

***Carici Pilosae-Carpinetum Betuli* Neuhausl et Neuhauslova-Novotna 1964
(*Carpinion Betuli* Issler 1931) in the "Dobruşa" Landscape Reserve, Republic
of Moldova**

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The "Dobruşa" Landscape Reserve (2634.0 ha) is located on the hills of the Dniester Plateau in the Soldăneşti district. This area is mainly represented by mesophilous forests, and less by xeromesophilous and mesohygrophilic. Phytocenological research was carried out according to the methodology of the Central European School (Braun-Blanquet, 1964), where 26 floristic surveys were described. As a result of the recent phytocenological research conducted, it was found that on the territory of the „Dobruşa" Landscape Reserve, mesophilous forests of the *Carpinion betuli* Issler 1931 alliance predominate. The plant communities built by *Carpenus betulus* and *Carex pilosa* correspond to the association *Carici pilosae-Carpinetum betuli* Neuhäusl et Nehäuslová-Novotná 1964 [Syn.: *Quercus petraeae-Carpinetum* sensu auct.; *Euonymo europaeae-Carpinetum* Chifu (1995), 1997; *Carici pilosae-Quercetum petraeae* Sanda et Popescu 1999]. This association is known in Central and South-Eastern Europe: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, in the Republic of Moldova the phytocenoses of this association are recorded in the Central Moldovan Plateau. The described plant communities develop at an altitude of 174-350 m, on a plateau or on the upper part of slopes with various exposures, but with predominant northern ones (N, NE, NW), slightly inclined, 5-10, rarely 20-25°. They develop on gray forest soils, acidic, moderately acidic or weakly acidic, formed on sands. The arboreal layer, with a coverage of (70)85-95%, 18-25 m high, formed by the dominant species *Carpinus betulus* and *Quercus petraea*, mixed with *Acer campestre*, *A. platanoides*, *Cerasus avium*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Tilia cordata*. The shrub layer is absent or with a reduced coverage of 5-20(50)%, with sporadic vegetation of *Cornus sanguinea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Euonymus europaeus*, *E. verrucosus*, *Staphylea pinnata* and *Viburnum lantana*. The herbaceous layer is well developed, with a coverage of (50)70-95%, rich in species, but a high abundance is revealed only by *Carex pilosa*, or *Stellaria holostea*. In spring, *Anemonoides ranunculoides*, *Cardamine bulbifera*, *Corydalis cava*, *C. solida*, *Gagea lutea*, *Isopyrum thalictroides*, *Scilla bifolia* grow sporadically, and in summer sporadically or in small groups: *Asarum europaeum*, *Carex brevicollis*, *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, *Galium odoratum*, *Mercurialis perennis*, etc.

Characteristic species: *Carex pilosa*, *Carpinus betulus* and *Quercus petraea*.

Constant species: *Carex pilosa*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus petraea*, *Tilia cordata*, *Acer platanoides*, *Anemonoides ranunculoides*, *Carex brevicollis*, *Corydalis cava*, *Corydalis solida*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Gagea lutea*, *Pulmonaria officinalis*, *Stellaria holostea*.

Among the rare species, the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova (2015) records: *Epipactis purpurata* (CR), *Fritillaria montana* (VU), *Galanthus nivalis* (VU) and a recently discovered species, which is recommended to be included in the 4th edition of the Red Book – *Epipactis leptochila*. Other rare species protected by the Protected Areas Law (1998) are: *Epipactis helleborine*, *Neottia nidus-avis*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Scrophularia vernalis*, *Sorbus torminalis*, *Staphylea pinnata*, *Tulipa biebersteiniana* var. *biebersteiniana* and *Veratrum nigrum*.