

Virtual excursion to the Biokovo massif

(Dalmatia, Croatia)

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The Biokovo

- The mountain range of Biokovo is part of the Dinaric Alps and is the highest mountain of Dalmatia. The Biokovo is situated close to the coast of the Adriatic Sea, between the rivers of Cetina and Neretva.
- The highest elevation is Sveti Jure (1762 m), some 50 km southeast of Split.
- The vascular flora contains some 1.400 species (Šilić & Šolić 2002).
- The vegetation shows a clear zonation due to the elevation: remnants of mediterranean sclerophyllous forests and scrubs are only to be found near the coast. This vegetation zone is displaced by settlements and touristic infrastructure. Most of the Biokovo range belongs to thermophilous mixed deciduous broad-leaved forests, while the upper parts sometimes are covered by altimontane beech forests and mixed coniferous-broad-leaved forests (Bohn et al. 2003, see also Horvat et al. 1974). Vegetation of rock fissures and gravel is common.



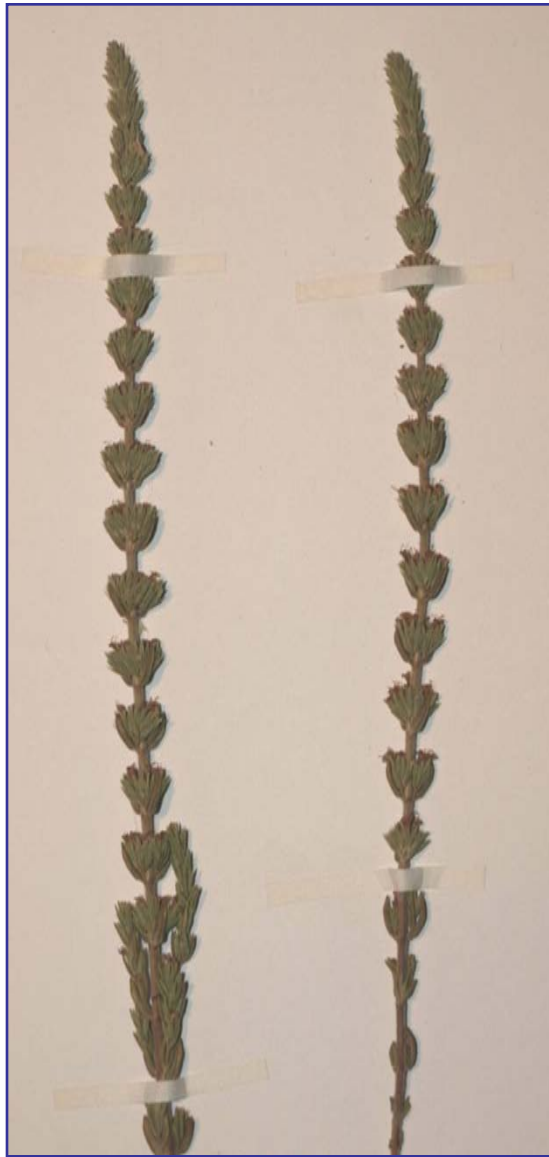
Makarska: view to the Biokovo



Pallenis spinosa

A close-up photograph of a flowering spike of Echium italicum. The image shows several small, star-shaped flowers with five petals, colored in shades of light purple and pink. The flowers are densely packed along a green, hairy stem. Long, thin stamens with yellowish tips extend from the flowers. The background is dark and out of focus.

Echium italicum



Micromeria juliana



Helichrysum italicum



Nigella damascena



Carduus pycnocephalus



Orlaya grandiflora



Bituminaria bituminosa



Sedum ochroleucum



Alyssooides sinuata



Onopordum illyricum



Convolvulus elegantissimus



Carduus macrocephalus



Tyrimnus leucographus and Papaver rhoeas



Baška Voda with *Pinus halepensis* and *Spartium junceum*



Spartium junciflorum



Paliurus spina-christi



Opopanax chironium



Agave americana running wild near Omiš



Ailanthus altissima

A close-up photograph of a branch of Quercus ilex. The branch is covered with numerous green, elliptical leaves that have serrated margins and prominent pinnate venation. Some leaves show signs of insect damage, with small holes and irregular edges. Small, light-colored, star-shaped flowers are visible at the leaf axils along the branch. The background is a blurred green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

Quercus ilex



Acer monspessulanum



Colutea arborescens

Celtis australis





Dorycnium hirsutum



Stachys cf. cretica
(Stachys germanica group)



Teucrium chamaedrys



Anthyllis montana



Moltkia petraea

A close-up photograph of Moltkia petraea flowers. The image shows several clusters of small, bell-shaped, blue flowers with prominent, long, reddish-pink stamens. The flowers are arranged in dense, terminal racemes. The background is a blurred, rocky, and sandy ground with some green foliage. A white rectangular box with the text 'Moltkia petraea' is located in the lower-left corner of the image.

Moltkia petraea



Salvia officinalis, Jurinea mollis, Moltkia petraea and Helianthemum spec.



Asyneuma linifolium



Frangula rupestris



Biscutella laevigata



Globularia cordifolia



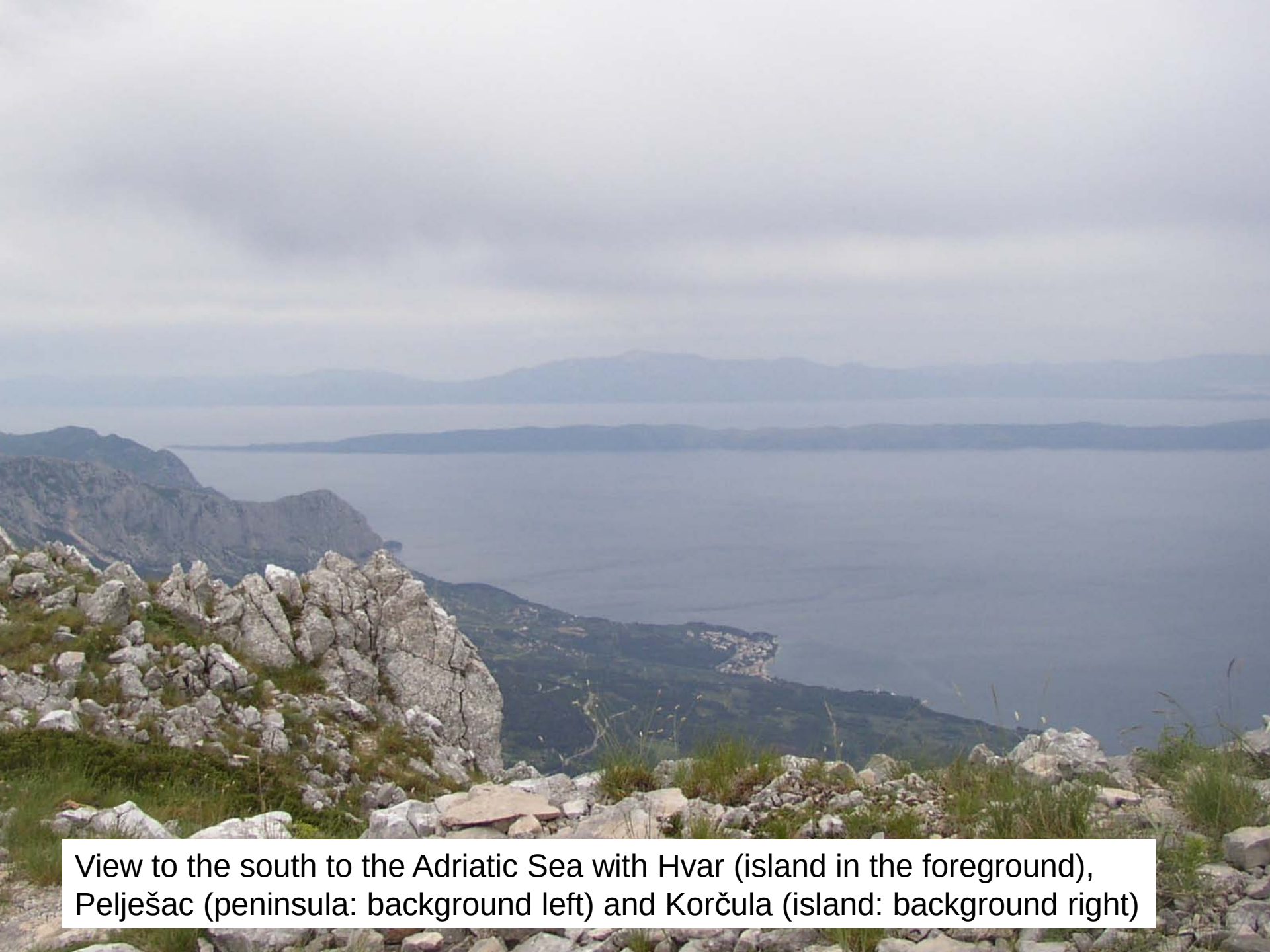
Pinus nigra subsp. dalmatica and
Juniperus communis subsp. nana



Valeriana montana



Erysimum spec.



View to the south to the Adriatic Sea with Hvar (island in the foreground), Pelješac (peninsula: background left) and Korčula (island: background right)



Fagus sylvatica



Plateau of the Biokovo with sinkholes (dolines)



Lonicera alpigena



Geranium macrorrhizum



Doline (formerly used for farming within the stone wall)



Campanula portenschlagiana at its natural habitat



Campanula portenschlagiana



Edraianthus pumilio, endemic to the Biokovo

A close-up photograph of a Daphne alpina plant. The image shows several clusters of small, white, tubular flowers with yellow centers, emerging from the leaf axils. The leaves are small, dark green, and lanceolate with slightly revolute margins. Some leaves have small, clear water droplets on their surfaces. The background is dark and out of focus.

Daphne alpina

Jurinea mollis





Veronica austriaca subsp. *dentata*



Muscari botryoides



Pinus nigra subsp. *dalmatica* und *Fraxinus ornus*



Sveti Jure (1762 m), the highest peak of the Biokovo



View to Makarska



Recent rock fall in the Biokovo

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