

Vegetation on *Stara planina*

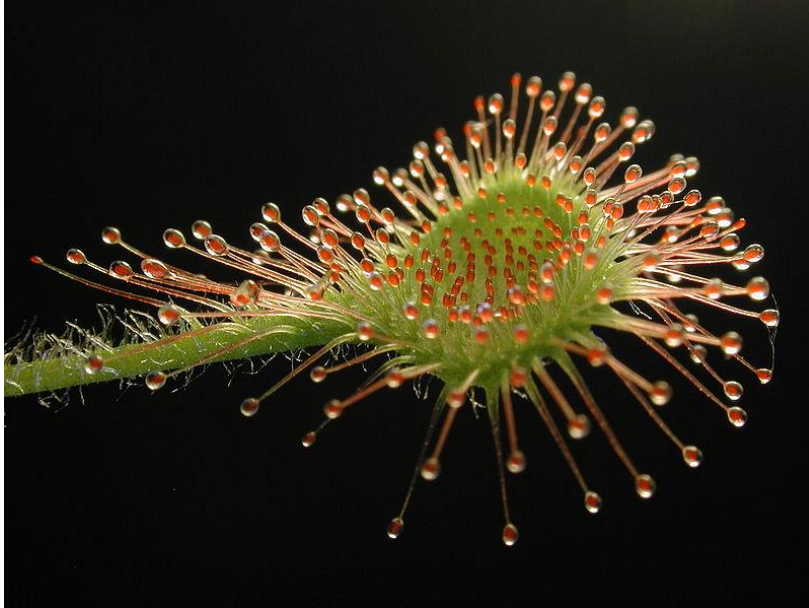


Official coat of arms of the national park of *Stara planina*

Due to its various geomorphologic characteristics, this area is a unique complex of the ecosystem which gives a fruitful ground to life for various types of flora and fauna. The position, height and geological history contributed to the evolvement of flora until the present day. The mountain has one of the highest indexes of qualitative diversity with about 1200 identified species of plants.

Stara planina is one of the mountains which have developed great vertical zone vegetation, and the following species can be found: oak (400-1200 m), beech (1200-1550 m), spruce (1550-1800 m), shrub (1800-1950 m) and pine (*Pinus mugo*) which can be found up to the upper line of the vegetation. In all the zones, there are meadows and pastures with *Agrostio-Asphodeletum albae*, in Serbia only present on *Stara planina*.

Around 150 types of plants growing on this mountain belong to the specific endangered category. There are 48 herbs from *Stara planina* at the European *Red List*, and some of them (*Androsace elongata*, *Lycopodium complanatum*, *Campanula cayciata*, *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Pinus mugo*) belong to the critical endangered category.



Fragment of the leaf (*Drosera rotundifolia*)

The slopes of the mountain are home to numerous types of plants used in folk phytotherapy (*Geranium macrorrhizum*, *Vinca minor*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Asarum europaeum*, *Urtica dioica*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Thymus serpyllum*, *Melissa officinalis*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Inula helenium*, *Artemisia absinthium*, *Levisticum officinale*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Rosa canina*, etc.)

The students of the summer school will have a chance to get to know the species of medicinal, melliferous and spice plants, but also the traditional methods for picking, drying and conserving the plants.



Achillea millefolium