

Some observations on the urban flora in Albania

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During a study trip through Albania in 2010 some historically significant towns have been visited and I made some unsystematic observations on flora and vegetation.

Berat

Berat (Berati) situated in Central Albania has an uninterrupted settlement of 2.400 years. Berat is located at 60 m a.s. at the river Osum. It is a world heritage site of UNESCO since 2005. The number of inhabitants is about 36.500 and 64.500 depending on the information source.



Fig. 1: View from the castle of Berat on modern quarters and the river Osum.



Fig. 2: Dwelling houses inside the closed castle district.

Ailanthus altissima
Alcea rosea
Anagallis arvensis (petals blue and red)
Anchusella cretica
Antirrhinum majus (walls and roofs)
Arenaria spec. (walls)
Arum italicum
Asplenium ceterach (walls)
Ballota nigra (foot of walls)
Bromus madritensis (top of walls)
Campanula erinus (walls)
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Carduus acanthoides
Catapodium rigidum (walls)

Cerinthe retorta
Chenopodium anthelminticum
Chondrilla juncea
Clematis vitalba
Conium maculatum
Convolvulus arvensis
Convolvulus elegantissimus
Conyza bonariensis
Cynodon dactylon
Cynoglossum creticum
Equisetum telmateia
Eryngium cf. campestre (walls)
Euphorbia helioscopia
Ficus caria (foot of walls)

Fumaria spec. (walls)
Geranium brutium
Geranium purpureum (walls)
Hedera cf. colchicum (foot of walls)
Hedera helix
Hirschfeldia incana (top of walls)
Hordeum murinum s. l.
Hyoscyamus albus
Lactuca serriola (walls)
Lamium amplexicaule (walls)
Lophochloa cristata
Malabaila aurea
Malva sylvestris
Marrubium peregrinum
Marrubium vulgare
Matricaria recutita
Mava sylvestris
Mercurialis annua (walls)
Micromeria cf. juliana
Nigella damascena
Olea europaea
Oxalis corniculata
Papaver rhoeas (walls)
Parietaria judaica
Parietaria lusitanica (walls)
Phlomis fruticosa (forming dense populations in the macchia)
Pinus spec.
Plantago coronopus
Plantago major subsp. *major*
Platanus orientalis (at riverside)
Poa annua
Polycarpon tetraphyllum (walls)
Polygonum aviculare agg.
Potentilla reptans
Pteridium aquilinum

Frequently cultivated shrubs:

Aesculus hippocastanum
Calendula officinalis
Cedrus deodara
Cercis siliquastrum
Cupressus sempervirens
Fraxinus angustifolia
Lonicera japonica
Olea europaea

Quercus coccifera
Reseda lutea (walls)
Rhagadiolus stellatus
Rhus cf. coraria
Rubus fruticosus agg.
Rumex pulcher
Sagina apetala
Salvia verbenaca
Salvia viridis
Sambucus ebulus
Saxifraga tridactylites (walls)
Sedum cf. rubens (walls)
Sedum hispanicum (walls)
Selaginella denticulata (walls and steep slopes)
Silybum marianum
Saxifraga tridactylites
Sisymbrium officinale
Sonchus oleraceus
Spartium junceum (macchia)
Stachys cf. germanica or *Stachys cretica* (see PILS [2016]: p.109)
Stellaria media
Symphyotrichum squamatum
Tamarix spec. (at riverside)
Thelygonum cynocrambre (walls)
Tordylium apulum
Trifolium cf. campestre
Umbilicus rupestris (walls)
Urtica dioica
Verbascum pulverulentum (top of walls)
Verbena officinalis
Veronica arvensis
Veronica persica (walls)
Vitis vinifera (spontaneous at feet of walls)

Phoenix canariensis
Pistacia terebinthus
Robinia pseudoacacia
Rosa spec.
Tilia tomentosa
Trachycarpus fortunei
Vitis vinifera

Gjirokastra

Gjirokastra (Gjirokastër) is an impressive old town in southern Albania built at very steep slopes, height above sea is 300 m. The number of inhabitants is between 20.000 and 35.000, it was city of birth of the famous writer Ismail Kadare and belongs since 2005 to the world heritage of UNESCO.



Fig. 3: Gjirokastra.



Fig. 4: Street in Gjirokastra: the roofs are covered with slates.

Ailanthus altissima
Alcea rosea
Antirrhinum majus (walls)
Arenaria spec. (walls)
Asplenium ceterach (walls)
Bromus madritensis
Bunias erucago
Campanula erinus (walls)
Campanula ramosissima (walls)
Capsella bursa-pastoris (walls)
Capsella grandiflora (foot of walls)
Carduus pycnocephalus
Celtis australis juv.
Cercis siliquastrum juv.
Chondrilla juncea
Clematis vitalba
Convolvulus arvensis (walls)
Conyza bonariensis
Cynodon dactylon
Dryopteris villarii (walls)
Euphorbia cf. characias
Ficus carica (feet of walls)
Galium aparine
Geranium molle
Geranium lucidum (walls, foot of wall)
Hedera helix (walls)
Hordeum leporinum
Hordeum murinum s. l.
Lactuca serriola
Lepidium draba

Lophochloa cristata
Malabaila aurea
Malva sylvestris
Melilotus officinalis
Mercurialis annua (walls)
Onopordum illyricum
Parietaria judaica
Parietaria lusitanica (walls)
Parthenocissus quinquefolia and/or
Parthenocissus inserta
Plantago major subsp. *major*
Platanus orientalis (walls)
Poa annua
Rhagadiolus stellatus
Rumex pulcher
Sedum dasyphyllum (walls)
Sherardia arvensis
Silene vulgaris subsp. *vulgaris*
Sisymbrium officinale
Sonchus asper
Sonchus oleraceus
Symphyotrichum squamatum
Thelygonum cynocrambe (walls)
Trifolium cf. pannonicum
Umbilicus rupestris (walls)
Urospermum picroides (walls)
Urtica dioica
Veronica arvensis (walls)
Vinca major

Cultivated trees and shrubs (among others):

Ailanthus altissima
Cedrus deodara

Cupressus sempervirens
Vitis vinifera

Kruja

Kruja (Krujë) is a small town some 20 km in the north of the capital Tirana. Kruja was diocesan town already in the 9th century, its castle played an important role in the defense of the ottomans by the national hero Skanderbeg.



Fig. 5: View at modern parts of Kruja.



Fig.6: Ethnographic Museum.

Alcea rosea
Arenaria spec. (top of walls)
Asplenium ceterach (walls of the castle)
Asplenium trichomanes (walls of the castle)
Campanula cf. *pyramidalis* (walls of the castle)
Campanula ramosissima
Chenopodium album
Chenopodium vulvaria
Cynodon dactylon
Dittrichia viscosa
Ecballium elaterium (foot of a wall)
Euphorbia helioscopia
Ficus carica (top of walls)
Galium spec.
Geranium brutium
Geranium purpureum (roofs and top of walls)
Hedera helix
Laurus nobilis juv.
Micromeria cf. *graeca* (walls)

Parietaria judaica (walls)
Piptatherum miliaceum
Plantago major subsp. *major*
Poa annua
Poa bulbosa (walls of the castle)
Populus alba juv.
Polypodium cambricum
Potentilla reptans
Pseudofumaria ochroleuca (walls of the castle)
Robinia pseudoacacia
Sambucus ebulus
Sambucus nigra
Saxifraga tridactylites (walls of the castle)
Sedum hispanicum
Sherardia arvensis
Silene vulgaris subsp. *vulgaris*
Stellaria media
Tordylium apulum
Urtica dioica
Veronica persica

Sarande (2010)

Saranda (Sarandë) is situated at the coast of the Ionian Sea. It is one of the most important touristic centres in Albania. The town is in visibility of the Greek Isle Corfu.



Fig. 7. The bay of Saranda.



Fig. 8: Transforming of the Mediterranean vegetation by uninhibited construction activities.

Alcea rosea
Allium subhirsutum
Anagallis arvensis (red form)
Andropogon distachyos
Asparagus acutifolius
Asplenium cf. *onopteris*
Avena cf. *sterilis*
Bituminaria bituminosa
Briza maxima
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Catapodium rigidum
Crithmum maritimum
Dactylis glomerata ssp. *hispanica*
Dichondra micrantha
 Growing along lawn edges and in flower beds.
 Not yet mentioned by VANGJELI (2015) or by PILS (2016).
Dittrichia viscosa
Dorycnium hirsutum
Ecballium elaterium
Echium plantagineum
Ephedra foemina (= *E. campylopoda*)
Euphorbia peplus
Ficus carica
Fumaria capreolata
Galactites tomentosa
Geranium brutium
Geranium lucidum (moist and shaded walls)
Geranium purpureum
Hirschfeldia incana
Hordeum leporinum

Jacobaea maritima (Running wild in the neighbourhood of cultivation. Not mentioned by VANGJELI (2015) or by PILS (2016).
Lactuca serriola
Malva sylvestris
Mercurialis annua
Muscari spec.
Onopordum illyricum (castle)
Ornithogalum narbonense
Osyris alba
Paliurus spina-christi
Papaver rhoeas
Parietaria judaica (growing on walls)
Parthenocissus [inserta or *quinquefolia*] epiphyte on *Phoenix canariensis*
Phillyrea latifolia
Piptatherum miliaceum
Plantago major subsp. *major*
Platanus orientalis
Polycarpon tetraphyllum subsp. *tetraphyllum*
Potentilla reptans
Quercus coccifera
Ricinus communis
Rosa sempervirens
Rumex pulcher
Salvia fruticosa
Sambucus ebulus
Sambucus nigra
Scolymus hispanicus
Silene vulgaris subsp. *vulgaris*
Sisymbrium officinale

Smilax aspera
Solanum nigrum
Sonchus oleraceus
Spartium junceum
Stachys cf. *germanica* or *Stachys*
cretica (see PILS [2016]: p.109)
Stellaria media
Symphotrichum squamatum (= *Aster*
squamatus)

Tordylium apulum
Tropaeolum majus
Umbilicus horizontalis
Verbascum sinuatum
Verbascum macrurum
Vicia sativa
Xanthium cf. *orientale* subsp. *italicum*

Cultivated trees and shrubs (among others):

Justicia adhatoda
Nerium oleander
Phoenix canariensis

Platanus orientalis
Callistemon citrinus

Tirana

Tirana (Tiranë) was founded in 1614. The region is however settled earlier. In 1920 Tirana was proclaimed as capital of Albania. Its number of inhabitants is between 557.000 and 625.000 according to differing sources. It lies in the Mediterranean climate, about 100 m above sea. The vegetation reflects the remarkably high mean annual precipitation (1265 mm).



Fig. 9: View at Tirana.



Fig. 12: Urban greening in the centre of Tirana.

Acer negundo
Ailanthus altissima
Anagallis arvensis
Antirrhinum majus (on roofs)
Artemisia verlotiorum
Arum italicum
Arundo donax
Asparagus acutifolius
Bellis perennis
Brassica napus
Bromus hordeaceus
Bromus madritensis

Bunias erucago
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Carduus pycnocephalus
Carlina corymbosa
Catapodium rigidum
Celtis australis
Convolvulus arvensis
Conyza bonariensis
Cynodon dactylon
Dactylis glomerata
Descurainia sophia

Dichondra micrantha Growing along lawn edges and in flower beds. Not yet mentioned by VANGJELI (2015) or by PILS (2016).

Dittrichia viscosa

Dysphania ambrosioides

Ficus carica

Hirschfeldia incana

Hordeum leporinum

Hordeum murinum s. l.

Humulus lupulus

Lactuca serriola

Lotus corniculatus

Malva sylvestris

Orlaya grandiflora

Oxalis corniculata

Paliurus spina-christi

Plantago major subsp. *major*

Platanus orientalis

Poa annua

Potentilla reptans

Pteridium aquilinum

Punica granatum

Robinia pseudoacacia

Rorippa austriaca

Rubus fruticosus agg.

Rumex pulcher

Sambucus ebulus

Sherardia arvensis

Sisymbrium officinale

Sonchus oleraceus

Sorghum halepense

Spartium junceum

Stellaria media

Urtica dioica

Verbascum sinuatum

Veronica peregrina

Trees and shrubs cultivated in parks or along streets in Tirana:

Tirana is situated in the plant hardiness zone 9 which enables the cultivation of many trees and shrubs.

Acer negundo

Aesculus flava

Aesculus hippocastanum

Ailanthus altissima

Buxus sempervirens

Cedrus cf. *atlantica*

Cedrus deodara

Celtis australis

Cercis siliquastrum

Cupressus sempervirens

Eleagnus angustifolia

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Ficus carica

Hedera helix (variegated cultivars)

Ligustrum lucidum

Magnolia grandiflora

Nandina domestica

Nerium olerander

Olea europaea

Paliurus spina-christi

Parthenocissus quinquefolia (and/or

Parthenocissus inserta?)

Phoenix canariensis

Pinus pinea

Pittosporum tobira

Platanus orientalis

Platanus x hispanica

Populus alba

Populus nigra var. *italica*

Punica granatum

Quercus ilex

Robinia pseudoacacia

Tilia tomentosa

Trachelospermum jasminoides

Vlora

Vlora (Vlorë) is a port city in southern Albania with a long tradition of settlement since the antiquity. Vlora became temporarily capital of Albania after the declaration of independence in 1912.



Fig. 11: Vlorë.

Fig. 12: Pond with *Phragmites* in an excavation pit.

Allium cf. *roseum*
Anagallis arvensis (blue sepals)
Artemisia verlotiorum
Arum italicum
Brassica napus
Bromus madritensis
Calystegia spec.
Capparis spec. (walls of mosque)
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Chenopodium murale
Cichorium intybus
Cirsium vulgare
Consolida orientalis
Convolvulus arvensis
Coronopus didymus
Cynodon dactylon
Dasypyrum villosum
Dysphania ambrosioides
Eucalyptus camaldulensis juv.
Euphorbia helioscopia
Euphorbia peplus
Ficus carica
Galium aparine
Glebionis coronaria
Hirschfeldia incana
Holoschoenus vulgaris
Hordeum leporinum
Lactuca serriola
Lavatera cretica

Lophochloa cristata
Malva parviflora
Malva sylvestris
Matricaria recutita
Medicago lupulina
Melilotus spec.
Mentha cf. *longifolia*
Mercurialis annua
Oryzopsis miliacea
Oxalis corniculata
Parietaria judaica (roof of mosque)
Plantago cf. *lanceolata*
Plantago major subsp. *major*
Poa annua
Poa trivialis
Polygonum aviculare
Potentilla reptans
Ranunculus muricatus
Sisymbrium officinale
Sonchus oleraceus
Symphyotrichum squamatum
Trifolium repens
Triticum aestivum
Typha spec.
Verbascum sinuatum
Vicia lutea
Xanthium orientale subsp. *italicum*

Cultivated trees and shrubs:

Acer negundo

Cupressus sempervirens

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Magnolia grandiflora

Melia azedarach

Morus alba

Pinus pinea

Platanus orientalis

Populus alba

Populus nigra var. *italica*

Punica granatum

Phoenix canariensis with the epiphytes:

Conyza sumatrensis, *Ficus carica*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Oryzopsis miliaceum*.

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