

**THE ASSOCIATION *Cirsio waldsteinii-heracleetum transsilvanici*
PAWL. et WALAS 1949 *petasitetosum hybridi* SUBASS. NOVA
IN THE SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS**

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Abstract. In this paper are presented the results of the personal study researches regarding the *Cirsio-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association performed in the Southern Carpathians between 2005 and 2009. During these researches the *petasitetosum hybridi* subass. nova subassociation was discovered in the Cibin Mountains. Although the existence of some transgressive species from other vegetation classes and order was noticed, the floristic composition is dominated by species characteristic to the Adenostyletalia order and Mulgedio-Aconitetea class. Though the dendrogram seems homogenous, the flora elements could differentiate clusters which gathered surveys with similar features, conformable to the geographical distribution of the mountains.

Keywords: megaforbs, *petasitetosum hybridi*, the Southern Carpathians.

Rezumat. Asociația *Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* PAWL. et WALAS 1949 *petasitetosum hybridi* subass. nova în Carpații Meridionali. În această lucrare sunt prezentate rezultatele cercetărilor personale referitoare la asociația *Cirsio-Heracleetum transsilvanici* efectuate în Carpații Meridionali în perioada 2005-2009. Cu acest prilej a fost identificată și subasociația *petasitetosum hybridi* subass. nova în Munții Cibinului. Deși se constată existența unor specii transgresive din alte clase și ordine de vegetație, compoziția floristică este dominată de specii caracteristice ordinului Adenostyletalia și clasei Mulgedio-Aconitetea. Deși dendrograma pare omogenă, elementele de floră pot diferenția clustere care grupează relevee cu afinități apropiate, în concordanță cu distribuția geografică a masivelor muntoase.

Cuvinte cheie: megaforbiete, *petasitetosum hybridi*, Carpații Meridionali.

INTRODUCTION

Physical and geographical setting

The Southern Carpathians are the highest area of our country. These mountains are situated in central Romania, in the south of the Transylvanian Depression. Prahova Valley (East), Timiș-Cerna Passage (West) and hilly regions (North & South) are framing these mountains. The following groups are forming the Southern Carpathians: Bucegi Group, Făgăraș Group, Parâng Group, Retezat-Godeanu Group.

Unlike in the Eastern Carpathians, in Southern Carpathians the metamorphic rocks and the magmatic ones are prevalent, which control the massiveness of these mountains, being more resistant to erosion (PELIN *et al.*, 1969).

The climate is a typically mountain one (1,000 and 1,800 - 2,000 m), even with alpine influences (over 1,800 - 2,000 m). The annual average temperature decreases as the height increases, from 6°C (at 1,000 m) to 2°C (1,800 m) and 0°C (2,200 m); the average temperature of the warmest and the coldest months decreases proportionally. The rainfalls increase from 800 mm to 1,200 mm-1,400 mm/year. The winds are on western domination, while into the depressions bordering these mountains they have föen-like features; in Hațeg, Petroșani and Loviștea depressions such phenomena of thermo inversion had been reported (CRISTEA & DIMITRIU, 1961; VELCEA & SAVU, 1982).

Because of the rich rainfalls, the hydrographical net has continuous supply and rich flows. The main rivers are: Sebeș, Mureș's tributaries; Bistra and Rece rivers, Cerna, Jiu, Cibin, Lotru, Topolog, Olteț, Argeș, Ialomița. The Southern Carpathians have numerous lakes of glacial origin (over 150) and man-made lakes (Vidra, Vidraru, Gura Apei and other smaller fitting outs). All the mineral springs, except the geothermal spring from Băile Herculane, are situated in the coterminous areas.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the surveys presented in the tables are the results of the personal researches in the field between 2005 and 2009 in the following mountains: Retezat and Lotrului and Iezer-Păpușa and Bucegi.

For the study of the vegetal carpet we have used methods of phyto-sociologic research characteristic to the Central European phytosociologic School, which was based on the principles and methods elaborated by BRAUN-BLANQUET (1926).

The distribution of this association in the Southern Carpathians was achieved using the dendrogram of similarity using the Bray-Curtis index of similarity from the program BioDiversityPro.

The names of the species are conformable to Flora ilustrată a României (CIOCĂRLAN, 2009).

The syntaxonomic nomenclature was adopted according to the stipulations of the International Code of the Phyto-sociological Nomenclature elaborated by WEBER *et al.* (2000).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici PAWL. et WALAS 1949 association (Adenostyletalia alliariae BR.-BL. 1931 Order, Mulgedio-Aconitetea HADAČ et KLIKA in KLIKA 1948 Class) has the following correspondences:

R3703

Natura 2000: 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plain and of the montane to alpine levels

EMERALD:

CORINE: 37.8 Subalpine and alpine tall herbs communities

PAL. HAB 1999: 37.814 Carpathian tall herb communities

EUNIS: E5.514 Carpathian tall herb communities (DONIȚĂ *et al.*, 2005; GAFTA & MOUNTFORD, 2008).

We remarked the association in a few massifs from the Southern Carpathians: Retezat Mountain (Tăul Negru), Lotru Mountain (Lotru Gorges, Vidra Lake), Bucegi Mountain (Scropoasa, Horoaba Valley, Urșilor Gorges), Cibin Mountain (Sadu Valley, Cibin Gorges: Gura Văii, Râul Mare Gorges, Dăneasa Valley), Făgăraș Mountain (Iezer-Păpușa).

The coenosis of the association are found along the steep valleys of the spring and rivulets of the subalpine floor, on alluvial and coluvial deposits and wet and rich in humus soils. From the viewpoint of the vegetation succession, in the stations where the anthropic and zoogenous impact is not present, the phytocoenosis of this association evolve toward phytocoenosis of the *Salici-Alnetum viridis* association (SANDA *et al.*, 2001).

At smaller altitudes, at Gura Văii, downstream of Cibin Gorges (Cibin Mountain), I found phytocoenosis of more reduced dimensions, with a floristically composition a little different from that of the typical association.

Beside the edifying species, in these coenoses characteristic species of the order and class are frequently met (Table 1). The remarkable abundance of the species *Petasites hybridus* (L.) P. GAERTN. *et al.* (the relevés 1, 2 and 3), as well as the characteristic species of the *Petasito-Cicerbitetum* TX. 1937 association show the existence of a subassociation *petasitetosum hybridi subass. nova* holotypus hoc loco (Table 2), the relevé 1 (described by us in Cibin Mountains, in Gura Văii, downstream Cibin Gorges). This subassociation represents a successional stage to or from *Petasito-Cicerbitetum* association. Although some certain transgressive species exist (belonging to Molinio-Arrhenatheretea, Galio-Urticetea, Querco-Fagetea classes with a few little exceptions) the transgressive species present a reduced constancy compared to the characteristic species to Adenostyletalia order and Mulgedio-Aconitetea class.

The spectre of the bioforms highlights a high percentage of the hemicryptophytes (66.89%), followed by the geophytes (11.03%) and megaphanerophytes (11.03%), while the other categories of bioforms are less represented in these phytocoenosis (Fig. 1).

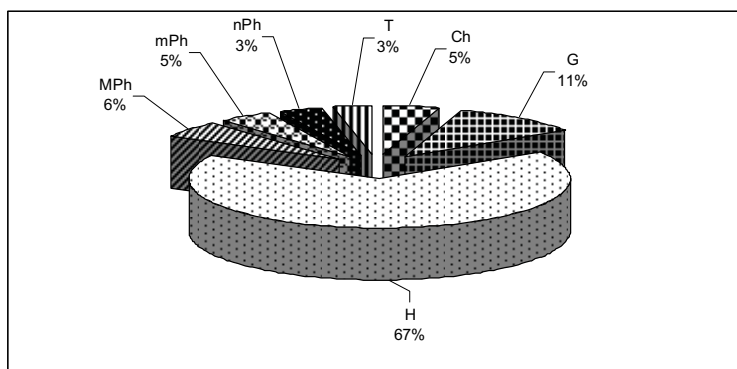


Figure 1. The spectrum of the bioforms (percentages) of the *Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association.

Figura 1. Spectrul bioformelor (procente) asociației *C. waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici*.

The floristic elements that form the basic substance of chormoflora are Eurasiatic (32.41%), European (14.48%) and Central-Europaen (13.1%). The presence of the Alps elements (5.51%) stresses the florogenetical links with the Alps' flora. The regional character of this association is shown by the presence of the Carpathian-Balkan (8.27%) and Carpathian-endemic (3.44%) species (Fig. 2).

By analyzing the ecologic indexes we found out that regarding the humidity (U), the majority of the studied megaforbs are mesophytes ($U_{3-3.5}=53.79\%$) and meso-hygrophytes ($U_{4-4.5}=26.89\%$), while the xero-mesophytes species ($U_{2-2.5}=13.1\%$) and the hygrophytes ($U_{5-5.5}=2.75\%$) are but few. Regarding the temperature factor (T): the microthermic ($T_{2-2.5}=47.58\%$) and micro-mesothermic ($T_{3-3.5}=33.79\%$) are the best represented, that indicating a cold climate specific for the superior mountain and subalpine floors.

The criophytes species ($T_{1-1.5}=4.13\%$), the moderate-thermophytes ($T_{4-4.5}=1.37\%$) and the euritherm species ($T_0=13.1\%$) are poorly represented, while the thermophytes ($T_{5-5.5}$) are not present. The index that regards the soil reaction (R), highlights the presence of the acid-neutrophilous ($R_{3-3.5}=28.27\%$) and low-acid-neutrophilous ($R_{4-4.5}=24.82\%$), joined by the euriionic species ($R_0=33.1\%$). The acidophylous species are found in big percentage ($R_{2-2.5}=9.65\%$), to the edification of the mountain high weed, while the neutro-basiphilous ($R_{5-5.5}=1.37\%$) and the strong-acidophilous ones ($R_{1-1.5}=2.75\%$) are poorly represented (Fig. 3).

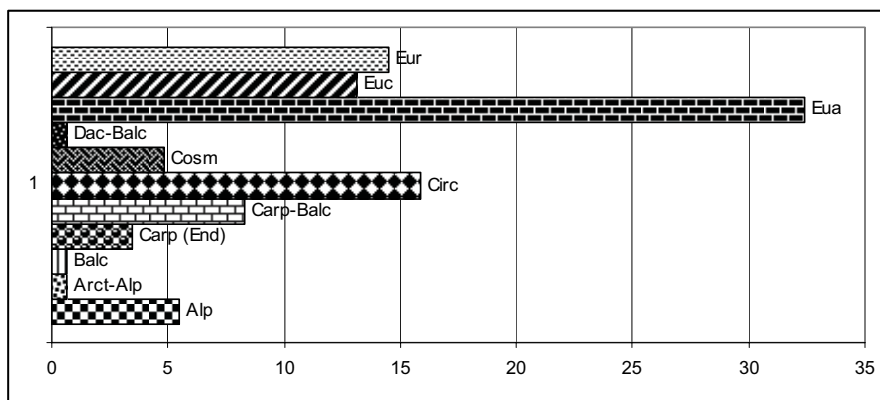


Figure 2. The spectrum of the floristic elements (percentages) of the *Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association.
 Figura 2. Spectrul elementelor floristice (procente) pentru asociația *C. waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici*.

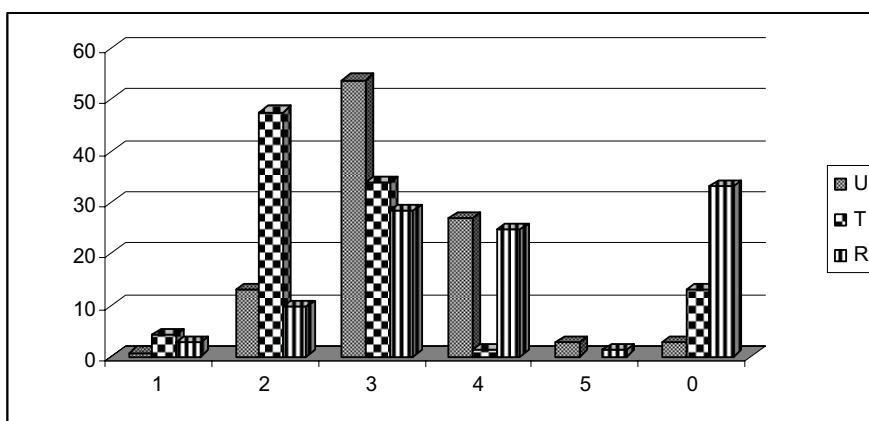


Figure 3. The spectrum of the ecological indexes (percentages) of the *Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association.
 Figura 3. Spectrul indicilor ecologici (procente) pentru asociația *C. waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici*.

The diploid species (46.89%) dominate the floristic composition of this coenosis, while the polyploids represent only 37.24% from the total amount of the species (Fig. 4).

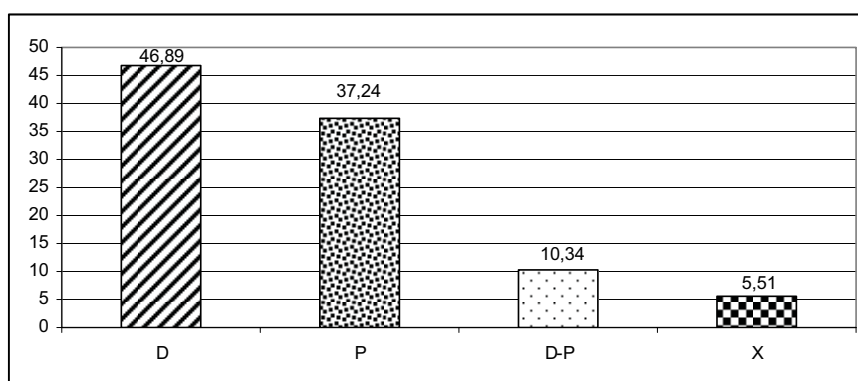


Figure 4. The spectrum of the karyological index (percentages) of the *Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association.
 Figura 4. Spectrul cariologic (procente) al asociației *C. waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici*.

The diploid index is supraunitary (1.25), suggesting the climax state of the vegetal groups and the relative age of that flora. The diploides are old species (differentiated during Pleistocene) which provide the genetic potential for the evolution (CRISTEA *et al.*, 2004).

The dendrogram of similarity of the *Cirsio-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association shows a homogenous repartition of the surveys. The grouping in clusters is done in conformity with the geographical distribution in the various massifs, underlining the geographical differentials of the stational, of the edaphoclimaxes typical for the studied massifs (Fig. 5).

The Phytocoenologic table is compacted, the surveys being grouped according to their belonging to the mountains (Table 1), except the surveys from the Cibin Mountains (Table 2).

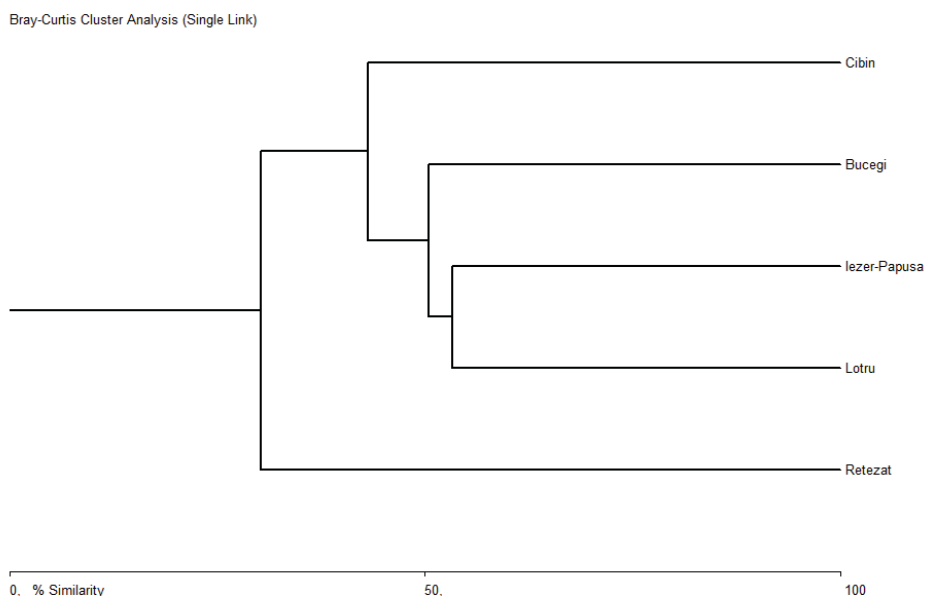


Figure 5. The dendrogram of the *Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association.
 Figura 5. Dendrograma asociației *C. waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici*.

CONCLUSIONS

The megaforbs species which belong to *Cirsio-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association are prevalent hemicyptophytes. The prevalent floristic elements are the Eurasiatic, the European and the Central-European ones, while the regional character is underlined by the Carpathian and the Carpathian-endemic taxa.

By analyzing the ecological indexes I found out that the mountain tall weeds are mesophilous and meso-hydrophilous, micro-termophilous and meso-termophilous, acid-neutrophilous and low-acid-neutrophilous.

The dendrogram shows a unitary repartition of the surveys of the *Cirsio-Heracleetum transsilvanici* association in the Southern Carpathians. Although the dendrogram seems to be homogeneous, the grouping by clusters is achieved in conformity with the geographical distribution of the massifs, thus resulting geographical differentials of the stationnal circumstances of some specific edaphoclimaxes of the mountain massifs.

Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici PAWL. et WALAS 1949 *petasitetosum hybridi* nova subass. is a new subassociation described from Cibin Gorges (the Cibin Mountains).

The floristic composition of the phytocoenosis is dominated by characteristic species of the Adenostyletalia Order and Mulgedio-Aconitetea Class.

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Table 1. *Cirsio waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* PAWL. et WALAS 1949. / Tabel 1. *C. waldsteinii-Heracleetum transsilvanici* PAWL. et WALAS 1949.

Char. ass.	The massif No. relevée Altitude (m x 10)	Retezat 14 170-200	Lotru 14 120-130	Iezer 13 90-130	Bucegi 10 155-180	Cibin 16 90-140	The massif No. relevée Altitude (m x 10)	Retezat 14 170-200	Lotru 14 120-130	Iezer 13 90-130	Bucegi 10 155-180	Cibin 16 90-140
<i>Cirsium waldsteinii</i>		V	V	V	V	V	<i>Campanula abietina</i>	.	II	.	IV	II
<i>Heracleum palmatum</i>		V	V	V	V	V	<i>Clematis alpina</i>	.	IV	.	IV	I
<i>Adenosylois alliariae et Adenosyloetalia</i>							<i>Doronicum carpaticum</i>	.		.	III	I
<i>Adenosylois alliariae</i>		III	.	.	IV	II	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	III	IV	III	III	II
<i>Senecio germanicus</i>		IV	V	V	IV	V	<i>Galium album</i>	III	III	II	III	I
<i>Aconitum tauricum</i>		IV	V	.	.	.	<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>	.	II	.	II	.
<i>Veratrum album</i>		IV	.	.	.	I	<i>Cirsium oleraceum</i>	II	II	.	I	I
<i>Rumex arifolius</i>		IV	.	.	III	.	<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>	I
<i>Doronicum austriacum</i>		III	III	V	IV	II	<i>Callitha palustris</i>	III	.	.	III	III
<i>Leucanthemum waldsteinii</i>		II	IV	.	V	IV	<i>Pulmonaria rubra</i>	.	IV	III	II	III
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>		IV	V	V	IV	IV	<i>Dentaria glandulosa</i>	III	IV	IV	II	.
<i>Alnus viridis</i>		.	III	IV	III	III	<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	.	IV	II	III	I
<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>		.	IV	III	IV	III	<i>Primula officinalis</i>	III	V	III	IV	I
<i>Salix silesiaca</i>		.	III	III	IV	V	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	.	IV	II	.	I
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>		.	III	III	III	V	<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	III	V	III	V	I
<i>Valeriana montana</i>		.	III	III	IV	IV	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	III	V	III	V	I
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>		.	III	III	IV	III	<i>Saxifraga cuneifolia</i>	.	.	.	I	I
<i>Aconitum degenii</i>		.	IV	.	III	IV	<i>Silene pusilla</i>	.	.	.	V	.
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>		.	IV	.	III	IV	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	IV	III	IV	II	II
<i>Angelica archangelica</i>		IV	III	.	V	III	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	.	III	II	III	I
<i>Cortusa mathioli</i>		.	III	III	IV	IV	<i>Picea abies</i>	.	III	II	III	II
<i>Rumex alpinus</i>		IV	.	.	II	II	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	.	II	.	III	II
<i>Petasites albus</i>		.	.	.	II	III	<i>Soldanella hungarica</i>	.	II	.	III	.
<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>		.	.	.	II	IV	<i>Lonicera nigra</i>	.	V	.	IV	I
<i>Geum rivale</i>		.	IV	.	IV	III	<i>Valeriana triperis</i>	III	III	.	.	I
<i>Rosa pendulina</i>		.	.	.	I	I	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	III	V	.	III	.
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>		.	V	III	II	IV	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	.	V	IV	III	II
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>		.	.	.	I	IV	<i>Salvia glutinosa</i>	.	III	.	III	.
Mulgedio-Aconitetea		IV	<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	IV	III	III	III	II
<i>Milium effusum</i>		.	.	V	III	III	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	.	IV	V	IV	II
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>		.	V	V	V	III	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	.	IV	V	IV	II
<i>Ranunculus platamifolius</i>		IV	.	V	IV	I	<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	.	II	.	IV	II
<i>Cicerbita alpina</i>		III	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	.	II	.	.	.
<i>Athyrium disidentifolium</i>		IV	V	V	IV	IV	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	.	II	.	.	.
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>		.	.	.	II	I	<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	.	II	.	.	.
<i>Ribes petraeum</i>		.	.	.	II	II	<i>Bruckenthalia spiculifolia</i>	.	II	.	.	.
<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>		V	IV	III	V	V	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	.	II	.	.	.
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>		.	III	V	V	V	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	.	II	.	.	.
<i>Gentiana lutea</i>		.	III	V	V	V	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	.	II	II	.	.
<i>Calamagrostis arundinacea</i>		.	.	V	V	V	<i>Cardamine amara</i>	.	.	III	.	.
Variae Syntaxa		.	.	III	.	I	<i>Euphorbia carniolica</i>	.	.	III	.	.
<i>Aconitum anthora</i>		.	.	III	I	I	<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	.	.	.	I	.
<i>Teletkia speciosa</i>		.	IV	III	I	III	<i>Dentaria bulbifera</i>	.	.	.	I	.
		.	IV	III	I	III	<i>Dianthus spiculifolius</i>	.	.	.	I	.
		.	IV	III	I	III	<i>Aquilegia nigricans</i>	.	.	.	I	.

<i>Urtica dioica</i>																				
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>		IV	III	IV	IV	IV														I
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>		III	III	III	III	V														I
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	IV	II	III	II	II	I														I
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>		IV	IV	III	III	II														I
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>		IV	IV	III	III	I														I
<i>Veronica urticifolia</i>				IV	IV	II														I
<i>Abies alba</i>		II				I														I
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>		II		II	II	I														I
<i>Veronica baehofenii</i>						I														I
<i>Cirsium erisithales</i>				IV	IV	III														I
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>			III	I	II	II														I
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	II		III	IV	III	I														I
<i>Circaea luteitana</i>		IV	III	III	III	I														I
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>		IV		I	I	I														I
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	III	IV	III	II	IV	II														I
<i>Astrantia major</i>	III					I														I
<i>Salix caprea</i>						III														I
<i>Dianthus trifasciculatus</i>						I														I
<i>Spiraea chamaedrifolia</i>			IV	III	IV	IV														I
<i>Asplenium viride</i>			III	II	I	I														I
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>				II	II	I														I
<i>Polygonum vulgare</i>						I														I
<i>Hieracium transsylvanicum</i>				IV	IV	I														I
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>						II														I
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	IV	II	III	II	III	I														I
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>		V	III	III	III	II														I
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>		III		III	III	II														I
<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i>					III	I														I
<i>Hypericum maculatum</i>	III	IV		III	III	II														I

Data and place of relevés: 4 relevee Retezat Mountain (11.08.2005); 4 relevee Lotrului Mountain (1.08.2006); 3 relevee Făgăraș Mountain (lezer-Păpușa) (25.07.2009); 10 relevee Bucegi Mountain (28.07.2006; 04.08.2007); 16 relevee Cibin Mountain (16-17.08.2007).

Table 2. *Cirsio waldsteinii-Hieracium transsylvanicum* PAWL. et WALAS 1949 petasitetosum hybrid subsp. nova. / Tabel 2. *Cirsio waldsteinii-Hieracium transsylvanicum* PAWL. et WALAS 1949 petasitetosum hybrid subsp. nova. * = holotypus hoc loco relevé

Biof.	Geoelem.	Cyt.	The relevé	1'	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
																				Altitude (m x 10)
H	Alp-Carp-Balc	P	<i>Cirsium waldsteinii</i>		+		+	2			+	2			1		1			+
H	End-Carp	D	<i>Hieracium palmatum</i>	2	2	1	2	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	+	+	+			1
G	Eua	P	<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	3	2	2	-	+			+		-							-
H(G)	Eur (Alp)	D	<i>Adenostyllum et Adenostyllum</i>																	
H	Eua	D-P	<i>Adenostyles alliariae</i>		-	-	-	-						+	+	+		+		-
H	Euc (Mont)	P	<i>Senecio germanicus</i>		+	+	+	+						+	+	+		+		+
			<i>Doronicum austriacum</i>		-	-	-	+				+	+	-	-	-		-		+

