



GEOPHYTES OF İĞDIR (EAST ANATOLIA) AND THEIR ECONOMIC POTENTIALITIES AS ORNAMENTAL PLANT

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Abstract

Geophytes are the most preferred group among the ornamental plants due to their aesthetic features, suitability to be cut flowers and their fragrance. The aim of the research is to identify geophyte taxa, their risk categories and economic potentialities as ornamental plants in İğdir province. Plant specimens were collected from İğdir province between 2007 and 2012 vegetation seasons. The collected plant specimens were kept in ISTE (the herbarium of the Istanbul University, Faculty of Pharmacy). As a result of this study, 52 geophytic taxa belonging to 12 families are determined from the investigation area. 4 taxa are endemic (*Allium armenum*, *A. baytopiorum*, *Bellevalia gracilis* and *Pseudomuscari forniculatum*) to Turkey. According to floristic regions, 32 Irano-Turanian elements are ranked first, followed by 6 Mediterranean elements and 4 Euro-Siberian elements. 10 of the identified species are widespread or unknown phytogeographic origin. The most richest families are Asparagaceae (14 taxa), Amaryllidaceae (9 taxa), Liliaceae (9 taxa), Iridaceae (5 taxa), Asteraceae (3 taxa), Orchidaceae (3 taxa). Of all the collected taxa, 61% were bulbous, 17% were rhizomatous, 10% were tuberous, 8% were tuberous roots and 4% were cormous. Owing to the attractive flowers, 43 taxa were signed as ornamental plant potentialities.

Keywords: Geophyte, ornamental plant, economic plant, İğdir, East Anatolia, Turkey

Özet

Geofitler estetik özellikleri, kesme çiçekçiliğe uygun olmaları ve hoş kokuları sebebiyle süs bitkisi olarak en fazla tercih edilen bitkilerdir. Bu çalışma İğdir ilinin geofitleri ve bunların süs bitkisi olarak ekonomik açıdan değerlendirilebilme potansiyelleri üzerine hazırlanmıştır. Bitki örnekleri 2007-2012 yılları arasında farklı vejetasyon dönemlerinde toplanmıştır. Toplanan bitki örnekleri ISTE’de (İstanbul Üniversitesi Eczacılık Fakültesi Herbaryumu) saklanmaktadır. Çalışma sonucunda 12 familyaya ait 52 geofit taksonu saptanmıştır. Bunlardan 4 tanesi endemiktir (*Allium armenum*, *A. baytopiorum*, *Bellevalia gracilis* and *Pseudomuscari forniculatum*). Taksonlar fitocoğrafik bölgelere göre gruplandırıldığında 32 takson İran-Turan elementi, 6 takson Akdeniz elementi, 4 takson Avrupa-Sibirya elementi ve 10 taksonun ise fitocoğrafik bölgesi bilinmemektedir. En fazla taksonla temsil edilen familyalar sırasıyla; Asparagaceae (14 takson), Amaryllidaceae (9 takson), Liliaceae (9 takson), Iridaceae (5 takson), Asteraceae (3 takson), Orchidaceae (3 takson)’dir. Geofit tiplerine göre taksonların %61’i soğanlı, %17’si rizomlu, %10’u tuberli, %8’i tuber köklü ve %4 tanesi de kormludur.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Geofit, süs bitkisi, ekonomik bitki, İğdir, Doğu Anadolu, Türkiye.

INTRODUCTION

Geophytes are plants that survive part of their annual life cycle as a dormant, fleshy underground structure. Types of geophytes include bulbs, corms, tubers, tuberous stems, tuberous roots, rhizomes and pseudobulbs (Kamenetsky and Hiroshi 2013). There are 8796 species in Flora of Turkey (excluding an

additional 192 species of The East Aegean Islands) (Davis 1965-1985, Davis et al. 1988, Güner et al. 2000). According to the last checklist, an additional 945 species were added flora of Turkey (Özhatay et al. 2013). The rate of endemism is about %34 in the flora of Turkey (Davis 1965). Geophytes form a significant part of the biological richness for our country. The geophytes are represented by approximately 600

species, with almost 40% of them are endemic (Davis 1965-1985).

The study area, Iğdır province is located in the Erzurum-Kars part of the Eastern Anatolian region of Turkey. Its area covers 3539 km² and the elevation of its land varies from 795 to 5165 m. Iğdır has 74 % of the mountains and high plateaus and 26 % of lowlands and has remarkable diversity about geophytes because of the mountains and high plateaus (Altundağ 2012).

Most of geophytes of Turkey prefer high altitudes and wetlands for wide spreading. Mount Ararat (5165 m), Zor (3196 m), Kızılcaziyaret (2887 m), Durak (2811 m) and Tekaltı (2560 m) mountains and some of the wetlands in Aras valley have great diversity for geophytes in the province (Altundağ 2012).

Geophytes have economic value due to their attractive flowers and usage in the drug industry (Ekim et al. 1991). Geophytes are the most preferred group among the ornamental plants due to their aesthetic features, suitability to be cut flowers and their fragrance (Çığ and Başdoğan 2015). There is some research about the geophytes in different areas of Turkey (Çelik et al. 2004, Eker et al. 2008, Özuslu and İskender 2009, Çingay et al. 2012, Sargın et al. 2013, Korkmaz et al. 2014, Fırat et al. 2015, Avcu et al. 2016 and Demirelma and Ertuğrul 2016,) but no investigation about Iğdır Province. This study aims to describe geophytic flora and their economic potentialities as ornamental plants in Iğdır province.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plant specimens were collected from Iğdır province between 2007 and 2012 vegetation seasons. The collected plant specimens were kept in ISTE (the herbarium of the Istanbul University, Faculty of Pharmacy). These specimens were identified basically with the Flora of Turkey (Davis et al. 1984, Davis et al. 1988, Güner et al. 2000). Furthermore, TÜBİVES (www.tubives.com) was scanned for missing taxa of Iğdır province. Scientific plant names were checked by using Plant List website (www.theplantlist.org). The complete geophyte list was given in Table 1. In the table, the following details are provided as scientific and family name, herbarium number or voucher specimen; type of geophyte; endemism and threatened category, phytogeographical region, and plants which have attractive flowers were

signed for their economic potentialities as ornamental plants. Endemic and rare taxa were categorized according to new Red Data categories (Ekim et al. 2000).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of this study, fifty two geophytic taxa belonging to twelve families and twenty seven genera are determined from the investigation area. *Allium armenum*, *A. baytopiorum*, *Bellevalia gracilis* and *Pseudomuscari forniculatum* (Figure 1) are endemic to Turkey. According to floristic regions, thirty two Irano-Turanian elements are ranked first, followed by six Mediterranean elements and four Euro-Siberian elements. The large number of Irano-Turanian elements can be explained by the fact that the study area lies completely within the Irano-Turanian phytogeographical region. Ten of the identified species are widespread or unknown phytogeographic origin.

In addition, forty six of the collected taxa are determined to be Liliopsida and the remaining six are Magnoliopsida. The most richest families are Asparagaceae (14 taxa), Amaryllidaceae (9 taxa), Liliaceae (9 taxa), Iridaceae (5 taxa), Asteraceae (3 taxa), Orchidaceae (3 taxa) (Figure 2). In terms of taxa number, the major genera in the province are as follows: *Allium* (9 taxa), *Gagea* (5 taxa), *Bellevalia* (3 taxa), *Iris* (3 taxa), *Ornithogalum* (3 taxa) (Figure 3). Of all the collected taxa, 61% were bulbous, 17% were rhizomatous, 10% were tuberous, 8% were tuberous roots and 4% were cormous (Figure 4). Owing to the attractive flowers, forty three taxa (*Allium atroviolaceum*, *A. armenum*, *A. cardiostemon*, *A. subakaka*, *Anacamptis palustris*, *Asparagus palaestinus*, *A. persicus*, *Asphodeline prolifera*, *Bellevalia gracilis*, *B. paradoxa*, *B. speciosa*, *Colchicum szovitsii*, *Corydalis erdelii* (Figure 5), *Dactylorhiza romana* subsp. *georgica*, *D. umbrosa*, *Eremurus spectabilis*, *Ficaria fascicularis*, *Fritillaria caucasica*, *F. pinardii*, *Gagea bobemica*, *G. bulbifera*, *G. glacialis*, *G. luteoides*, *G. reticulata*, *Geranium tuberosum*, *Gladiolus atroviolaceus* *G. kotschyanus*, *Iris caucasica* (Figure 6), *I. iberica* subsp. *elegantissima*, *I. spuria* L. subsp. *musulmanica*, *Leopoldia comosa*, *Merendera trigyna*, *Muscari armeniacum*, *M. causicum*, *Ornithogalum montanum*, *O. narbonense*, *O. oligophyllum*, *Pseudomuscari forniculatum*, *Pulsatilla armena*, *Puschkinia scilloides* (Figure 7), *Scilla siberica* subsp. *armena* (Figure 8), *Tulipa armena* and *T. biflora*) were signed as ornamental plant potentialities (Table 1).

Table 1. List of geophytes in Iğdır province

Scientific & Family names; Herbarium number (ISTE) or Voucher specimen	Type of Geophyte	Endemism/T hreatened category	Phytogeog. Region	Economic potential as ornamental plant
<i>Allium armenum</i> Boiss. & Kotschy Amaryllidaceae 85600	Bulb	EN/LC	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Allium atrovioleaceum</i> Boiss. Amaryllidaceae 85867	Bulb	-/-	-	+
<i>Allium baytopiorum</i> Kollmann & Özhatay Amaryllidaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	EN/EN	Ir.-Tur.	-
<i>Allium cardiostemon</i> Fisch. & C.A.Mey. Amaryllidaceae 85530	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Allium dictyoprasum</i> C.A.Mey. ex Kunth Amaryllidaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	-
<i>Allium flavum</i> L. Amaryllidaceae 85733	Bulb	-/-	Medit.	-
<i>Allium pseudoflavum</i> Vved. Amaryllidaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	-
<i>Allium scorodoprasum</i> L. 84421	Bulb	-/-	Medit.	-
<i>Allium subakaka</i> Razıfard & Zarre Amaryllidaceae 84598	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Anacamptis palustris</i> (Jacq.) R.M.Bateman, Pridgeon & M.W.Chase Orchidaceae TÜBİVES	Tuber	-/-	-	+
<i>Asparagus palaestinus</i> Baker Asparagaceae TÜBİVES	Rhizome	-/-	Medit.	+
<i>Asparagus persicus</i> Baker Asparagaceae 85271	Rhizome	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Asphodeline prolifera</i> (M. Bieb.) Kunth Xanthorrhoeaceae TÜBİVES	Rhizome	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Bellevalia gracilis</i> Feinbrun Asparagaceae 85314	Bulb	EN/LC	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Bellevalia paradoxa</i> (Fisch. & C.A.Mey.) Boiss. Asparagaceae 84409	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Bellevalia speciosa</i> Woronow ex Grossh. Asparagaceae 84404	Bulb	-/-	-	+
<i>Cirsium rhizocephalum</i> C.A. Mey. Asteraceae 85447		-/-	Ir.-Tur.	-
<i>Colchicum szovitsii</i> Fisch. & C.A.Mey. Colchicaceae 85328	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Corydalis erdelii</i> Zucc. Papaveraceae 85327	Tuber	-/-	-	+
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i> subsp. <i>georgica</i> (Klinge) Soo ex Renz & Taubenheim Orchidaceae TÜBİVES	Tuber	-/-	Euro-Sib.	+
<i>Dactylorhiza umbrosa</i> (Kar. & Kir.) Nevski Orchidaceae 84420	Tuber	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Eremurus spectabilis</i> M.Bieb. Xanthorrhoeaceae 84401	Rhizome	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Ficaria fascicularis</i> K.Koch Ranunculaceae	Tuberous root	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+

<i>Fritillaria caucasica</i> Adam Liliaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	-/-	Euro-Sib.	+
<i>Fritillaria pinardii</i> Boiss. Liliaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Gagea bobemica</i> (Zauschn.) Schult.&Schult.f. Liliaceae 84411	Bulb	-/-	-	+
<i>Gagea bulbifera</i> (Pall.) Salisb. Liliaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	-/-	Euro-Sib.	+
<i>Gagea glacialis</i> K.Koch Liliaceae 84413	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Gagea luteoides</i> Stapf Liliaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	-/-	-	+
<i>Gagea reticulata</i> (Pall.) Schult.&Schult.f. Liliaceae 85280	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Geranium tuberosum</i> L. Geraniaceae 85317	Tuber	-/-	-	+
<i>Gladiolus atroviolaceus</i> Boiss. Iridaceae 85588	Corm	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Gladiolus kotschyannus</i> Boiss. Iridaceae 84406	Corm	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Iris caucasica</i> Hoffm. Iridaceae 85313	Rhizome	-/VU	Euro-Sib.	+
<i>Iris iberica</i> subsp. <i>elegantissima</i> (Sosn.) Fed.&Takht. Iridaceae 85276	Rhizome	-/VU	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Iris spuria</i> L. subsp. <i>musulmanica</i> (Fomin) Takht. Iridaceae 85498	Rhizome	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Leopoldia comosa</i> (L.) Parl. Asparagaceae 84414	Bulb	-/-	Medit.	+
<i>Merendera trigyna</i> Woronow Colchicaceae TÜBİVES	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Muscari armeniacum</i> Leichtlin ex Baker Asparagaceae 84403	Bulb	-/-	-	+
<i>Muscari caucasicum</i> (Griseb.) Baker Asparagaceae 85304	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Ornithogalum montanum</i> Cirillo Asparagaceae 85559	Bulb	-/-	Medit.	+
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i> L. Asparagaceae 84415	Bulb	-/-	Medit.	+
<i>Ornithogalum oligophyllum</i> E.D.Clarke Asparagaceae 84408	Bulb	-/-	-	+
<i>Pseudomuscari forniculatum</i> (Fomin) Garbari Asparagaceae 84405	Bulb	EN/LC	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Pulsatilla armena</i> Rupr. Ranunculaceae 84475	Rhizome	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Puschkinia scilloides</i> Adams Asparagaceae 84417	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Scilla siberica</i> subsp. <i>armena</i> (Grossh.) Mordak Asparagaceae 84600	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Scorzonera mollis</i> Bieb. subsp. <i>szowitzii</i> (DC.) Chamberlain Asteraceae 84489	Tuberous root	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	-
<i>Scorzonera suberosa</i> K.Koch Asteraceae 84502	Tuberous root	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	-

<i>Triglochin maritima</i> L. Juncaginaceae 85564	Rhizome	-/-	-	-
<i>Tulipa armena</i> L. Liliaceae 84416	Bulb	-/-	Ir.-Tur.	+
<i>Tulipa biflora</i> Pall. Liliaceae 85311	Bulb	-/VU	Ir.-Tur.	+

Phytogeog.: Phytogeographical; EN: Endemic; LC: Least concern; VU: Vulnerable; Ir.-Tur.: Irano-Turanian; Medit.: Mediterranean; Euro-Sib.: Euro-Siberian



Figure 1. *Pseudomuscari forniculatum*, 2158 m

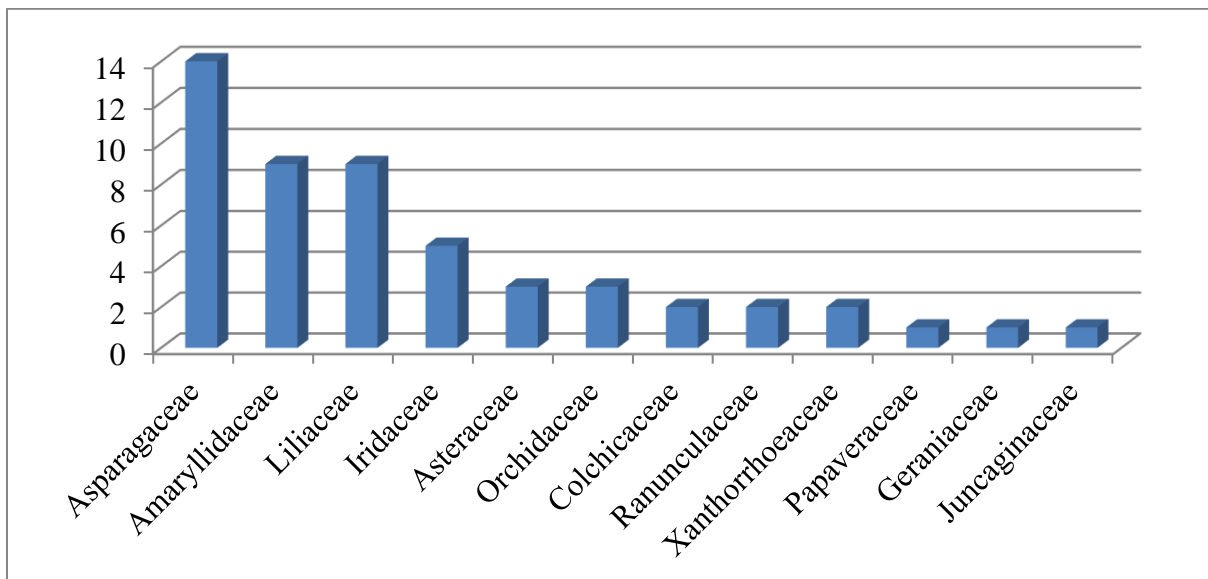


Figure 2. The most richest families

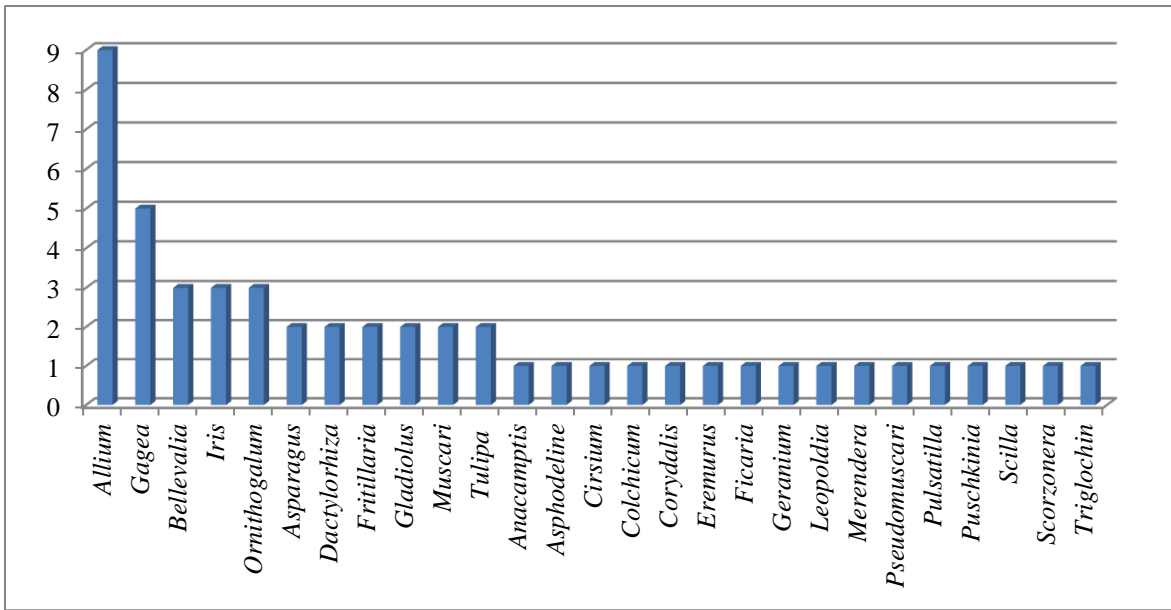


Figure 3. The most richest genera

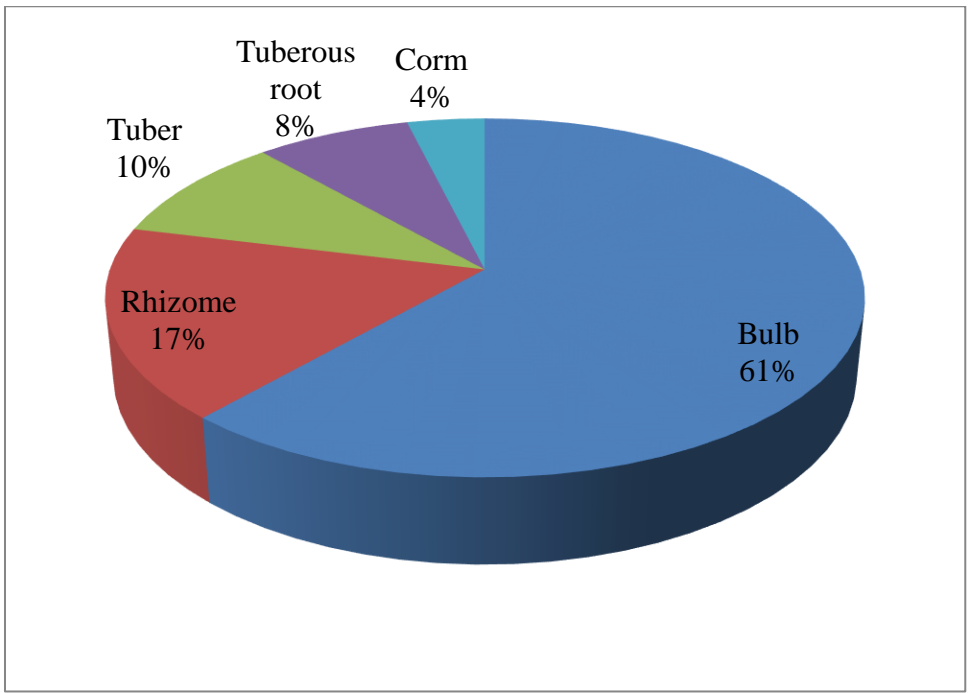


Figure 4. Geophyte types



Figure 5. *Corydalis erdelii*, 2385 m



Figure 6. *Iris caucasica*, 2216 m



Figure 7. *Puschkinia scilloides*, 2252 m



Figure 8. *Scilla siberica* subsp. *armena*, 2267 m

CONCLUSION

Geophytes are a group of plants, which remain underground for the majority of the year, brings continuity to the gardens with beautiful and glamorous flowers during spring and autumn. With their use in flowing masses, in groups and in sets, the geophytes are useful for the creation of wide flower beds, the filling of the gaps

between shrubs and bush groups, and the creation of a natural look for the environment. In landscape design and applications, geophytes can be used in borders, lawn areas, rock and stone gardens, flower beds, scent gardens, and interiors. In addition to focusing on the use in landscape applications of the geophytes, which present a natural distribution and have a rich diversity in Turkey; adoption

and cultivation efforts should be developed in order to ensure and protect the continuity of the species, and to introduce new species (Seyidođlu et al. 2009).

According to this study, the geophytes which can be used as ornamental plant have potential for economy. Further studies should be carried out on the geophytes of the province, especially

to explore for cultivation, so that they can contribute to the economy significantly. They have been under many risks of land clearing, overgrazing and agricultural pests. So, different conservation approaches such as educational activities to increase public awareness should be implemented in the province for sustainable development.

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