

Disjunct Occurrences of Plant Species in the Refugial Mires of Bulgaria

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Abstract Many mire vascular plant and bryophyte species have disjunct occurrences in Bulgaria despite that most of south-eastern Europe is not suitable for the occurrence of permanently waterlogged and nutrient-limited wetlands due to the current and glacial dry climate conditions as well as prevailing limestone bedrock. Unfortunately, such important distributional data are scattered throughout numerous papers and reports, and are not adequately provided even by national checklists and floras. No attempt to summarize them has been done yet. Therefore, the main aim of this paper is to review and enlarge such data, and to use the resulting data set to address the question whether the disjunctly occurring rare species are concentrated in certain mire complexes or even in particular vegetation plots and if they do characterize such localities. Our current research shows that the phenomenon of isolated occurrences of mire plants in Bulgaria is even more widespread than previously thought. Seventeen species were found as new for Bulgaria with their distribution range limits there, and distributional data of many other species, including some previously considered extinct, were enlarged. Fifty-four mire species

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