Data on the Albanian Marine Flora

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The Albanian seacoast as an ecological environment displays two aspects: the Adriatic-accumulative zone with shallow waters, wherein many rivers pour their waters, and Ionian-abrasive zone very rugged, with deep and clear waters, and where there are norivers.

Studies on the marine flora of this part of the Mediterranean are wanting. Only ERCEGOVIC (1952, 1960) and MARKGRAF (1928) mention 15 species. The first attempts are made by me (KASHTA 1981, 1986, 1988). The studying and collection of the material is performed at various stations along the entire coast using aqualungs (down to 30-40 m deep). We have also used the materials collected from fishing ships, their bottom nets down the isobats 50-60 m deep.

We could identify 131 macrophyt algae species till now. The ratio R/P is 2.5. We identified also 4 marine phanerogam species. In general, the benthic population of the Albanian coast has a typical Mediterranean physionomy which is characterized by the abundance of the Mediterraneo-Atlantic species. The Atlantico-Mediterranean element covers 54% of our species, the Mediterranean endemic 22%, and the cosmopolit 10%, etc.

The Albanian seacoast is situated on the limits of three special bio-geographic units: Eastern Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean and the Adriatic; and it has a favourite position in view of floral and bio-geographic interest. This is observed in the presence of some species which find here their areal limits.

-*Fucus virsoides* J.Agardh already known species as an Adriatic endemic mainly concentrated in the Upper Adriatic. In Albania, you come acrose it in the North and South of Durrës, and in rare individs in Treport (Vlora). This last finding presents the Southern limit of its areal which corresponds to the geographic border of Adriatic.

-*Lithophyllum lichenoides* (Ellis) Lemoine- a characteristic species of Western Mediterranean, not found in the Eastern Mediterranean, except for the coast of Western Creete and the fossil formations of Holocen(LABOREL, 1981). According to HUVE (1963), this species is exclusively located in the Western region and not along the East Adriatic and the Dalmatian coasts. Our findings in Himara zone (Ionian Sea) are at further Eastern stations, compared with the Dalmatian ones, and they extend the areal of this species in Mediterranean, a little bit to East.

-*Halophila stipulacea* (Forsk.) Aschers, a sea phanerogam with subtropical and tropical affinity, is mainly concentrated in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Isle of Malta is its most Western limit in the Mediterranean (AUGIER, 1982). Our coastal findings in Saranda (Ionian) and in the Bay of Vloru, (Adriatic) constitute the Northern limit of its extension.

It is interesting to be noted that both *Halophila stipulacea* and *Polyphysa parvula* (Solms-Laubach) Schnetter and Bula -Meyer, thermophile species of Indian Ocean origin, have found snelter in the Bay of Vlora. They both represent new species of the Adriatic Sea.

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