

## **The role of Central Botanical Garden in the enrichment and protection of the plant resources of Azerbaijan**

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The territory of Azerbaijan comprises 86.6 thousand km<sup>2</sup>. The richness of the flora of the republic is related with its physical-geographical diversity. There are more than 4500 plants in the Azerbaijan flora, being one of the most important areas of the biodiversity in the world. More than 600 of them are endemic and about 250 are relict species.

CBG founded in 1934 performs scientific research work on the introduction and climate adaptation of decorative, medicinal, ether-oiled and other plants in order to enrich raw-material bases of plant resources. In initial periods of the establishment of the garden the main objectives of the investigations were to enrich the floristic structure of the garden with new decorative and medicinal plant species as well as to arrange the scientific bases for their cultivation. Concerning these problems the main tendencies were based on the selection of prospective kinds, their introduction and study, aimed at gardening Baku city. While arranging the collection of subtropical plants preference was given also to the plants of the Azerbaijan nature as well as the introduction and study of exotic plants. After the establishment of green-houses and hot-houses the tropic plants came to be studied. The territory is 45.7 hectares. At present there is a plant collection of about 2500 species and forms from the local and abroad flora here.

The exposition of the garden contains plants from the Eastern and Central Asia, Northern America, The Mediterranean sea coast and The Caucasus and other areas. Much attention is given to the rare and endangered plants (*Albissia julibrissin* Durass., *Alnus subcordata* C.A.Mey., *Danae racemosa* (L.) Moench., *Gleditsia caspia* Desf., *Parrotia persica* (DC.) C.A.Mey., *Quercus castaneifolia* C.A.Mey etc.) of Azerbaijan in the dendrology of the garden. The cultivation and wide use of these plants in gardening plays an important role in the protection of these kinds.

The majority of the plants in the collection have been obtained in the account of expeditions and seed-exchanges. The introduction of xerophytes is preferred taking into account the specification of the garden territory. Dendrology collection consists of about 600 species and forms. Bio-ecological peculiarities of most of them have been studied and the recommendation for their practical use has been comprised.

Local rosehips species and over 400 rose sorts are included into the rose collection. The collection of tropic and subtropical plants of 294 species is formed in green-houses. A rich collection of geodic plants from the natural and cultural flora has been formed and the ways of their increase, bio-ecology and the agro-techniques for their cultivation has been prepared. 332 geodic species belonging to 18 families, 80 sorts have been studied during the cultivation condition. About 30 kinds of them have been reintroduced to the different regions of Azerbaijan. Floristic intended expeditions are being organized to the different regions of Azerbaijan for the purpose of protection and study of national flora. (Bayramov, Agamirov 1987) Collections of the garden are material base for scientific researches and it also plays an important role in the enlightenment of people. Performed scientific researches being published in a collected form are

delivered to the public each year (Ibadli, Agamirov, Huseynova, 2004). Excursions are being organized by the collaborators of the garden for the purposes of ecological and biological education and trainings by means of ecological tours. During the excursions visitors can get acquainted with various plant kinds and the rare plants (*Pinus eldarica* Medw., *Juniperus foetidissima* Willd., *Danae racemosa* (L.) Moench, *Ruscus hyrcanus* Woronow, *Iris musulmanica* Fomin, *Tulipa eichleri* Regel etc.) included to The Red and Green books of Azerbaijan. The aim of the excursions is to form ecological culture and human-nature relations on people. Currently Coordinated Center for Education and Training has been organized.

## **References**

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