tuzla basin in northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figure 1). According to Hatunić (2012), the mountain stretches in a northwest-southeast direction and is about 25 km wide and 50–60 km long, and it is classified as a low mountain range with its highest peak Stolice reaching 916 meters. According to the ecological-vegetation regionalization of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Stefanović *et al.*, 1983), Majevisa can be classified within the Lower Drina area of the transitional Illyrian-Moesian region and the North Bosnian area of the Pannonian region. It is characterized by forests of sessile oak, common hornbeam, Hungarian oak and Turkey oak, and montane beech forests. Altitudinal zonation of forest vegetation is not expressed in the classical sense. In colder locations, beech forests, or mixed beech and fir forests are present, particularly in narrow, deeply incised valleys and colder parts of slopes that extend quite low (down to 300 meters above sea level).

In terms of vegetation studies, the Majevisa Mountain is recognized as a habitat for thermophilous oak forests. Fukarek *et al.* (1974) identified Majevisa as a new site for *Quercus conferta* Kit. in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly at the locations of Dubravice, Mirosavci, and Faličići. Stefanović (1996) described the beech forest phytocoenosis in northern Bosnia (ass. *Rusco hypoglossi*–*Fagetum submontanum*), at the sites of the Jablanička River and Lopare. More recent body of work (Stupar *et al.*, 2015) reports the presence of the thermophilous pubescent oak forest association *Asparago tenuifolii*–*Quercetum pubescentis* at the Majevisa Doborovci–Prisoje site.

The forest ecosystems of this area were described in a study by Fabijanić *et al.* (1967), which focused on the vegetation on Eocene flysch in Bosnia and Herzegovina, specifically the Majevisa, Vučjak, and Trebava mountains. According to the then-valid nomenclature, the authors described the following associations: xerothermic oak forests on limestone (*Quercus–Ostryetum*), oak forests on marl and sandstone (*Lathyrus–Quercetum*), forests of Hungarian oak and Turkey oak (*Quercetum confertae–cerris*), forests of sessile oak and common hornbeam (*Quercus–Carpinetum*), beech forests (*Fagetum pannonicum*), fir–beech forests (*Abieti–Fagetum*), sessile oak forests and sessile oak–Turkey oak forests (*Quercetum montanum illyricum*), forests of sessile oak, beech, and birch (*Betulo–Quercetum*), and acidophilous beech forests (*Luzulo–Fagetum*).

Geological structure of Majevisa conditionally can be divided into three subparallel tectonic units which have the same direction as Dinarides: ridge of Majevisa, folded complex of Majevisa and Šibonika–Lopare Neogene basin. The ridge of Majevisa is composed of tectonized ophiolite melange, which contains olistolites and fragments of extrusive (basalt, diabase, dolerite), metamorphic (serpentinite, less often amphibolite), and sedimentary rocks (Babajić *et al.*, 2017). A large area of Majevisa is dominantly covered by Miocene and Eocene sedimentary rocks (Čičić, 2002). The soils are mainly automorphic (eutric cambisol, dystric cambisol, calcomelanosol, vertisol, rendzina, and luvisol) and hydromorphic (fluvisol, humofluvisol, and pseudogley) (Stefanović *et al.*, 1983).

The region has a moderately continental climate. At least four months have an average temperature of 10 °C, the average temperature in July is below 22 °C, and the coldest month's average is above -3 °C. Precipitation ranges from 800 to 1000 mm. The pre-mountain climate type, which is 2 to 4 °C cooler than the temperate continental type, characterizes the mountainous structures of Majevisa (Hatunić, 2012).



## Data collection

Field data were collected on the Majevisa Mountain during the vegetation period from 2020 to 2025, with a focus on the wider area of the municipality of Lopare (Kozjak). Population size was estimated by counting flowering individuals within 100 m<sup>2</sup> plots at each locality. Only flowering individuals were considered in order to ensure reliable species identification. Vegetation types were determined in the field based on the dominant plant communities and general habitat characteristics, without conducting detailed phytosociological relevés. Habitat description included information on land use and vegetation structure (forest, grassland, forest edges). Geographical coordinates and the altitude of each locality were recorded using a mobile phone with a built-in GPS receiver. Coordinates were expressed in WGS84 format. All recorded orchid species were photo-documented in the field.

## Species Identification and Conservation Status

The plant taxa were identified according to Tutin *et al.* (1964–1993), Javorka and Csapody (1979), Buttler (1991) and Domac (2002). The nomenclature of taxa follows the Euro+Med checklist (Euro+Med, 2006).

The conservation status categories (EN, VU and NT) used in this study are based on the Red List of wild species and subspecies of plants, animals, and fungi of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 07/14). For the territory of the Republic of Srpska, orchid species are listed as protected or strictly protected in the Regulation on the Red List of protected flora and fauna species (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, 124/12) and the Regulation on strictly protected and protected wild species (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, 65/20), without assigned threat categories.

## RESULTS

Field floristic surveys recorded a total of 10 taxa. A review of available data from previous floristic studies of the broader Majevisa area lists two additional orchid species (*Cephalanthera damasonium* (Mill.) Druce. and *Orchis pallens* L.) that were not identified in these field surveys, resulting in a total checklist of 12 species identified in this area (Table 1, Figure 2). The genus *Cephalanthera* is the most species-rich in this area, with all three of its species identified on Majevisa. In total, nine species are listed in the Red List of the Republic of Srpska and the Regulation on Strictly Protected and Protected Wild Species of the Republic of Srpska, while six species are included in the Red List of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among these taxa, one species, *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall., is classified as Endangered (EN), three species (*Cephalanthera longifolia* (L.) R. M. Fritsch, *Cephalanthera rubra* (L.) Rich., and *Orchis purpurea* Huds.) are classified as Vulnerable (VU), and two species (*Anacamptis pyramidalis* (L.) Rich. and *Cephalanthera damasonium* (Mill.) Druce) are classified as Near Threatened (NT), in accordance with the Red List of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Table 1.** List of Orchid Species (Orchidaceae) on The Majevisa Mountain

| Taxon   | New record    | GPS Coordinates               | Altitude<br>(m a.s.l.) | Previous records                                    | Red list FB&H | Red list RS | Regulation on<br>Strictly Protected<br>and Protected Wild<br>Species of the RS |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------|-------------|--|
| <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> (L.) Rich.                                | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'35" N<br>18°49'22" E    | 251                    | Sarajlić <i>et al.</i> , 2021,<br>loc. Srebrenik    | NT            | +           | +  |
| <i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i> (L.) R. M. Fritsch                      | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'24" N<br>18°49'43" E    | 252                    | Kamberović <i>et al.</i> ,<br>2019, loc. Čungar     | VU            | +           | +  |
| <i>Cephalanthera rubra</i> (L.) Rich.                                   | -             | -                             |                        | Kamberović <i>et al.</i> ,<br>2019, loc. Čungar     | VU            | +           | +  |
| <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> (Mill.) Druce                           | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'35" N<br>18°49'22" E    | 251                    | Sarajlić <i>et al.</i> , 2021,<br>loc. Srebrenik    | NT            | +           | +  |
| <i>Epipactis helleborine</i> (L.) Crantz                                | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'35" N<br>18°49'22" E    | 251                    | Kamberović <i>et al.</i> ,<br>2019, loc. Hamidov do |               |             |  |
| <i>Neottia ovata</i> (L.) Bluff & Fingerh                               | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'35" N<br>18°49'22" E    | 251                    | Kamberović <i>et al.</i> ,<br>2019                  |               |             |  |
| <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i> (L.) Rich.                                    | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'35" N<br>18°49'22" E    | 251                    |   |               |             |  |
| <i>Orchis purpurea</i> Huds.  | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'35" N<br>18°49'22" E    | 251                    |   | VU            | +           | +  |
| <i>Orchis pallens</i> L.  | -             | -                             |                        | Beck-Mannagetta G.<br>(1903), loc. Srebrenik        |               | +           | +  |
| <i>Ophrys scolopax</i> Cav. ssp. <i>cornuta</i> (Steven) E.<br>G. Camus | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'28" N<br>18°49'35" E    | 269                    |   |               | +           | +  |
| <i>Ophrys apifera</i> Huds.   | Okresanica    | 44°42'1.08"N<br>18°35'15.05"E | 735                    | Sarajlić <i>et al.</i> 2021.<br>loc. Srebrenik      |               | +           | +  |
| <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> (L.) Chevall.                                | Kozjak Lopare | 44°38'28" N<br>18°49'35" E    | 269                    |   | EN            | +           | +  |

*Anacamptis pyramidalis* was recorded on the edges of hornbeam-oak forests and in scrublands in partially shaded areas, where a total of seven individuals were registered.

*Cephalanthera longifolia*, *Cephalanthera damasonium*, *Epipactis helleborine*, *Neottia ovata*, *Neottia nidus-avis*, and *Orchis purpurea* were found in hornbeam-oak forests.

*Neottia ovata* was present in larger numbers, in range about 50–60 individuals, distributed in several larger groups. *Orchis purpurea* was recorded with 20 individuals. For the remaining species (*Cephalanthera longifolia*, *Cephalanthera damasonium*, *Epipactis helleborine*, and *Neottia nidus-avis*), a smaller number of individuals was registered (ranging from one to three per species). *Ophrys apifera* was recorded at the edges of beech forests, also with only two individuals.

Populations of *Spiranthes spiralis* counted 32 individuals, whilst *Ophrys scolopax* subsp. *cornuta* was noted with nine individuals. These species inhabit extensively used dry pastures belonging to the vegetation class of thermophilous meadows, maintained by regular mowing and sheep grazing.



**Figure 2.** Orchidaceae species from the Majeвица flora: a) *Orchis purpurea* (May 2020, R.N.); b) *Cephalanthera longifolia* (June 2023, R.N.); c) *Epipactis helleborine* (July 2022, R.N.); d) *Ophrys apifera* (June 2022, J.K.); e) *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (June 2024, R.N.); f) *Ophrys scolopax* subsp. *cornuta* (May 2022, R.N.); g) *Neottia ovata* (June 2021, R.N.); h) *Cephalanthera damasonium* (May 2023, R.N.); i) *Spiranthes spiralis* (September 2024, R.N.)

## DISCUSSION

Orchids of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been studied intermittently. The most recent comprehensive list can be found in the work of Šabanović *et al.* (2021). This study confirmed the presence of 71 out of 86 taxa reported for the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the above-mentioned authors, the most numerous genera in Bosnia and Herzegovina are *Orchis* (12 taxa), *Dactylorhiza* (10), *Anacamptis* (8), *Epipactis* (7), and *Ophrys* (7).

This study presents a consolidated list of 12 taxa from the Majevisa Mountain area, of which all, except *Orchis pallens* found by Beck-Mannagetta (1903) are confirmed in recent period. A total of eight orchid species has been previously reported in the literature as follows: *C. longifolia*, *C. rubra*, *E. helleborine* and *N. ovata* were listed for the area of the Majevisa Mountain in previous research by Kamberović *et al.* (2019), and *A. pyramidalis*, *C. damasonium*, and *O. apifera* by Sarajlić *et al.* (2021). In addition to the previously listed taxa, four new taxa on the Majevisa Mountain were identified at the Kozjak Lopare site: *Neottia nidus-avis*, *Orchis purpurea*, *Ophrys scolopax* ssp. *cornuta*, and *Spiranthes spiralis*.

By comparing the species composition of the Majevisa Mountain with similar regions, notable correspondences emerge in the distribution of orchid species detected at the Duga Njiva site, a potentially protected area on the northern slopes of the Trebava Mountain, where five orchid species have been recorded, three of which are also found on the Majevisa Mountain: *C. longifolia*, *C. damasonium*, and *N. nidus-avis* (Lubarda *et al.*, 2025). In the floristic survey of Kozara National Park, Bucalo *et al.* (2006) reported ten taxa from the family Orchidaceae, four of which are shared with the Majevisa Mountain: *C. longifolia*, *E. helleborine*, *N. nidus-avis*, and *O. purpurea*. Vascular flora of the Klekovača Mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Milanović *et al.*, 2015) shares following taxa with the Majevisa Mountain: *C. longifolia*, *C. damasonium*, *C. rubra*, *E. helleborine*, *N. nidus-avis*, and *N. ovata*. Furthermore, all orchid species identified on Majevisa have also been recorded in the flora of the Papuk Nature Park in Croatia (Pandža, 2010).

Considering the conservation importance, many of the identified species are listed as threatened and protected in the regulatory documents of the Republic of Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, 65/20; Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, 124/12; Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 07/14.). All identified species are listed in category Least Concern in European Red List of Vascular Plants (IUCN, 2025), and they are under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

*Spiranthes spiralis* is categorized as endangered in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and threatened and protected in the Republic of Srpska. According to Jacquemyn and Hutchings (2010), it is a long-lived mesophilic orchid species distributed in southern Europe and the Mediterranean, and typically inhabits open calcareous grasslands, cliffs, coastal dunes, occasionally occurring in garden lawns or heathlands. Although widespread, the species is rare and declining in parts of its range, e.g. in the Netherlands (Kreutz and Dekker, 2000), Germany (Almers *et al.*, 2001), and in Britain (Jacquemyn and Hutchings, 2010). Major threats include habitat degradation due to agricultural intensification, fertilization, ploughing, human

impact and construction (Dimitrov and Boycheva, 2024). The species was identified in thermophilic meadows in the Kozjak area.

Although detailed phytosociological surveys were not conducted in this study, our findings on orchid occurrence can be contextualized with recent studies from the central Balkans. Djordjević and Tsiftsis (2019) highlighted that orchid species richness is highest in communities on carbonate substrates and across a wide altitudinal range. Furthermore, Djordjević *et al.* (2020) showed that orchids in western Serbia occur in a variety of vegetation types, including *Festuco–Brometea* grasslands, *Molinio–Arrhenatheretea* meadows, and *Quercetea pubescentis* forests, with species such as *Neottia ovata* displaying broad ecological plasticity. Similar patterns were observed on the Majeвица Mountain. The research in this study was mostly focused on Miocene sedimentary rocks covered with thermophilous meadows, or hornbeam–oak forests, in the range from 250 to 750 m a.s.l. Wetland habitats, that Djordjević *et al.* (2023) emphasized as important refuges for orchids in the central Balkans, were less represented in our study, yet thermophilous meadows supported the endangered *Spiranthes spiralis*, highlighting the role of habitat heterogeneity for orchid conservation in the region. The low number of published records for *S. spiralis* in Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://florasrpske.rs.ba/details/32043/>), implies the need for more detailed research on population density and conservation measures.

In the category vulnerable in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and threatened in the Republic of Srpska for this area, we have found *Cephalanthera longifolia* and *Orchis purpurea* at Kozjak Lopare site, while *Cephalanthera rubra* was previously detected in the Čungar site by Kamberović *et al.* (2019). *Cephalanthera longifolia* is widely distributed across temperate and Mediterranean Eurasia (Delforge, 1995; Lang, 2004; Harrap and Harrap, 2009) in semi-shaded habitats such as grassy woodland edges, clearings, glades, and occasionally open grasslands (Lang, 2004; Delforge, 2005). General trend of the population in Europe is unknown (Rankou, 2011a), although a declining trend has been observed in some parts of Europe (Delforge 1995; Lang, 2004). The population observed on the Majeвица Mountain at Kozjak Lopare is small, however, the recently reported occurrences of this species on the nearby areas Trebava (Lubarda *et al.*, 2025), Kozara (Bucalo *et al.*, 2006), Trešnjik near Banja Luka (Miletić *et al.*, 2016), mountains around Sarajevo (Šoljan *et al.*, 2014), as well as numerous published records (<http://florasrpske.rs.ba/details/8728/>), indicate its wide distribution across the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Cephalanthera rubra* is a widespread species in Europe, Asia Minor, North Africa, often locally abundant, but becomes rare and fragmented at the edges of its distribution due to habitat degradation, loss of suitable pollinators, direct exploitation (Rankou, 2011b), and loss of genetic diversity linked to the formation of clonal populations (Micheneau *et al.*, 2010). Species is recorded at Čungar site on Majeвица, and inhabits several other mountains in Bosnia and Herzegovina, e.g. Klekovača (Milanović *et al.*, 2015), Perućica (Fukarek, 1970), Cicelj (Brujić *et al.*, 2011). *Orchis purpurea* is a Mediterranean–Atlantic species, typically inhabiting grasslands, shrubland, woodland edges, and has decreasing population trend (Delforge, 1995; Rankou, 2011c). We have recorded species on the Majeвица Mountain at the Kozjak site, specifically in oak–hornbeam forests.

Small populations of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and *Cephalanthera damasonium* have been found on the Majevisa Mountain at the Kozjak Lopare site. Both species are listed as near-threatened on the Red List of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Protected orchids specific to forest and scrub edges have also been identified on The Majevisa Mountain: *Ophrys scolopax* subsp. *cornuta* at Kozjak Lopare site, and *Ophrys apifera* at Okresanica and Old Town Srebrenik. The limited representation of these species in recent literature (Šoljan *et al.*, 2014; Šabanović *et al.*, 2021), also highlights the conservation importance of these findings for the Majevisa Mountain area.

*Orchis pallens*, although mentioned in the literature (Beck-Mannagetta, 1903), has not been confirmed for the Majevisa region in this study. In general, this is a European–Caucasian species, which has a scattered distribution typical of locally declining population trends, especially in central Europe (Delforge, 1995; Bournérias and Prat, 2005; Rankou, 2011d). Considering that new records of this species in Bosnia and Herzegovina are rare (Šabanović *et al.*, 2021), and mostly originate from older literature (e.g. Slavnić and Bjelčić, 1963), targeted research of its populations is recommended in order to ensure its conservation.

Species not covered by the legal conservation regulations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, include *Epipactis helleborine*, *Neottia nidus-avis*, and *Neottia ovata*. The most numerous species was *Neottia ovata*, also found on many other areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Lakušić *et al.*, 1987; Brujić *et al.*, 2011; Milanović *et al.*, 2015).

The conservation value of orchids is very high, as they are closely associated in symbiotic relationships with other organisms, including fungi and specific pollinators (Swarts and Dixon, 2009). Many species exhibit a declining population trend, due to effect of small population, genetic drift, climate change, direct exploitation, habitat degradation, deforestation, transformation of meadows into arable land (Cribb *et al.*, 2003; Swarts and Dixon, 2009; Seaton *et al.*, 2010).

The findings of threatened and protected species from the the Majevisa Mountain implies that this area supports a certain diversity of orchids of conservation interest. The Majevisa Mountain is also inhabited by other conservation-important species described by Kamberović *et al.* (2019), which indicates the need for further research aimed at assessing the conservation potential of this area.

## CONCLUSION

This study provides a consolidated checklist of 12 orchid taxa recorded on the Majevisa Mountain, including four newly identified occurrences. The findings of endangered and protected taxa, particularly at the Lopare–Kozjak site, along with the known high sensitivity of orchid populations to various environmental pressures, highlights the need for more active conservation of orchid habitats on the Majevisa Mountain. More detailed floristic studies of The Majevisa Mountain are required, which could lead to the discovery of additional orchid species not yet recorded, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of regional orchid biodiversity and enabling more precise conservation planning.

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## NOVA NALAZIŠTA I NOVE VRSTE ORHIDEJA (PORODICA ORCHIDACEAE) NA PLANINI MAJEVICI (BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA)

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### Sažetak

Cilj ovog rada bio je da se identifikuju vrste orhideja prisutne na području planine Majeвица (Bosna i Hercegovina), sa posebnim osvrtom na teritoriju opštine Lopare, i da se procijeni njihov status zaštite. Terenska floristička istraživanja sprovedena su tokom vegetacionih perioda od 2020. do 2025. godine. Identifikacija vrsta izvršena je korišćenjem standardne florističke literature, dok je status zaštite određen na osnovu relevantnih pravnih okvira. Ukupno je zabilježeno deset vrsta orhideja, uz dve dodatne vrste poznate iz ranijih nalaza, čime je potvrđeno prisustvo dvanaest taksona orhideja na području Majevice. Novi floristički nalazi uključuju vrste *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall, *Cephalanthera longifolia* (L.) R. M. Fritsch, *Cephalanthera rubra* (L.) Rich. i *Orchis purpurea* Huds. Staništa u kojima su orhideje pronađene obuhvataju livade, ivice šuma i termofilne šume. Očuvanje staništa i sprečavanje aktivnosti koje dovode do degradacije staništa od suštinskog je značaja za dugoročnu zaštitu vrsta orhideja u ovom području.

**Ključne riječi:** Planina Majeвица, orhideje, biodiverzitet, zaštita prirode, flora

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