Project Update: January 2018

Period from August to September 2017

Activity 1.d.: Conducting survey on general plant use and tradition in use of *Centaurium* erythraea (today and in the past)

In this project we conducted an ethnobotanical study, focused on local MAP species and their use in Sumadija region in central Serbia. The aims of this study were to:

- 1) Document the diversity use of some popular MAP species with focus on Centaurium erythraea;
- 2) Their distribution and uses in the research area;
- 3) Traditional use through domestic products for own usage or local market;
- 4) Transferring knowledge about processing and use;
- 5) Traditional use in ethnomedicine.

This study is intended to contribute to the preservation and extension of traditional ethnobotanical and ethnomedical knowledge related to traditional use one of three most popular MAP speies, Centaurium erythraea

We visited eight villages in three selected municipalities: Kragujevac (1. Ramaca, 2. Dobraca, 3. Kamenica, 4. Taboriste,); Knic (5. Donja Kamenica, 6. Makovica), Stragari (7. Ljubicevac, 8, 8a. Vlakca), **Fig. 1.** These are located at different elevations (400–700 m asl). Villages are relatively small in terms of the number of inhabitants, and are located by the main and secondary roads. In all visited villages, young people under the age of 30 were in the minority due to the migration to nearby towns.

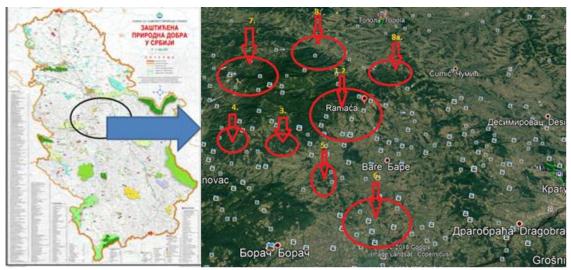


Fig.1 Maps of project area where the interviews were conducted

The opened and semi-structured interviews were done with 57 people, among them 85% were between 55-78 years, 13% between 30-50 years, and 2% between 25-30 years. Occupation of informants was predominantly agriculture – intensively fruit production

(older participants) while younger participants were employed in cities around (included sales, truck driving, fishing, teaching etc.) From total participants there were 41 women and 16 men. All the participants were born or living in this area for a long time. The interviews took about 30 minutes. We intended to interview a balanced ratio of men and women, but the majority of men didn't want to participate in the interview although directly involved in activities with live stock or agriculture.



Photo 1. Woman collected wild herbs. (Photo by her son). **Photo 2.** Drying herbs in the terrace of old village. (Photo by Ana Ostojic). **Photo3.** Centaurium erythraea detail (Photo by Ana Ostojic).

Appendix 1. Ethnobotanical questioner



