



# Four neophytes new for the flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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**ABSTRACT:** During systematic field research carried out in the wider Posavina region, Livanjsko polje, and the environs of Zavidovići (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the following four neophytes new for the flora of the country were recorded: *Hypericum majus*, *Juncus dudleyi*, *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* and *Sisyrinchium montanum*. While the last two species have been previously recorded from the region (*Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* from Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Slovenia; *Sisyrinchium montanum* from Croatia), *Hypericum majus* and *Juncus dudleyi* are here registered as new for the neophyte flora of the Balkan Peninsula.

**KEYWORDS:** alien flora, Balkans, *Juncus dudleyi*, *Hypericum majus*, *Sisyrinchium montanum*, *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*.

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## INTRODUCTION

The alien flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) was not the subject of any comprehensive works during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Only about 10 papers deal with several invasive allochthonous species in the country. Although some articles/chapters containing surveys of invasive alien plants (REDŽIĆ *et al.* 2008; MASLO 2016b), adventive weeds (ŠUMATIĆ & JANJIĆ 2006; KOVACHEVIĆ *et al.* 2008) and neophytes (ŠILIĆ & ABADŽIĆ 2000; MASLO 2014, 2015, 2016a, b) have been published in recent time, the list of alien plant species (including neophytes) present in B&H is not complete. Accordingly, the main objective of the present paper was to make a contribution to knowledge of the neophyte flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of the Balkans as well.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the period 2014–2017, systematic field research was carried out in the degraded peatland of Jagme in

Livanjsko polje, the lower Vrbas River valley, the wider area of the Tišina swamp near the town of Šamac, and around the villages of Maoča and Stipin Han in the vicinity of Zavidovići in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. Herbarium vouchers were collected and stored in the herbarium of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Banja Luka, as well as in that of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SARA). For each record, the name of the collector (leg.) and determiner (det.), precise locality name, date of collecting, decimal degree coordinates in WGS 84 projection, and a label of 10×10 km UTM squares are provided. The coordinates were determined using a Garmin GPS hand-held device in the field, while the position of new localities within B&H was mapped using ARCMAP 10.0 software. The nomenclature mainly follows the Euro-Med checklist (EURO+MED 2006).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

***Hypericum majus* (A. Gray) Britton (Hypericaceae)** – new for B&H and the Balkan Peninsula (leg/det: Đ. Mi-

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lanović). Locality: Modruše - Velika livada in Livanjsko polje. Date of collection: 08.08.2015. Latitude/longitude: 43.816173° N / 16.916240° E. UTM: XJ55 (Fig. 1).

In Europe the species was recorded for the first time in Weiden, Germany, where it was probably introduced by the U.S. military during the Second World War (MERXMÜLLER & VOLLRATH 1956). It has subsequently been recorded in only a few European countries: Germany (confirmed also by NEZADAL 1984), France (JONKER 1960; PARENT 2002; FERREZ 2003; ANDRÉ 2005), Belarus (DUBOVIK *et al.* 2012), and Italy (ALESSANDRINI *et al.* 2017). This species belongs to the North American section *Brathys* (Mutis ex L. fil.) Choisy of the genus *Hypericum*, containing annual or perennial mostly glabrous herbs without black glands, bearing deciduous leaves with an articulated base or persistent ones with a base that is not articulated. Flowers 3-15 mm in diameter (comparatively smaller than in autochthonous European plants), with (4-)5 persistent sepals and petals, as well as persistent stamens usually in a continuous or interrupted ring, sometimes in five barely discernible fascicles, each of 1-2 stamens (ROBSON 2015), which distinguish it from most European sections of the genus (ROBSON 1968). In the European flora the section is represented by six species naturalised in damp places: *H. gymnanthum* Engelm. & A. Gray, *H. mutilum* L., *H. majus* (A. Gray) Britton, *H. canadense* L., *H. gentianoides* (L.) Britton (ROBSON 1968), and *H. boreale* (Britton) E. P. Bicknell (DUBOVIK *et al.* 2013). With the exception of *H. gentianoides*, which has reduced subulate to linear subulate appressed leaves, all of the mentioned species are morphologically very similar and were probably overlooked and possibly mistakenly identified in some European countries. Thus, the first record of *H. majus* from France was previously registered by mistake as *H. canadense* (JONKER 1959, 1960), while that from Italy was originally registered by mistake as *H. mutilum* (ALESSANDRINI *et al.* 2017). In order to clarify diagnostic characteristics, an identification key is provided here. It mostly follows ADAMS (1973), with changes according to ROBSON (1968, 2015) and MOHLENBROCK (2008).

- 1 Leaves linear, subulate, tightly appressed; inflorescence branched and mostly monochasial, branches fastigiate ..... *H. gentianoides*
- 1 Leaves flat, +/- patent; inflorescence not branched or branched and mostly dichasial, branches not fastigate ..... 2
- 2 Bracts foliaceous, resembling the foliage leaves ..... *H. boreale*
- 2 Bracts linear-setaceous, much more reduced than foliage leaves ..... 3
- 3 Leaves ovate-triangular, rounded-oblong to short-elliptic ..... 4
- 3 Leaves linear to lanceolate ..... 5

- 4 Leaves (upper and middle especially) ovate-triangular, apex acute; stem simple or nearly so; capsule ovoid, 4-5 mm long ..... *H. gymnanthum*
- 4 Leaves rounded-oblong to short-elliptic, apex rounded; stem usually diffusely branched; capsule ellipsoid 2.5-3.5 mm long ..... *H. mutilum*
- 5 Upper leaves lanceolate, 5-7 veined at base ..... *H. majus*
- 5 Upper leaves linear, linear-oblong, 1-3 veined at base ..... *H. canadense*

*Hypericum majus* is a perennial or annual glabrous herb without black glands throughout. Stem 10-35 cm, four-ridged, unbranched or branched above (Fig. 2a). Leaves 15-40 mm, lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, (3-)5-7 veined, with acute apex. Sepals (4-)5-7 mm; petals golden-yellow, equal or slightly shorter than sepals, oblanceolate, 3.5-6 mm; stamens 12-21, obscurely five-fasciated. Capsules 5.5-7.5 mm, narrowly conical-ellipsoid, broadest in their proximal to middle region (ROBSON 1968, 2015) (Fig. 2b).

The species was found in drained and extremely degraded peatland of Jagme, alongside a seasonally dried secondary melioration channel in a habitat with ecological conditions very similar to those it prefers in its natural range of distribution. This locality is completely submerged from late autumn to mid-spring and quite dry during the summer. The species grows here together with *Carex rostrata*, *Carex vesicaria*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus conglomeratus*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Leersia oryzoides*, *Mentha aquatica*, and others.

***Syphyotrichum lanceolatum* (Willd.) G. L. Nesom (Asteraceae) (=*Aster lanceolatum* Willd)** - new for B&H (leg/det. Đ. Milanović). Locality 1: Kovačevića sprud near Maglajani in Lijevče polje. Date of collection: 15.10.2013. Latitude/Longitude: 44.950351/17.38236.; UTM: XK88 (leg/det. Đ. Milanović). Locality 2: Odmutsko polje near Šamac. Date of collection: 17.09.2017. Latitude/Longitude: 45.040434/18.516549. UTM: CQ09 (Fig. 1 & 2c).

The species is naturalised in many European countries (EURO+MED 2006) and has been previously recorded in the region of the Balkan Peninsula in Serbia (OBRATOV-PETKOVIĆ *et al.* 2009, 2016; NEŠIĆ *et al.* 2016; RADOVANOVICIĆ *et al.* 2017), Croatia (TRINAJSTIĆ *et al.* 2001; CSIKY & PURGER 2008; ROTTENSTEINER 2015), Montenegro (HADŽIABLAHOVIĆ 2010), and Slovenia (JOGAN *et al.* 2001; LEŠNIK 2009). While in Croatia (NIKOLIĆ *et al.* 2014; VUKOVIĆ *et al.* 2014), Montenegro (STEŠEVIĆ & PETROVIĆ 2010; STEŠEVIĆ & ČAKOVIĆ 2013), and Slovenia (ZELNIK 2012) it hasn't been recognised as an invasive species, in Serbia it shows an invasive character alongside large rivers (OBRATOV-PETKOVIĆ *et al.* 2009,

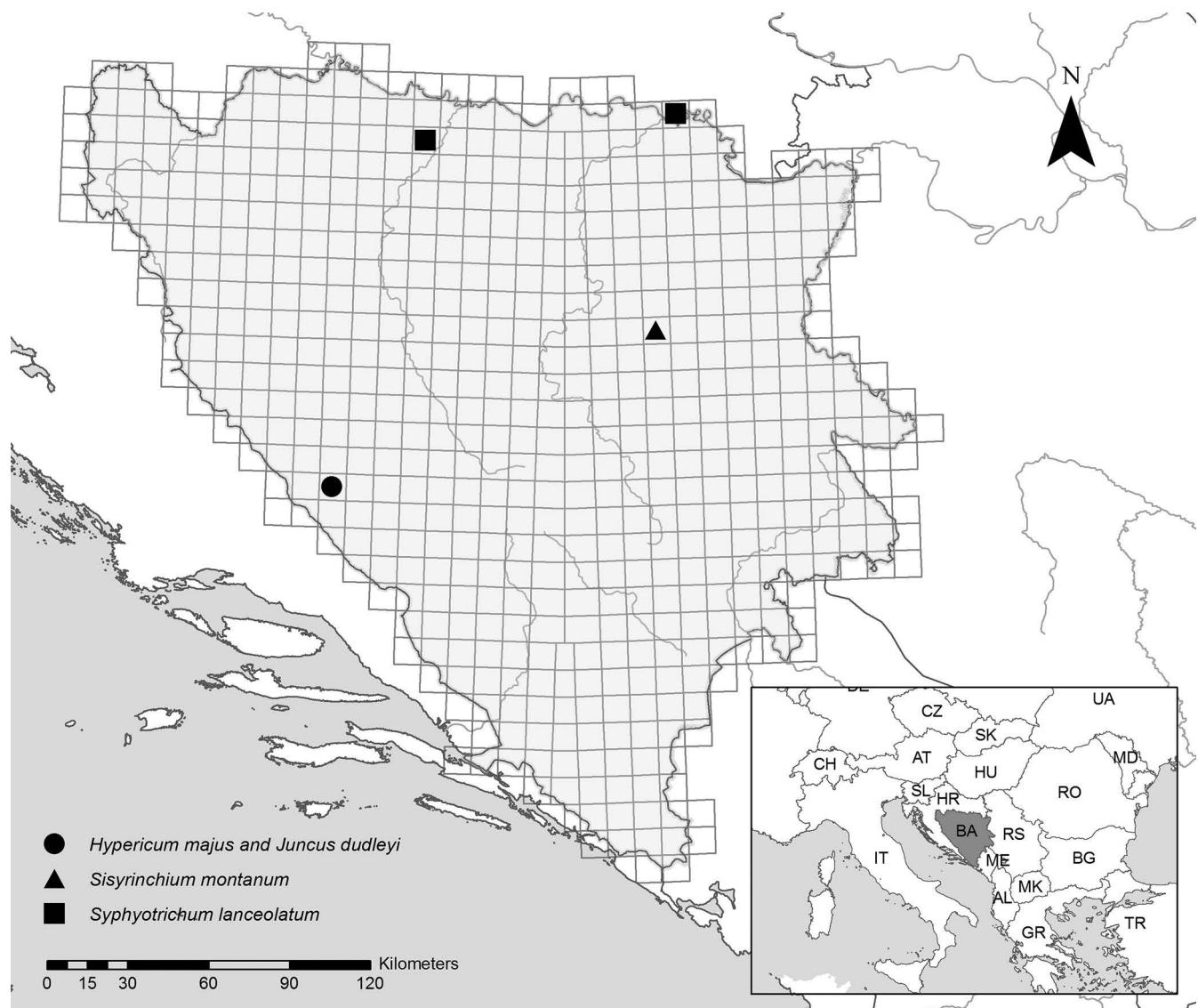
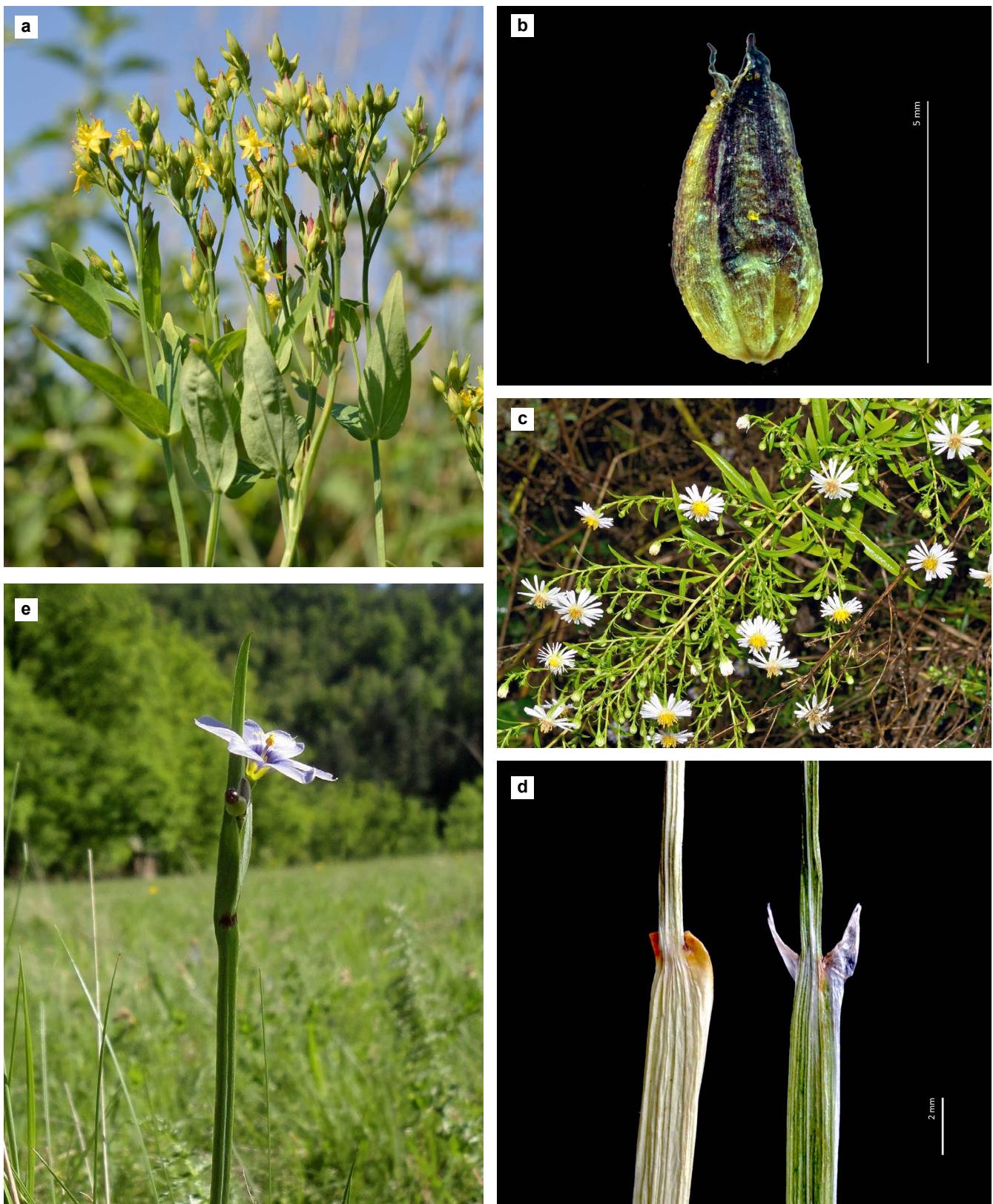


Fig. 1. Spatial distribution of new neophytes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in saturated tint) displayed on UTM grid, 10×10 km.

2016; NEŠIĆ *et al.* 2016; RADOVANOVIĆ *et al.* 2017) and has been included in a preliminary list of strongly invasive plant invaders (LAZAREVIĆ *et al.* 2012).

*Syphyotrichum lanceolatum* is a variable long-rhizomatous perennial with an erect glabrous or hairy stem measuring 30–150(–200) cm. Leaves linear-lanceolate to lanceolate-ovate, glabrous or sparsely scabrous on adaxial side, thin, with mucronate apices; caudine leaves with cuneate bases. Involucre campanulate to cylindric, 3–8 mm; involucral bracts in (3–)4–6 rows, linear to linear-lanceolate, sparsely ciliolate, with scarious margins, unequal to subequal. Inflorescence branches racemiform to more or less narrow paniculiform, often spreading; ray florets white, pinkish, or pale to dark purplish-blue, 3.2–10.1 mm in length (BROUILLET *et al.* 2006). Disc florets have erect to sometimes more or less spreading yellow corollas

(becoming purple at maturity), which distinguishes the species from the similar *S. lateriflorum* (L.) Á. Löve & D. Löve (disc florets with strongly reflexed whitish to cream corollas). The common invasive species of the genus *S. novi-belgii* (L.) G. L. Nesom, previously recorded from Balkan countries (BECK-MANAGETTA *et al.* 1983; ARI-ANOUTSOU *et al.* 2010; STEŠEVIĆ & PETROVIĆ 2010; LAZAREVIĆ *et al.* 2012; NIKOLIĆ 2012; PETROVA *et al.* 2013), has comparatively longer ((6–)10–19 mm) blue-violet or purple ray florets, and usually clasping, thick and firm caudine leaves, often with auriculate or rounded leaf bases (BROUILLET *et al.* 2006). Finally, the comparatively lower (5–50(–70) cm), caespitose, and short rhizomatous species *S. tradescantii* (L.) G. L. Nesom, recorded from Serbia (LAZAREVIĆ *et al.* 2012) and Croatia (NIKOLIĆ 2012), regularly has ascending inflorescence branches.



**Fig. 2.** a) *Hypericum majus* in Livanjsko polje; b) Capsule of *Hypericum majus* from Livanjsko polje; c) *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* in Odmutsko polje near Šamac; d) Leaf auricles of *Juncus dudleyi* (left) and *Juncus tenuis* (right); e) *Sisyrinchium montanum* at Stipin han in the Krivaja valley.

At both recorded sites in northern Bosnia, the species *S. lanceolatum* inhabits ruderal habitats alongside roads and streets. The localities are situated in the regularly flooded area of large rivers (the Vrbas and Sava, respectively) at ruderal sites alongside roads intended for transport of gravel excavated from the river beds. These habitats are often overgrown by invasive species such as *Echinocystis lobata*, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Bidens frondosa*, *Artemisia verlotiorum*, etc., which grow together with *S. lanceolatum* at the recorded localities.

***Juncus dudleyi* Wiegand (Juncaceae)** - new for B&H and the Balkan Peninsula (leg/det. D. Milanović). Locality: Modruše-Velika livada in Livanjsko polje. Date of collection: 06.06.2015. Latitude/longitude: 43.828990° N/16.910796° E. UTM: XJ55 (Fig. 1).

The species belongs to the subgenus *Poiophylli* Buchenau and *Juncus tenuis* group (BROOKS 2000), which contains several North American species naturalised in Europe, viz., *J. tenuis* Willd., *J. dudleyi* Wiegand, *J. dichotomus* Elliot, and *J. anthelatus* (Wiegand) R.E. Brooks & Whittem. According to VERLOOVE & LAMBINON (2011), all of the mentioned taxa are recognised as subspecies of *J. tenuis*. While the typical *J. tenuis* is naturalised everywhere in Europe and is recognised as an invasive species, others are considered as rare at the moment in several European countries [*J. dichotomus* (Italy, Belgium, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia), *J. dudleyi* (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Slovakia, France, and the Netherlands), and *J. anthelatus* (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, and Great Britain)] (VERLOOVE 2010; VERLOOVE & LAMBINON 2011; TIHOMIROV 2013; COPORAAL & SHAMINÉE 2015; KOBIERSKI & RYS 2015)] but probably often overlooked throughout. Since all of these species could also have been overlooked in the Balkans, an identification key is provided here (BROOKS 2000; HOSTE AND VERLOOVE 2016).

- 1 Leaf sheath auricles scarious to coriaceous (leathery), barely projecting beyond the point of insertion, much wider than long, 0.1–0.5 mm long, rounded at apex ..... 2
- 1 Leaf sheath auricles hyaline (translucent), longer than wide, (1–) 2–6 mm long, usually acute toward apex (more rarely rounded) ..... 3
- 2 Auricles scarious, whitish, opaque (neither rigid nor shiny). Tepals not or only slightly spreading in fruit ..... *J. dichotomus*
- 2 Auricles leathery and very rigid, yellowish to orange brownish, shiny.  
Tepals spreading in fruit ..... *J. dudleyi*
- 3 Inflorescence tall, very diffusely branched, with widely spaced flowers. Plants usually measuring more than 70 cm. Capsules 2–2.5 (–3) mm long, nearly spherical, mostly less than ¾ of tepal length.

Longest ultimate branches of the cymes 30–50 mm long ..... *J. anthelatus*

- 3 Inflorescence smaller, not diffusely branched, with congested flowers. Plants usually much smaller than 50 cm. Capsule mostly more than 3 mm long, only slightly shorter than tepals. Longest ultimate branches of the cymes 10–20 mm long ..... *J. tenuis*

*Juncus dudleyi* can be easily distinguished from *J. tenuis* on the basis of its very rigid, yellowish to orange-brownish, and shiny leaf auricles, which are clearly wider than long (Fig. 2d). After strong degradation and melioration of the Jagme former peatland, the large degraded area was sown with a mixture of grass and clover seeds of unknown origin (RITTER-STUDNIČKA 1954). It can be assumed that some seeds of both *J. dudleyi* and *Hypericum majus* were admixed with the grass and clover seeds, established successfully, and found ecological conditions suitable for surviving until the present day. *Juncus dudleyi* grows here in fairly closed tall wet grasslands together with *J. conglomeratus*, *J. articulatus*, *J. inflexus*, *Phragmites australis*, *Calamagrostis epigejos*, *Poa trivialis* ssp. *sylvicola*, *Carex hirta*, etc.

***Sisyrinchium montanum* Greene (Iridaceae)** - new for B&H (leg/det: Š. Šarić/S. Maslo). Locality: Stipin han in the Krivaja valley. Date of collection: 18.02.2017. Latitude/longitude: 44.320278° N / 18.418889° E. UTM: BQ91 (Fig. 1 & 2e).

This species is native to North America and is currently known as an alien in Austria, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, and Ukraine (EURO+MED 2006), as well as in Croatia (NIKOLIĆ 2012), Belgium (VERLOOVE 2016), and Sweden (NORDHAG 1979). The status of the genus *Sisyrinchium* is still unclear, even within the flora of Croatia. According to the Flora Croatica Database (NIKOLIĆ 2012), the species recorded in the country under the name *S. angustifolium* Mill. (PEVALEK 1915; PAVLETIĆ et al. 1980; HULINA 1998) belongs to *S. montanum* Greene. In contrast, other authors argue that only the species *S. bermudiana* L. occurs in Croatia (BRITVEC & TRINAJSTIĆ 1999). It is important to note that almost all localities of these two species virtually overlap on the maps of distribution in FCD (NIKOLIĆ 2012), and *S. bermudiana* may have been confused with *S. montanum*, so the records need to be checked.

To identify this newly recorded species, we offer a key adjusted in accordance with the data of INGRAM (1980), CHLOEWA & HENDERSON (2002), and VERLOOVE (2016).

- 1 Flowers bright yellow ..... *S. californicum*
- 1 Flowers pale blue or violet-blue ..... 2
- 2 Stem unbranched, with a single terminal inflorescence. Stem with a single node. Flowers violet-blue, 25–35 mm across. Pedicels erect in fruit, scarcely

- exceeding the shorter spathe-valve. Outer spathe 36–76 mm long ..... *S. montanum*
- 2 Stem branched, each branch with a terminal inflorescence. Stem nodes usually 2–3. Flowers pale blue, 15–20 mm across. Pedicels arched to pendent in fruit, clearly exceeding the shorter spathe-valve. Outer spathe 18–38 mm long ..... *S. angustifolium*

*Sisyrinchium montanum* seems to be established in the area, where it can survive and reproduce both vegetatively and sexually (by means of seeds). Therefore, according to the definition of RICHARDSON *et al.* (2000) and in view of its behaviour observed in the investigated area, this alien can be considered as a locally naturalised species in the vicinity of Zavidovići. The mode of introduction is unknown, possibly it was via garden waste, but the species is not a commonly cultivated ornamental plant in the area. Whatever the case, it is necessary to continue further research in order to determine the presence of this alien species in rural areas and natural habitats in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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## Botanica SERBICA



## REZIME

## Četiri neofite nove za floru Bosne i Hercegovine

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**T**okom sistematskih istraživanja vaskularne flore u širem području Posavine, Livanjskom polju i okolini Zavidovića (Bosna i Hercegovina) potvrđeno je prisustvo četiri neofite nove za floru ove države: *Hypericum majus*, *Juncus dudleyi*, *Sympotrichum lanceolatum* i *Sisyrinchium montanum*. Dok su posljednje dvije već zabilježene u zemljama jugoistočne Evrope (*Sympotrichum lanceolatum* iz Hrvatske, Srbije, Crne Gore i Slovenije; *Sisyrinchium montanum* iz Hrvatske), *Hypericum majus* i *Juncus dudleyi* predstavljaju novitete za floru Balkanskog poluostrva.

**KLJUČNE REČI:** alohtona flora, Balkansko poluostrvo, *Juncus dudleyi*, *Hypericum majus*, *Sisyrinchium montanum*, *Sympotrichum lanceolatum*