



***Caldesia parnassifolia* (L.) Parl NEW SPECIES IN MONTENEGRIN FLORA**

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During macrophyta research of Skadar Lake and its surroundings, the species *Caldesia parnassifolia* (L.) Parl was found, representing the first finding of this taxon in Montenegro. A very small population of floating leaves was found at the locality called Pančeva oka.

Caldesia parnassifolia (L.) Parl represents the remainder of the tertiary hydrophyte flora in our country and in the Balkan Peninsula. In phylogenetic respect, it is most similar to *Alisma* genus, which is characterized by a cosmopolitan distribution. Pollination is entomophilic, and the dispersal of seeds is hydrochory i.e. by water. It is vegetatively propagated via adventitious tree buds, blossoms in July and August. It belongs to the subtropical flora component.

Genus *Caldesia* Parl. is represented in the European Flora by one species: *Caldesia parnassifolia* (L.) Parl. (Tutin et al. 1964-1980) and it is generally distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia and Australia. In the temperate zone of Eurasia it is also distributed disjointly: one part of the areal can be found in Central and Southern Europe (to France to the west, to Ukraine to the east, to Lithuania to the north and to central Italy to the south) (Tutin et al 1964-1980, Vukojičić, S., Janković, M. 1999), while the other one involves eastern Asia (Manchuria, China, Japan).

Prodromus Flore peninsulae Balcanicae, Hayek 1932-1933, records that *Caldesia parnassifolia* (Bassi) Parl is present in Bosnia and Herzegovina?, Serbia and Bulgaria.

The species has also been recorded in Croatia (Nikolić, T. 2005)

The taxon has been included in the European Red List for Flora. It has also been included in the List of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and in the List of Species of the Habitats Directive (Annex IIb, IVb.)

In future research, we will try to find this taxon at other localities as well, to determine the size of the population and to identify the degree to which it is endangered in Montenegrin flora.

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