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CONTRIBUTION TO DEMARCATION AND PHYTOGEOGRAPHIC DIVISION OF
THE ILLYRIAN FLORAL PROVINCE, BASED ON VEGETATION AND FLORA

*CONTRIBUTO ALLA DELIMITAZIONE E DIVISIONE FITOGEOGRAFICA
DELLA PROVINCIA FLORISTICA ILLIRICA,
BASATO SULLA VEGETAZIONE E SULLA FLORA*

Abstract - Considering zonal potential natural vegetation of the alliances *Erythronio-Carpinion* and *Aremonio-Fagion*, and the leading Illyrian species appearing in forest associations, the author suggests some demarcation changes in the area of the Illyrian floral province. Furthermore, he divides the Illyrian floral province into four phytogeographic regions: Pre-Alpine-Alpine, Subpannonic, Predinaric and Dinaric region.

Key words: Demarcation, Phytogeographic Division, Illyrian floral Province.

Riassunto breve - *Considerando la vegetazione naturale potenziale dell'alleanza Erythronio-Carpinion e Aremonio-Fagion, e le specie illiriche dominanti presenti nelle associazioni forestali, gli autori suggeriscono alcune variazioni nella delimitazione dell'area della provincia floristica illirica. La provincia floristica illirica viene inoltre suddivisa in quattro regioni fitogeografiche: regione Prealpina-Alpina, Subpannonica, Predinarica e Dinarica.*

Parole chiave: *Delimitazione, Divisione fitogeografica, Provincia floristica illirica.*

Introduction

The notion "illyricum" derives from the understanding of phytogeography at the break of this century. Comprehension of the area of this province rests primarily on a floristic basis. The areas of the so called Illyrian species, serving to determine the region of the Illyrian floral province, had not been studied in detail, which applies also to their ecology, so no solid gradation of the diagnostic significance of single Illyrian floral species was possible. Consequently, the Illyrian floral province was promoted as a rather vague phytogeographic notion with loosely determined area borders. In delimiting floral provinces while possessing no reliable data on their flora and vegetation, the authors resorted also to ecological criteria. As stated by FUKAREK (1979), "illyricum" indicates

