

**LEUCOJUM AESTIVUM (AMARYLLIDACEAE) – NEW SPECIES FOR  
THE LOWER PRUT FLORA**

**Cassir P.<sup>1\*</sup>, Ghendov V.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Scientific reserve „Lower Prut”, Slobozia Mare, Republic of Moldova

<sup>2</sup>National Botanic Garden (Institute), Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

\*E-mail: [cassirpolina@gmail.com](mailto:cassirpolina@gmail.com)

The humid zone of the Lower Prut Lakes Ramsar site is represented by typical plant communities of the floodplain, the preservation of which was facilitated by the strict regime of the border zone maintained in previous decades. The main types of vegetation are azonal communities: floodplain forests, which occupy most of its area, and lowland meadows, located in narrow fragments among trees and shrubs.

On the territory of the forest stand, in places prone to prolonged flooding, forests dominated by *Salix alba* and are most often represented by communities of *Salicetum rubosum*, in which an admixture of *Populus alba*, *Ulmus laevis* and some others. It is also characterized by an unstable moisture regime, weak density and few types of grass cover. The unevenly developed shrub layer contains: *Swida sanguinea*, *Frangula alnus*, *Ligustrum vulgare*, *Rhamnus cathartica*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Euonymus europaea*, *E. verrucosa*. In the grass cover, *Rubus caesius* is among the most widespread species, growing abundantly in places; *Anthriscus sylvestris*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Phragmites australis*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Galium aparine*, *Poa pratensis*, as well as *Poa palustris*, *Aegopodium podagraria*, *Glechoma hederacea*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Symphytum tauricum*, *Myosoton aquaticum*, *Humulus lupulus*, *Equisetum arvense* are more common than others. On wet depressions under the canopy, there are spots of a rare, new for the territory species – *Leucojum aestivum* L., belonging to Amaryllidaceae family. *Leucojum aestivum* is a perennial, bulbous plant. Blooms in April-May and fructifies in June-July. Propagates by seeds and bulbs. The species is decorative and medicinal.

This Critically endangered in the Republic of Moldova vascular plant was registered in April 2022 in the outskirts of Crihana Veche village, Cahul district. The exact location of the population is – west of the village: N 45° 50' 09", E 28° 07' 42". The population covers approximately 50 m<sup>2</sup>, average number of vegetative specimens is 5-8 and flowering plants are 1-2 per square meter.

This finding is new for the territory of the republic, whilst so far two locations are known: in the valley of the Prut river in the vicinity of the commune of Cioara (Hîncești district) and village Sărata-Răzeși (Leova distr.). The species is located at the north-eastern limit of its spreading area. Outside the country it is met in the Mediterranean region, the Caucasus, the Atlantic and Central and south-eastern Europe.

**Acknowledgments:** The research was supported by the NARD through the Project “Research and conservation of vascular flora and macromycobiota of the Republic of Moldova”, 20.80009.7007.22.

**Keywords:** *Leucojum aestivum*, floodplain, population, preservation, medicinal specie.